

Rotary District 1240 Bulletin



March 2023 – District Governor Jed Brooks

“Imagine Rotary”

From District Governor Jed Brooks



Another month has flown by leaving me with only four months of my District Governor year remaining. I have enjoyed it tremendously. Having literally walked in from the Brentwood Half-Marathon, it reminds me of how well we, as Rotarians, can organise an event. We witnessed around 1700 runners completing the course in fine weather. I have now completed almost all of my District Governor club visits and have been welcomed by many wonderful clubs and members, making my role a very pleasurable one.

The Young Musician and Youth Speaks events that I attended have endorsed my thoughts that we have some wonderful young talent able to entertain and present their skills professionally: Rotarians of the future.

For those of you who were unable to attend the recent District Forum I announced the final results of our Christmas events across the District, which raised £250,000 and saw our members volunteering over 10,000 hours of their time. Well done District 1240, I am proud of you all.

But over 80 members representing 38 Clubs were able to attend what proved to be an enjoyable and successful event where Rotarians were able to enjoy fellowship and the chance to share ideas. We also had a great speaker from “Every Child Online” who will also be attending the forthcoming District Conference at the Stifford Hall Hotel, in April.

I am pleased to inform you that the District Conference is sold out. We have some great speakers who will present on various subjects connected to the environment and the Rotary Foundation.

“Ordinary Buoys” will have their transatlantic boat there, and there’ll be great presentations from fellow RGB&I District members.

With Easter fast approaching, quickly followed by our King’s coronation, please consider running events in your area as an opportunity to “show and tell” what we do and why we do it.

Membership currently stands at +37. New corporate members are being recruited providing a great opportunity to work together with local businesses, networking, and assisting each other in our endeavours to help local communities.

Along with Rotary worldwide, District 1240 is answering calls for help related to the ongoing war in Ukraine and supporting survivors of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

We still have District funds available for Ukraine. Please contact Martin Sulley to apply for any of the remaining money available.

Keep up the good work, stay safe and well, and I look forward to seeing some of you at the conference in April. *District Governor Jed Brooks*

Website <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/districts/homepage.php?DistrictNo=1240>



Rotary District 1240- mainly Essex



Rotary District Young Musician competition

Saturday evening, February 18, and Chelmsford Cathedral was buzzing with excitement, as eight young instrumentalists and singers performed before an enthusiastic audience.

The cathedral has been the traditional home for the Rotary District Young Musician competition since 2007.

Nathan Quilter (sponsored by Dunmow) was the winning instrumentalist, while Murray Peat (sponsored by Chelmsford) was the winning singer.

The Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Sue Dobson presented the trophies, and District Governor Jed Brooks handed over certificates. Both paid tribute to the excellence of the performers and thanked them for such an enjoyable evening.

The collection from teas and biscuits raised £165 for DEC, for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria.

Ian McMeekan (District 1240 Young Musician competition organiser)



Nathan Quilter receives Young Musician trophy from the Mayor of Chelmsford, Sue Dobson



All of the entrants lined up with the Mayor and District Governor.



Murray Peat receives his certificate from Rotary District Governor Jed Brooks

New members for SWF



Don Wragg – South Woodham Ferrers

President John Robinson pictured below welcomed Mike Smith and Trevor Ayres as Associate Members of the club at our recent Tuesday meeting.

Mike has been a supporter of the club for many years, sponsoring our Swimathon, supplying plants for our club to maintain the planters in the town centre, and providing an area for the Community Garden at Meadowcroft Garden Centre.

Trevor is a past President and member of the club for many years before leaving for personal reasons although he always kept in contact, supported, and followed the club in its many activities. We are delighted that he has been able to return as an Associate Member.



L to R: President John Robinson with Mike Smith



L to R: President John Robinson with Trevor Ayres

Race Night to support the victims of the Turkey & Syria earthquake

Following on from the very successful collections at Asda & Sainsbury's, the club organised a race night at Champions Manor Hall where it raised over £1,000 which will purchase a further two shelter boxes for the victims of the earthquake. This currently brings the total of seven ShelterBoxes. A big THANK YOU to all who have supported our club.



SWF's Swimarathon 2023

This year's event was formally opened by President John Robinson and Mayor Councillor Donna Eley on Friday, March 10.



The opening speeches

As part of the BBC Essex Quest local radio programme they visited the club's Swimarathon Event at the Leisure Centre on Sunday. The pictures below show Liana interviewing two members of the club (myself and John Acklaw), and after the interview a group photo including Barry Lewis before they continued to their next stop in North Fambridge. *Don Wragg*



A presentation of flowers to the Mayor by Rotarian Lisa Kelly



Bishop's Stortford has been very busy



**Margaret Webb –
Bishop's Stortford**

It feels as if we've been on the go constantly in February and into March. We've had some excellent speakers. Firstly, was Nick Turner, Chairman of The Bishop's Stortford & District Talking Newspaper, a brilliant initiative by Rotarians from our own club many years ago and for which some of our current members are readers and editors. Then, in early March, we welcomed Adrian Bradshaw, who told us how he left his secure job on a Regional Newspaper to start his own media group and the chain of Flyer monthly magazines, delivered free to people's homes. He told us how Covid had affected his business, reducing the numbers with the available funds to advertise, particularly in the hospitality business.

But he kept going and has increased the community content, so that it makes a valuable addition to the local community and is not just a vehicle for advertisers.

On the social side, a number of members and partners went to the Catherine Wheel in the village of Albury, on Friday, February 24, on their fish night. Around the table we could see our friends eating whitebait, enormous bowls of mussels, plaice stuffed with prawns, and, for those who dared, giant whole fried fish and numerous chips. Those who still had room could eat a tangy lemon and lime posset or, for the very adventurous, a Nutella cheesecake with stem ginger ice cream. It was certainly an evening for those who love their food!

Our next social event will be on March 29, when a coach load of us will be going to see "The Play that Went Wrong" in London with a meal beforehand – a lovely way to spend an evening.

We held a collection for the Turkish earthquake and used the proceeds to purchase a ShelterBox. On March 10, we held another collection for Ukraine, with the proceeds going to the Rotary GB&I Ukraine Crisis Taskforce. This follows on from a wonderful concert on February 26 – a repetition of one held last year – organised by our Satellite Club, with a number of our members helping with the collection and held at All Saints Church. The young performers were all talented students of Natalia Varkentin, a local Latvian music teacher and violinist. One of the performers was Ukrainian, and she was one of those welcomed into our community during the last year. It was a splendid afternoon with a very high standard of performance. To date, around £755 has been raised for the Rotary GB&I Ukraine Crisis Taskforce, and this continues to rise thanks to additional donations.



At the District 1240 Young Chef Final on Saturday, February 18, the winner of our own club's competition in June last year, Lyla Thompson, was crowned as winner of the District Final. Each competitor had to produce a healthy three course meal for two people, for £20. Lyla was congratulated on her menu, which demonstrated a variety of skills, and for producing a delicious meal. She made perfect pastry for her tarte tatin starter, prepared a sea bass, and made her own pasta for the main course. There was a passion fruit and coconut pannacotta for dessert. It was the first time that Lyla had worked in a stainless steel catering kitchen, but this did not deter her.

Lyla, who attends St Nicholas School in Old Harlow, will now represent District 1240 in the Regional Final in March.



Lyla receiving her certificate and award from Rotarian Martin Nelson, event coordinator

On the evening of March 6, at Bishop's Stortford College, we held our annual Interschools Quiz, organised by Rtn Bernie Cotton. This is styled on University Challenge, with "starters for 10" and general knowledge questions. Quizmaster Mike Tomkys was ably assisted by Rtn David Green and wife Hilary as scorers, and Rtn Emily Chan as timekeeper.

Teams from seven local secondary schools competed for the coveted trophy. After a number of elimination rounds, often fought to the line: it was the team from Hockerill Anglo European College that beat the Bishop's Stortford College team. The trophy and certificates were presented by President Jane Mitchell – see below.



With all these events successfully done and dusted, we are busily but happily preparing for the Young Musician competition April 22, again at Bishop's Stortford College, and our main fundraising event – our Annual Golf Day – on May 11, at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club. *Margaret Webb*

Manchester Action Summit

15 - 17 September 2023

EVOLVING ROTARY

[Manchester Action Summit - Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland \(rotarygbi.org\)](https://rotarygbi.org)

Brentwood's quiz for Ukraine



Rose Bolton -
Brentwood

Turkey and Syria

When the Earthquake hit, we immediately sent a cheque for £3,000 to ShelterBox – our trusted charity for all disasters. We then discussed with members the need to get “out on the street” and raise further donations. With licenses in place, on February 24, 25, and 26, armed with our gazebo, the sample ShelterBox from Peter Dowse, and a team of volunteers, we set up in Brentwood High Street. We are still working on the final figure but believe we raised upwards of £2,000. Despite lots of people already having donated online, we were still staggered by the generosity of our local people.



This is such an important issue across the world, and we hope to be joined by some of the people who have sought refuge here. If you'd like to learn more and can raise a team – please visit and book your place. Friday, March 17, 2023 - Charity Virtual Rotary Quiz - Rotary Club of Brentwood (rotary-ribi.org)

Golf Day

Brentwood's Annual Charity Golf Day has been running every year since it was established in 1989 by our President of that year John Mayle. John Mayle has never been a golfer, but he did understand that a “Golf Day” was a superb opportunity for a group of golfers to get together for fun and fellowship; however, as our club member and golf professional John Stanion will always remind us, “Golf is a serious business”! Since 1989, our club has raised well in excess of £100,000 for numerous charities that our club supports.

Rose Bolton

Henry VIII

Like many clubs we have a regular speaker event and this month we did it in style. Michael Farley – aka Henry VIII delighted us with a potted history of Henry and his wives. We opened the meeting up to guests and partners and were delighted to have a turnout of 43. We were also joined by three potential new members – so we are hoping that they enjoyed some of the “fun” bits of Rotary. Michael can be seen regularly at Hever Castle, as the resident Henry.



Quiz

As you know, we have been running a quiz for one Friday a month for years but since the Covid Pandemic we have conducted this online. It is a great fund raiser and each month we have a dedicated charity when the charity is encouraged to enter one or two teams. This month we are raising funds for Ukraine.

WELCOME TO THORNDON PARK GOLF CLUB



THE ROTARY CLUB OF BRENTWOOD

ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY

MONDAY 15th, MAY 2023

**IN AID OF ST. FRANCIS HOSPICE, SNAP
AND OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES**

**MAJOR SPONSOR -
BENNETTS FUNERAL DIRECTORS**



4-BALL ENTRY £360 – HOLE SPONSORS welcome

Includes coffee/bacon sandwich on arrival, and then
rolling buffet lunch with dessert/ coffee.

Prizes for winning teams/ nearest the pin / longest drive

Contact Chris Rastin cm.rastin@btinternet.com

Brentwood à Becket's Quiz Night



Jean McGinley –
Brentwood a Becket

On February 13, 2023, DG Jed Brooks visited Brentwood à Becket Rotary and gave an interesting insight into what Rotary will be trying to achieve in 2023. He explained how it works and what we could be doing to achieve the objectives. He also discussed the difficulties being experienced with fund raising. He presented President Paul Chambers with a Certificate of Appreciation, acknowledging the club's financial support of the End Polio Now - Countdown to History Campaign. It was an evening of good fellowship and gave us some ideas for the year ahead.

The annual quiz night – 1st VP Tony Clark has organised the quiz for many years and raised thousands of pounds for the local charity SNAP, Special Needs and People. This year it took place on February 25, with 230 quizzers attending a fun evening with “backwards bingo” being very popular. The evening raised £3,300 for our chosen charity. Many thanks go to Tony and helpers for making it such a success.

Jean McGinley



DG Jed Brooks presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to President Paul Chambers



Maldon's generous donation to ShelterBox



**James Howard -
Maldon**

Pictured right is one of Maldon's longest serving members and former President, Rotarian John Binder. John donned the uniform of the Marie Curie charity, in freezing conditions, and helped 11 fellow members raise over £400 thanks to customers of our local Morrisons. But being a retired farmer, he is no stranger to harsh weather conditions. John has supported the club in all its activities and fund raising for over thirty years.

At a packed, joint meeting with the Danbury and Villages club, recent new member, Eric Dyer gave his "Job Talk". This proved to be a fascinating account of "The Life of a Tugboat Skipper" with facts and figures, great stories, all illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation. Members and guests agreed that it must have been a very demanding occupation and thanked Eric for a superb presentation.

Our club became involved with the local Plume Academy's entry for the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. One team went through to compete in Chelmsford and was highly commended as a runner-up.



Maldon Rotarian John Binder

The club's donation of £ 4,000 to Shelterbox in support of the Turkish Earthquake Appeal was subsequently supplemented by a further donation of £2,000 when the situation in Syria became apparent. *James Howard*

Canvey's collections



**Rod Bishop -
Canvey Island**

Canvey Island opened a shop to collect items for the disaster in Turkey and Syria. The premises, donated by Castle Point Council for a three week period, were the same as we had last year when we were collecting items for the war victims in Ukraine.

The collection hub was set up after being contacted by the Ford Motor Company, who will transport all the items collected, first to their plant in Germany and then on to Turkey. Ford also provided the transport for the huge amount of goods collected for the Ukraine victims. The items required included warm blankets, sleeping bags, fireproof winter tents, nappies, wet wipes, sanitary items, detergent, soap, clothing (especially new underwear), dried baby milk

and baby food, new baby bottles, pasta, and rice. Items for children included noiseless toys, new soft toys (no war toys!), colouring books and crayons.



The hub ran for two and half weeks and the number of items donated was unbelievable, thanks to the extremely generous Canvey residents, plus items collected by the RC of Leigh on Sea, and a large number of items collected in Latchingdon.

We also had many items donated at Canvey Morrisons supermarket, Wintergardens School, and we even had items brought over from Kent. As well as the goods, £684.25 was donated in cash, which has been used to purchase a ShelterBox, an additional water filtration kit, and an additional cooking set. The club had previously donated two ShelterBoxes.

The collection hub was open seven days a week, 9am - 5pm Monday to Saturday, and 10am - 4pm Sundays, with President John Clarke being the keyholder, opening up and closing each day. Thanks to her excellent organising skills, our past President Anne Earl, together with her husband Ivor, organised the volunteers, who numbered 36 and comprised club members, Canvey and Benfleet Councillors, and members of the public, most of whom had helped at the Ukraine collection.



Club President John Clarke with Past President Anne Earl

Anne also had labels printed in English and Turkish for the boxes. A huge number of large cardboard boxes were obtained from a number of sources, which were filled with the sorted items, labelled, and sealed ready for collection. It took five, long-wheel base transit vans from Ford Motor Co. to collect all the boxes to take to their Dagenham plant ready for onward transport to Turkey, for the Turkish Red Crescent to distribute.

The total number of volunteer hours amounted to 560.

Rod Bishop

Support for local care home



George Larkey –
Hornchurch and
Upminster

As the Rotary year hurtles onwards, we have been looking at different ways that we can help the community and spread the word about Rotary. Having decided that our club would like to adopt a care home, President Christine Smith, together with a small group of Rotarians and Friends of our club, visited Derham House Care Home in Upminster on March 3. We had been invited to the home by Crina



Rotary visitors and
staff at Derham
House

Lee, the General Manager, after she and a colleague visited our club to talk about the work of Derham House. They impressed all the attending members with their enthusiasm and the many creative ways that they interacted with the residents.

The many staff that we met were most welcoming and we were given a guided tour of the accommodation. Over coffee, the discussion about how we can work together and support each other was most productive and we look forward to continuing the partnership. **(Continued next page)**

In January, President Christine Smith visited HVC (Havering Volunteer Centre) in Romford to present a cheque for £250 from our club. She was most warmly greeted by the CEO Shelley Hart and her daughter who were delighted with the donation. The following quotes from her letter reflect her appreciation:

“Many thanks for this very kind donation....it will help HVC keep recruiting and engaging volunteers for our communitiesthis donation will go a long way in helping us achieve increasing volunteering”.

The Ken Turner Big Band

We are very pleased to promote our big band night, which is not only a most entertaining event it also raises money that goes towards helping local charities.

First Step in Havering

Mark Halls, the CEO of First Step in Havering, accompanied by his wife attended an evening meeting of the Hornchurch and Upminster club. Despite short notice, he gave a very impressive and informative talk about the work being done at First Step.

The charity depends very much on donations from the public and the club presented him with a cheque for £1,000 to support the wonderful work that the dedicated staff provide. *George Larkey*



President Christine Smith thanks a few of our many Friends of the Rotary Club of Hornchurch and Upminster, without whose help we would not be able to run many of our activities and presented certificates. From L to R: Christine, Jan Taffs, Alan Stubbs, Jane Sharma Stubbs, Janet Larkey, Beryl Murphy



CEO Mark and his wife with President Christine and Rotarians Brian Taffs and Terry Monk

Some ideas for your book club???

Cloning by Irma Dubble II

I Didn't Do It! by Ivan Alibi

Armed Heists by Robin Banks

Without Warning by Oliver Sudden

How to Stop Arguing by Xavier Breath

Desert Crossing by I. Rhoda Camel

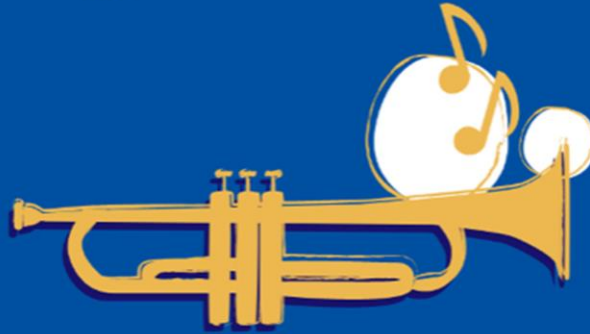
Grave Mistakes by Paul Bearer

Webster's Words by Dick Shunnary



KINGS CORONATION 2023

Rotary  Club of Hornchurch and Upminster



SATURDAY 29TH APRIL
8PM TILL LATE

KEN TURNER

BIG BAND NIGHT

The New Windmill Hall,
St. Mary's Lane
Upminster, RM14 2QH

Tickets £25.00
Includes Fish, Chicken & Chips
or Vegetarian Option
Bring your own drinks

Contact: Terry Monk 01708 226305
ta.monk@btinternet.com

www.hornchurchrotary.org

Clubs get together



**Eric Cater –
Danbury and
Villages**

A quiet month in February, but we are gearing up for our quiz at the Danbury Leisure Centre on Friday, April 21. Entries for teams of six have been encouraging and some for smaller parties or individuals who we can fit into a team. Why not come along for a pleasant evening in good company. Tickets are £12 per person and include a fish (or chicken) and chips supper. All profits are destined for our charity account. Do come along with your friends and fellow Rotarians. You can contact David Denyer to enter at david.deny1@btinternet.com or call or text David on 07710 438257.

We will be helping Danbury and Little Baddow at celebrations for the King's Coronation on May 7. We also planning a Race Night at the Danbury Leisure Centre on June 10. Our events are always a lot of fun and again we would be delighted to welcome fellow Rotarians. A fish or chicken and chips supper is included, and tickets are £12 per person. Tickets can be purchased from Linda Browning at: lbrowning@hotmail.com or email info@danburyandvillagesrotary.co.uk.



John-George Philips presenting the Udaipur Mewar banner to President Keith Clark.

The search for a permanent home continues, but we have settled on an interim meeting place at the Queen's Head in Maldon, although it is outside our area. Other prospective venues in our area may be available later this year. Any club wishing to visit us should contact Linda Browning (details given earlier).

We offer our warmest congratulations to our club member Dr Charvi Jain who got married in India recently. Fellow members John-George Philips and Frances Wild were invited to attend and told us that it was a magnificent occasion. They returned bearing the banner of Udaipur Mewar, the club of Charvi's father and presented it to President Keith Clark at our joint meeting with Maldon Rotary. *Eric Cater*



Greeting from sunny Frinton on Sea! The last few months have been rather busy!



Paul-Frazer
Williams –
Frinton on Sea

Following on from our remarkable festive efforts with Santa and his sleigh, raising almost £6,000 from our street collections and supporting two local primary schools with the “loan of a Santa and some elves” for their own Christmas Fayres, helping to raise a further £4,000 for much needed school funds, we have stepped up our efforts in supporting our young people in the local area.

We are painfully aware that young people face challenging times in our district. Worryingly, Tendring is sitting top of the “in crisis” league table of areas across the county for probable mental health disorders in young people, with anxiety, depression, self-harm or worse... As a club, under the committed and astute guidance of our Community Chair, Kevin Smith, we are determined to do our bit in supporting our local young people; they are not only the future custodians of our community, but they are also possibly Rotarians of the future.

We are on a mission to give our young people hope, belief, and purpose. We have launched several new initiatives to help our youth community become more informed and better equipped for the world in which they are growing up. In supporting a local youth club with funding, leadership, and manpower, we have seen attendance numbers increasing by over 600% within four months.

Walton Youth Club is a weekly provision for 11- to 16-year-olds, providing them with a safe place to socialise, enjoy board games, (chess and backgammon are particular favourites), pool, table tennis, musical facilities, badminton, table football, and more; this upward momentum is being lauded across our community for the positive impact it is demonstrably having. Weekly attendance at the youth club is now over 40 per week and the children really enjoy the stability, engagement, and opportunities that are being afforded to them. In addition, at Easter, 40 of the children are off to the Brecon Beacons for a five-day residential experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. That's impact!



We're not stopping there; with one of our Rotarians supplying knowledge, experience, and passion for the education sector, we have created and rolled out an after-school club enrichment programme across our local primary schools, that will see 600 primary school children develop their emotional vocabulary, self-esteem, confidence, and resilience over the coming months. Local headteachers are amazed at the impact the after-school club provision is having. In the week before half term, several of the children stepped up to the task of delivering all-school assemblies to share their learning around feelings, emotions, empathy, resilience and the importance of self-care.
(Continued next page)

Our local press has even profiled the impact, and this initiative will continue to make headlines as the rollout and reach stretches further in the months ahead. To see an example of the impact currently being achieved in our local primary schools go to: <https://fb.watch/iRt877GiA5/> At Frinton On Sea, we truly believe our children are the future and as a club, we stand side by side with them in supporting and guiding their journey of discovery and growth. In true Rotary colours, "Serve to Change Lives" sits right at the heart of our purpose.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we have undertaken to work closely with our local Women's Institute and help facilitate, transport and host twice-monthly tea afternoons (with cake....) for our more mature residents. Numbers have been modest, but we expect greater attendance as Spring approaches. We also arranged for contact and cards over the festive period, so that they won't feel so alone at that often difficult time. These events sit alongside our wonderful tea afternoons at the Golf Club, of which there will be two this year.

Local choirs will entertain – tea and stickies in abundance! For the last 20 years, Rotarian Michael Chaplin has organised a theatre treat for local elderly folk and this year's event will hopefully be bigger and better than ever. For many, a trip to the theatre can provide an opportunity to escape life's daily routine. A live performance can touch the hearts and minds of an audience and we expect more than 130 elderly residents will enjoy an afternoon treat at Frinton Summer Theatre, courtesy of Frinton on Sea RC.



Finally, our fountain restoration and covid memorial appeal has been completed. We made a short speech to locals and dignitaries to unveil officially the new plaques. Well done to Rotarian, Harry "Sonny" Francis for his commitment! In short, the commemorative fountain in Connaught Avenue, Frinton received a tidy and clean, and two new plaques. One to remember those local souls that passed away over the recent pandemic and the other to recognise those that worked and volunteered throughout the lockdown periods.

Paul Fraser Williams



A busy December for Wickford



Chris Bushell -
Wickford

Wickford Rotary was quite busy in December when we promoted the Club at the Wickford at Christmas event. We welcomed members of the public to find out more about Rotary in general and the club in particular, with displays about the activities of the club and also making people aware of the ShelterBox, a charity we have often supported. We were pleased to see members from the local constabulary who were very keen to have their photo taken with our president Pauline on our sleigh and enjoyed the company of our very own elf Jack!



We then took Santa onto the streets of Wickford again in December, with 11 trips around the streets of the town, delighting young and old alike. With a little help from our Friends we were able to cover a large proportion of the town and we even had snow on the night, which made it really magical! We then spent time at a few of the local supermarkets and again the public were very generous with their donations to the point where Santa started dancing! Thanks to the generosity of the public, we were able to collect just over £5,500 for St Luke's Hospice in Basildon and Thurrock, as well as £1,650 to the Wickford Food Bank and the Trussell Trust.



Sadly, our December was marred by news of the loss of two of our stalwart members within a week or so with the passing of Bill Nelson and Tony French. See "Passed to Higher service". (Continued next page)

But now our attention has now turned to the earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria. We have been able to donate just under £4,000 to the earthquake appeal through a combination of ShelterBox and Red Cross donations, with more to come shortly.



New Life Wood's Peter Hall receiving our donation

Rotarian Jack Pemberton was presented with a long service award after 50 years in Rotary. DGE David Willis presented him with a Long Service Certificate when he visited the Club recently.



On the home front, we were interested recently to find out about a local charity called New Life Wood. Peter Hall visited us from the charity which recycles timber from builders and other sources, and repurposes it, in so doing supporting people referred to them from mental health support groups to start to rebuild their lives. Again, we were able to support them in their work with a small donation.
Chris Bushell

Putting the fun into Fundraising for End Polio Now



Peter Herring –
Colchester
Camulos

On Saturday, March 4, our "Horse Racing with a Difference" event, in support of Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, raised enough money (with the 2 x matching funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) to vaccinate 14,600 children. A fantastic result! Many thanks to our colleagues in the Manningtree & Stour Valley RC for providing their invaluable support and helping to make this such an enjoyable event. We'd also like to thank those who donated raffle prizes, including Peter Dutch PHF for the family ticket for the Colchester Anti-loo Roll Brigade's Last Night of The Proms Concert in Castle Park on September 8.



Thanks also to the punters, including those from other Rotary clubs, who had a thrilling time, and we think a lot of fun too. *Peter Herring*

Rotary Clubs in Colchester come together to “Flush Away Poverty One Toilet at a Time”.



Peter Rutland -
Colchester

I'm sure you will agree that having a toilet is a great “convenience”! After all you've got one, or more, in your home, at your place of work, in your local pub, café or restaurant, in fact, almost wherever you go.

Imagine not having somewhere safe to go to the toilet. Well, that is the case for some 1.7 billion people in the world today.

The four Rotary clubs in Colchester are working with the charity, “Toilet Twinning” with their aim to “Flush Away Poverty, One Toilet at a Time”.

To celebrate Colchester recently becoming a city we want to achieve “city status” with Toilet Twinning, which means that we need to twin at least 30 toilets in the Colchester area.

“Toilet Twinning” is part of the Tear Fund Charity (No.265464), which, for a donation of £60, will help build a toilet in a community where it is needed in the world. To date, they have “twinning” more than 35,000 toilets in 40 countries, but more are needed.

The Rotary clubs in Colchester are contacting local organisation, businesses, and individuals to encourage them to support this campaign.

The toilettwinning website provides a lot of information and there are excellent “kits” to help you to action your own “in house” campaign, together with ideas to help you maximise your donation. Please visit their website www.toilettwinning.org

If you are interested in joining our campaign or would like more information, please contact me via email peter.rutlandrtn@gmail.com (Continued next page)

Rotary
in Colchester
www.rotaryincolchester.org

**'FLUSHING AWAY POVERTY,
ONE TOILET AT A TIME'**

*Will you join our
revo-loo-tion?*

1.7 BILLION PEOPLE
DON'T HAVE SOMEWHERE
**SAFE TO GO TO THE
TOILET**

Can you imagine what your life would be like if you did not have access to a Loo?
We want to go a small way in changing that by encouraging local business, schools, any community group or organisation to raise £60 to 'Twin a Toilet'

Rotary in Colchester
working with Toilet Twinning

Why Toilets matter!!

Without proper toilets and clean water, people are trapped in a vicious cycle:

- They're likely to become sick through sanitation-related diseases
- Illness means they cannot work or farm their land, so they earn less or grow less food
- Children often miss school, because they are sick or because they're busy collecting water
- Girls often drop out of school altogether when they start their periods if there are no toilets or changing rooms
- Parents have to pay for medicines or food, so they may fall into debt
- Women and girls risk being attacked or bitten by snakes as they go to the toilet in the open, especially if the culture dictates that they have to go out at night

To celebrate Colchester becoming a City, we want to achieve 'City Status' with the charity 'Toilet Twinning'. That means we need to get at least 30 local groups to Twin a Toilet.

If you would like to be part of this
'revo-loo-tion'
or to find out more please email:
peter.rutlandrtn@gmail.com

www.rotaryincolchester.org
facebook: Rotary in Colchester - Toilet Twinning

toilettwinning.org



Rotary Music Festival – Part 1

The Rotary Music Festival for Soloist and Small Ensemble was held on Saturday, March 11) and was a great success with over 50 participants in the various categories.

All performances were of a high standard as confirmed by the (stand in adjudicator) Nigel Hildreth who said, "Performing at events such as these is a great way of developing your skills and confidence, not only in your music, but also in your life. Well done to everyone who took part".

The Musician of the Year and Singer of the Year awards will be made shortly and a further update on Facebook will be given at that time.

Our thanks to the Headgate Theatre in Colchester for hosting the event.

The remaining categories of the Rotary Music, Dance and Drama Festivals will take place at the Colchester County High School for Girls, as detailed below:

Dance: over the weekends of June 17/18 and 24/25, 2023,

Music: (Choirs and Large Ensembles), July 1, 2023

Speech and Drama: July 1, 2023

Registration for these events is still open. To find out more and register, please visit the Festival Website:

<https://colchesterrotaryfestival.org/> *Peter Rutland*



Jesse Osayande, the first double bass player to have taken part in the competition's history

Mayflower's Quiz Night returns



Mark Chambers –
Billericay
Mayflower

Members, their families, and friends meet recently for Mayflower's "annual" Quiz (first one since 2019!!).

The table quiz was a fiendish collection of anagrams and other riddles to identify Drinks! A personal favourite: "It's not mathematical". Answers on a postcard please..... Then several rounds that challenged people's sporting, maritime, general knowledge, amongst other subjects. There was also a great raffle with some very generous donations.

The lovely food (sausage, mash, and peas, plus pudding) was provided by Stephanie Chambers.



Just a few of the participants at Mayflower's quiz night recently.

The event had not only fellowship in mind but fundraising too. We were delighted to have raised nearly £1,200, to be divided between the Juvenile Diabetic Research Foundation and Mayflower's Charity Funds. Many thanks to all involved in organising this most enjoyable evening. *Mark Chambers*

Broadcasting to the Home of Radio – an interview with Chelmsford Community Radio's Ben Kearns



Barbara Stroud
– Mildmay

Mildmay's meeting on February 28 included an after-lunch session run by Rotary Roundup's impresario, Dave Almond. Now in his eighth year as a co- presenter of the programme on Chelmsford Community Radio, Dave introduced us to Ben Kearns, also a broadcaster on the radio station.

This was, Dave told us, an historic moment in his own radio career, since it was the first time that he had interviewed anyone "live" at a Rotary meeting.

This introduction did not disappoint, the audience listening with interest to and asking questions of an interviewee with a tremendous knowledge of radio broadcasting. Ben's interest in radio started when he was at school, and he has built on this early enthusiasm over more than 21 years. His expertise has been gained partly through training and partly through listening and learning during years of practical experience as a broadcaster and podcaster.

For the past eight years he has been a presenter on CCR. His present programmes on this channel are:
After Hours –Thursdays from 10.00 pm
Ignition – weekdays from 3.00 pm

When asked to name his favourite songs, Ben was perhaps spoilt for choice, remarking that he was "annoyingly not fussy". However, two of his favourite tracks were "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant" by Billy Joel and "Tell It Like It Is" by Sophie Penman. Ben had played the latter on every one of his broadcasts for a week.



Dave Almond
and Ben
Kearns



L-R: Rob Peters, Dave Almond, Ben Kearns, Michelle Durant, Tom Harper
(President of Mildmay)

The subject of favourite songs promoted an amusing anecdote about an interruption to the playing of a particular track on one of his live broadcasts. Ben was telephoned by a frantic father whose young son was refusing to get into the car to attend a doctor's appointment unless "Bob the Builder" was played. Ben was kind enough to replace the original piece as requested!

We were pleased to also welcome Rob Peters, Dave's co-presenter on Rotary Roundup, and Michelle Durant, CCR Community Outreach and Fundraising Officer.

We look forward to listening to the next Rotary Roundup on Sunday March 20, at 10.0 am and hearing ourselves, as well as enjoying Ben's interview for a second time. Our thanks to him for such interesting insights into the world of broadcasting. *Barbara Stroud*

<https://www.mixcloud.com/chelmsfordcr/stream/>

Rayleigh Mill joins the worldwide Rotary family helping victims of the Turkish/Syrian earthquakes



Bill White –
Rayleigh Mill

Rotary International has made enormous efforts to provide practical help to the victims of the earthquakes through the Rotary Turkey/Syria Disaster Response Fund and the additional \$125,000 offered to Rotary districts affected by the earthquake through Disaster Response Grants. All three Rotary Districts in Turkey took immediate action to provide hundreds of excavators, transport to provide emergency supplies, emergency shelter, medical aid and volunteers.

In the long term, the three Turkish Districts are working on a bigger and sustainable project to build a container city which will provide the victims with secure homes, health, education, and hygiene facilities until they can return to their normal way of life.

Being further away from this catastrophic event, Rayleigh Mill has chosen to tackle the disaster in a number of different ways.



As an initial step, the club has donated a £590 ShelterBox to replenish any stocks that have been sent to the disaster area, and they have donated the equivalent amount to Médecins Sans Frontières who are supporting earthquake victims in Syria.

The club is now exploring ways to set up a crowdfunding site to try to raise funds that will be used to help establish the proposed container city to provide safe and secure housing for the many victims of the earthquake who have lost everything.

Bill White



Regional Young Musician 2023

Young Musicians are back!

The 2023 Regional Young Musician competition will take place in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 18 March, starting at 7.00pm (doors open from 6.00).

Rotary Regional Young Musician competition, featuring young musicians from the Thames Valley and the East of England.
Tickets only £5 each, from ian.t.mcmeekan@btinternet.com – to be held on the door, pay there.

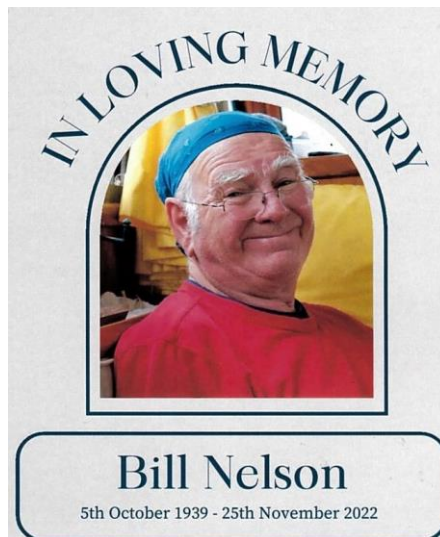
A wonderful evening of music of the highest standard – remember, the entrants will already have won through Club and District competitions.

This is just one of the many opportunities
Rotary gives to young people to develop their talents.

Any questions, contact ian.t.mcmeekan@btinternet.com

Passed to Higher service

Bill Nelson became a member of Wickford Rotary in 1978 and held the post of President on three separate occasions, in 1983-4, 1997-8 and 2012-13. During his time in Rotary, he played a major role in most of the activities of the club, he but is probably best remembered for his involvement in the support of Hope and Aid Direct convoys, taking essential supplies to various



conflict areas in Eastern Europe over many years, starting in Bosnia and later Kosovo. Bill funded a truck for these trips and undertook more than 30 convoys over the years and was still driving well into his 70s. He was also the “main man” when it came time for the Wickford Fireworks each year, as the man tasked with lighting the bonfire!

Tony French joined Wickford Rotary in 1971, and at the time of his passing was the longest standing member of the Club, with more than 51 years’ service. Service above Self is a guiding principle in every Rotarian’s life, and Tony epitomised that in the way he lived, developing fellowship with like-minded people while providing service to the community, both locally and overseas.



Tony French
1929 - 2022
Wickford

Always keen to volunteer for any task within his capabilities he got involved in a lot of the events and activities put on by the Rotary Club. In the mid 90’s he joined in a sponsored walk over four days around the Isle of Wight to raise funds for the St Luke’s Hospice Day Care Centre.

Weekends in October each year would see him alongside his fellow members in Wickford High Street selling programs for the annual Fireworks Display, and this right through his eighties.

In 2020-21, he took on the role of Chair of International Services, and championed the cause for the charity

Sightsavers, which helps those in developing countries who potentially lose their sight as a result of a painful and infectious disease called trachoma. His work raised sufficient money to treat almost 1,500 people suffering from the disease.

As his mobility diminished in the last couple of years, he continued to help wherever he could, and in 2021 he charmed the children as Santa outside one of the local supermarkets during our Sleigh collections, albeit a sitting Santa! He was scheduled to do the same thing again this last Christmas, but sadly he passed away before he was able to do his shift.

Publication criteria for submissions to the 1240 District Bulletin

-Please send your articles as a **Word document**, **NOT** as a pdf, or a PowerPoint presentation, or a jpeg. Please include a **title** for the article.

-Include a **good quality** photograph(s), (jpegs please), with captions and/or **full** names.

-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).

-Please include the name of your club in your email.

-Links might not work, so please, copy and paste links into your browser.

-Please be aware of date-sensitive items. The DB will normally be sent out in the middle of each month (15th/16th).

-Make sure you provide a **full name** for everyone who is mentioned in the article (not just a first name).

-The deadline (not the target!) for submissions is the **12th** of each month, although "as soon as possible" is always preferred.

Thank you - Editor.

Situations VACANT

IN CINEMAS 4TH DECEMBER



After what will have been three years as editor of the District 1240 monthly bulletin, a role I have thoroughly enjoyed, I am hanging up my red pen at the end of this Rotary year, i.e. the end of June, and moving on to other responsibilities within my own club.

So....., we're hoping that someone (or two) will step up to fill this busy, but relevant job that provides a showcase of the marvellous things that are achieved here in District 1240.

If you would like to know more, please contact me at: yvonne@kyndt.net

I'll be very happy to talk you through it (and possibly provide some training if required). *Yvonne Kyndt*

District Diary

AGs Meeting	7.00PM 20 MAR	STEVE GALE	Zoom
CEE MDPETS	9.30AM 18 MAR	DAVID	WYBOSTON LAKES
DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING	9.00AM 25 MAR	DAVID	TEAROOMS, WRITTLE
FOUNDATION SEMINAR	9.00AM 1 APR	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE
DISTRICT CONFERENCE	15 APR	JED	STIFFORD HALL HOTEL, HIGH ROAD, STIFFORD. RM16 5UE
SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 25 APR	JED	WRITTLE COLLEGE
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY	9.00AM 13 MAY	JED & DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE
AGs Meeting	7.00PM 15 MAY	STEVE GALE	Zoom
DISTRICT HANDOVER	1 JUL	DAVID	TBC
SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 5 JUL	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE
DISTRICT FORUM	6.30PM 19 JUL	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE
ROTARY ACTION SUMMIT	15 - 17 SEPT	N/A	MIDLAND HOTEL, MANCHESTER
DISTRICT CONFERENCE (Jointly with D1260)	6 - 8 OCT	DAVID	CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 25 OCT	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE
DISTRICT FORUM	9.00AM 18 NOV	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE
Pre-PETS	TBC	ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE

Chuckles

My sister-in-law, Eileen, has one leg shorter than the other.

My grandparents were called Pearl and Dean, but we just called them Gran and Granpapa papa papa papapapapa papa papa papa paaaaa..

In addition to anti-matter and dark matter, scientists have also discovered - doesn't matter, which seems to have no effect on the Universe at all.

I got my grandmother a walking frame made by NASA. She's starting to get the hang of it. It's one small step for nan.....

Finally found a good use for cauliflower



Sampled a Blue brie cheese in my supermarket today and I was quite disappointed. There's no fruit in it whatsoever!

A man on a tractor just drove down our street yelling, "It's the end of the world! It's the end of the world!" at the top of his voice. Must be Farmergeddon!

My wife says that I should put a clean pair of socks on every day. It's Friday and I can't get my shoes on.



Caesar salad

Kellogg's say they don't make Corn Flakes for anyone else. Well, that isn't true: when I was in my next door neighbour's kitchen having a cup of tea with her, I saw a packet of Kellogg's Corn Flakes in her cupboard.

FOR SALE
90S ICONIC SOOTY AND SWEEP
PUPPETS
ANY OFFER ACCEPTED
JUST WANT THEM OFF MY HANDS



It's true what they say about pollution in the oceans. I bought a tin of sardines the other day and when I opened it, it was full of oil and all the fish were dead.

I lost my job at NASA Mission Control today. I misheard when they said, "It's lunch time."

Just eaten a Yorkie. Bet it's the last time I'm allowed into Crufts.

Some sad news today, the man who invented the raffle draw has died...

R.I.P Tom Bowler.....