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The aim of Woodrot is to be to be a medium of information and more importantly, a record of the activities of the Rotary Club of South Woodham Ferrers and its members.



40th Anniversary year

OUR PRESIDENTS THOUGHTS

Welcome this edition of "Woodrot" which gives us all an insight into the activities of Our Rotary Club.

2022 has started very well with two new members and two associate members joining us. As President I am looking forward to inducting another 2 or 3 new members in the coming month. The prospect of introducing our first two lady members will mark a milestone in the club's history

We held our Swimarathon over the weekend 11/13th March. It was our first one since the pandemic and the support of those who took part once more helped us to raise much needed funds for charities that we support. This year we were pleased to make presentations to Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled and Rainbow Trust before our local Mayor, Murrough O'Brien kicked off proceedings.

My Presidential year marks the 40th Anniversary of the club's foundation and I am looking forward to our 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance in June at Rayleigh Golf Club and seeing many members and guests there celebrating 40 years of Rotary in South Woodham Ferrers.

ROTARY BRINGS SPRING TO THE TOWN



Four green fingered members helped by Joyce Sach spent a useful an hour or two putting Spring flowers in the planters which the Club had placed in Queen Elizabeth Square some years ago. The planters have suffered some neglect in recent times due to the Covid pandemic but are now offering a splash of Spring colour in the Town

Centre. The plants were donated by Meadowcroft Nurseries. The Town Council have agreed to add the planters to their watering contract.

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John Robinson

Mick Fry
Derek Hutchinson
Don Wragg
Tony Graham
Kush Dave
Ken Walker
Cec Norton
Eric Johnson
Roger Restell

Youth / Vocation

Geoff Thompson

Derek Hutchinson
Roger Gatford
Roger Restell
Dino Kahn
Cec Norton
Graham Pretty
Paul Duffy

PRESIDENT

Mick Fry

VICE PRESIDENT

John Robinson

JUNIOR VICE

Kush Dave

SECRETARY

Derek Hutchinson

TREASURER

Don Wragg

PRO

Tony Graham

ALMONER

Eric Johnson

Community Service

David Peffer

David Shea
Roger Restell
John Acklaw
Peter Ferry
Kush Dave
Tony Graham
Terry Tilbrook
Ken Walker
Don Wragg
Graham Pretty

International / Foundation

Terry Tilbrook

John Robinson
Kush Dave
John Acklaw
Eric Johnson
Raj Vora
Malcolm Sismey

Vice President John says.....



Well, here we are rapidly approaching the last quarter of the Rotary year and looking back so far, it really has surprised me just how much the club has achieved in all aspects. Fellowship, venue, great meetings, events and outings and recruitment.

At a recent meeting, Don (you're not here to enjoy yourself) Wragg said with a tear in his eye, that he has never seen the club so active! That my fellow Rotarians is down to all of you that have rallied around to make sure this club pulled back from the brink of disaster to now be stronger than ever and looking forward a sound future to ensure the continued support of the local community.

Three months of the year left and four potential new members to be inducted next month is not the end, but the end of the beginning of another great chapter in the history of South Woodham Ferrers Rotary Club. Let us continue in the last three months with the good work and finish in style with our 40th Charter Celebration, ensuring that Mick's proper year as president finishes on a high.

Thanks to all those on Membership Services for your support also throughout the year and I look forward to celebrating with you and the rest of the club on the 11th June.



Swimarathon 2022

SWIMARATHON SUCCESS

The Club pulled together to make the reintroduction of the Swimarathon a great success following the Pandemic shut-down. That was the view of Community Service Committee Chairman David Peffer. The organisation went exceptionally smoothly thanks to David's hard work and the team spirit and fellowship shown by club members

Supported by donations from 27 local business the Swimarathon attracted 33 teams to swim for sponsorship for their own and Rotary charities. The Town Mayor Morrough Obrien opened the event and praised South Woodham Ferrers Rotary for its contribution to the community and for the amount that the event had raised for charitable causes over the years.



CHARLOTTE'S TROPHY

At the Swimarathon opening ceremony President Mick Fry presented a trophy donated by the club in memory of Charlotte Jessop, a young rider at the Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled. Charlotte's parents and representatives of Barrow Farm were present to receive the trophy which will be awarded to each year to a deserving disabled rider. A presentation was also made to the Rainbow Trust.





The backroom boys



Members of the Rainbow Trust and Barrow Farm

Swimarathon 2022

Waiting for the hooter





THE ELMWOOD SCHOOL **Rota Kids** CLUB SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Roger Gatford writes..

Roger Restell and I attended Elmwood school on Tuesday the 8th of March to present on behalf of Youth and Vocational Chair Geoff Thompson the Rota Kids regalia and tee shirts. We were hosted by Mrs Susan Willis and her colleague Catherine. A brief intro was given by us re Rotary and the role that Rotary plays in the community, wider UK interests and internationally, especially now re Ukraine.

The eighteen children that were present were awarded a red Rota Kids t-shirt (six children were absent re Covid) and a pin badge. The former to be used when at RK meetings and on roles, e.g. litter picking, the latter to be worn in school at all times.

The RK chairperson – Freya Turner- was ceremonially awarded her 'gong', ribbon and storage case together with a special badge showing her as 'President' (even though they describe the role as 'Chair'), this to be worn at school at all times together with the pin badge when not wearing the 'gong'. The shared role of Secretary was recognised by awarding a badge each to Amelie Hutchins and Casey Kennery similarly to be worn together with the pin badge.



- 1) The Chairperson Freya Turner receiving her gong from Roger Gatford
- 2) The three officers
- 3) Amelia Hutchins and Casey Kennery receiving their secretary badges from Roger
- 4) 18 members of the Elmwood School Rota Kids Club



Win..Win..Win..

Our young Photographers won three firsts in their class and their photos have now been entered in the National competition.



Kaiser Hume

First in Junior Class



Emily Thompson

First in the Senior class



Ruby Wakefield

First in Intermediate class



Photo Competition Winners Go National

Youth Chairman Geof Thomson said that despite limitations imposed by the threat of Covid, this year's competition went surprisingly well. The standard of entry was high across the age ranges as judged by Adam Bennett, Secretary of the SWF Camera Club. Indeed, they were so high that three of our winning entries won the District Competition and are going forward to the National Final.

Coming Up

A Rotary welcome to three new members in April

Lisa Kelly, Tory Melhuish and Dave Osborne.

We have Vern Simpson and Steve Amose hopefully on the way

Stop Press!

Trinity St Mary's School are interested in starting a Rotakids club in their school, Youth Chairman Geoff is on the case.



SERVICE BEFORE SELF SAVES LIVES

RNLI speaker Ken Harrison spoke to a February club meeting of the the many kinds of “shouts” that lifeboats have to respond to in order to save lives. We heard that the RNLI has saved some 140,000 lives since its foundation in 1824. It is the largest charity in Britain and Ireland dedicated to saving lives at sea and on inland waterways. Relying solely on public donation the cost of running the organisation runs to nearly 140 million pounds per year.

Ken was accompanied by Colin Howells who owns two lifeboats including the “Sir William Arnold” which can be visited at Heybridge Basin

President Mick presented a well-deserved donation to Ken from the club’s charity account. After all there could not be a better example of “Service Before Self” than the effort of people like Ken and Colin.

COMMUNITY GARDEN TAKES ROOT

David Shea was approached by Mike Smith of Meadowcroft Nursery for help with starting a Community Garden. This seemed to be an ideal project for the Rotary Club’s involvement and the Club ring fenced a sum of money as its contribution to the practical and financial support offered by the RHS at Hyde Hall and Chelmsford Voluntary Services which David arranged.

Both organisations promote the development of Community Gardens as a means of supporting the well-being of people in need. The RHS website says “Gardening has been proven to positively impact our mental and physical wellbeing, providing access to the outdoors, time away from our busy lives and an opportunity to connect with others.” The Voluntary Service has already helped with the development of two gardens in Chelmsford.

In the absence of a suitable site in the Town, Mike Smith has set aside an area of ground at Meadowcroft Nursery. The ground is cleared with five raised beds and will have a gazebo and summer house, and storage for tools. “It’s a perfect site. When people from Hyde Hall saw it they were thrilled”, said David.

A BENCH AND TREE

The provision of benches where they are needed in favourite walking areas is a perfect way of showing that Rotary is working in the interests of the town’s residents. So there was no question that the Club should respond to a request to replace a bench in the Community Orchard near Creekview Road. Being the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Year and the 40th Anniversary of the Club’s foundation, the Community Services suggested that we also plant a commemorative tree in the orchard. The bench and tree will be a symbol that South Woodham Ferrers Rotary Club will be around for generations to come.

Club Clothing

Don’t forget you can order, Polo shirts, sweat shirts and Fleecees with South woodham Rotary logos embroidered on them and can be personalised with your name.

Contact: Roger Restell for further information



CHARITY GIVING



Our Treasurer reports that the following donation have been made from the Charity Account between January and the end of March.

Amazon Gift Cards for the Photo Competition

Inner Wheel Sleigh Donation

Kids Inspire (David Atkins)

Orchard Bench

Rotary Foundation UK Donation

RNLI

CoppaFeel (Just Giving)

ASDA and **Rotary** coming together to help in the **Ukraine** crisis

