

W D R T

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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.

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OUR PRESIDENT MICK SAYS....

The club's year finished on a high note with the sleigh making its way around the streets of Woodham again and was well received by all, young and old. Our Tree of Joy was well supported helping us to provide many Christmas presents for needy children.

We now look forward to what we can achieve this year. kicking off with the Swimarathon in March which over the years has raised over £132,000 pounds. This year's beneficiaries are "Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled" and "Rainbow trust". So get those costumes out and dive in !!!!

We are also involved with the Village Hall committee planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration to be held at the Village Hall playing fields.

Our trip to visit our twinned clubs in Saarbrucken and Meaux planned for April has been deferred until later in the year due to Covid restrictions. Let's hope that we can make the journey this year and re-establish old friendships.

Well " Thats all from me Folks" so take care and enjoy 2022.....

Mick

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Officers & Committee Members

<p>Membership service</p> <p>John Robinson Mick Fry Derek Hutchinson Don Wragg Tony Graham Kush Dave Ken Walker Cec Norton Eric Johnson Roger Restell</p>	<p>PRESIDENT Mick Fry</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT John Robinson</p> <p>JUNIOR VICE Kush Dave</p> <p>SECRETARY Derek Hutchinson</p> <p>TREASURER Don Wragg</p> <p>PRO Tony Graham</p>	<p>Community Service</p> <p>David Peffer David Shea Roger Restell John Acklaw Peter Ferry Kush Dave Tony Graham Terry Tilbrook Ken Walker Don Wragg Graham Pretty Steve Evans</p>
<p>Youth / Vocation</p> <p>Geoff Thompson Derek Hutchinson Roger Gatford Dino Kahn Cec Norton Malcolm Carter Graham Pretty Paul Duffy</p>		<p>International / Foundation</p> <p>Terry Tilbrook John Robinson Kush Dave John Acklaw Eric Johnson Raj Vora Malcolm Sismey</p>

Vice President John says.....



Dear Rotarians

By the time the next Woodrot is issued, it may be too late to say this, but Happy New Year! Halfway through the current rotary year and on reflection I doubt we could have done much better given the circumstances we were experiencing on the 1st July 2021. Having returned to face-to-face meetings at our new venue The Eatery, I believe we have gone a long way to getting back to the Rotary I know and love. We have enjoyed some super events and outings despite Covid19 still being a thorn in our side with the Omicron variant being the latest and which struck me over

This was more of a pain being in isolation for the entire holiday, than the mild cold symptoms I suffered and having to enjoy Christmas and New Year with family by Zoom again. Were my symptoms mild because I have been triple vaccinated or because the current variant is not so dangerous. I guess we do not know. A combination of both maybe!

I am not surprised that the club do not want to return to Zoom Meetings as RIBI would prefer, yet we must respect every member's view and I fully understand both sides of the argument. We had an enjoyable first meeting after the New Year and I would thank all members that attended for adhering to the new safety measures which will help those who are more vulnerable feel comfortable attending. We finished 2021 with an enjoyable Christmas Party, the best for many years, so hopefully, we can continue with more outings and events in the second half of the rotary year. The most important date for your diary though is the 11th June 2022, which will be our 40th Anniversary Celebration. We hope that the venue will be Three Rivers with a good band to enjoy more fun and dancing. So please put this as a date in your diaries ahead of any other plans and start to invite friends and family as guests since we are likely to require a minimum of seventy-five to secure the venue. Cost to be finalised, but we would expect to cap this at £50 maximum.

Yvonne and I wish you a happy and healthy 2022.

Regards John

CHRISTMAS ROUND UP

After a year of lock down and other obstacles, members of the Rotary Club of South Woodham Ferrers pulled together to make a success of Christmas 2021.



THE TREE OF JOY

Nearly 200 books and toys were donated by the good people of South Woodham Ferrers and surrounding villages. A wide variety of gifts enabled Rotary to bringing joy to dozens of children who might otherwise have had nothing to look forward to this Christmas.

The gifts have been equally divided between the “Rainbow Trust” and “Connecting and Uniting Families”. Some were to be handed out by Santa at a party for under privileged children at Champions Manor Hall. Sadly the party was cancelled due to Covid but Zoe Palmer was able to deliver them to the children at home in time for Christmas.

In a letter of thanks to the project’s organiser Ken Walker Zoe said,

“I must admit it was quite emotional seeing (the presents) all ready to go and knowing what little faces would be receiving themA huge thank you to you all from myself and the team.”

Letters of thanks have been sent Asda management and Lisa Kelly, and to to Kath Gable, Secretary to the Joint Church Council, Holy Trinity Church, for supporting the project.

ROTARY’S SANTA SUCCESS

Once again our club brought Christmas cheer to by bringing Santa and his sleigh to to the Town. A lot of effort had been put into planning the new method of stopping at selected points to meet Santa. The sleigh looked bright and well lit, thanks to the work of Roger Restell and Peter Ferry.

There was no doubt that people who turned out to see Santa had a happy time and many photos were taken of children with the bearded gentleman, or standing in the artificial snow billowing from the newly-installed snow machine.

There may be lessons to learn from this year’s experiment but Community Chairman David Peffer sums up why it was a success:

“What was it all for? How about the excited child running up to Santa, cuddling his leg and saying “I love you Santa”? How about the two young girls carrying cards made for Santa but too shy to go up to him without parent and snowman assurances? How about the children spontaneously dancing under the artificial snow; or holding hands and going to speak to some of the old folk at the Windle Care Home? Or the young lad who, when I asked him what Mummy wants for Christmas, looked at me as if I was mad; shrugged his shoulders and said “I dunno “.

CHRISTMAS SLEIGH

Pictures with Santa



Ready for the off



Elmwood school
A fabulous finish
to the evening



Bembow drive



And what do
want



For Christmas

A blaze of light
surrounded the sleigh
as Father Christmas
entertained the
children of South
Woodham Ferrers



Cool Dude Santa



Snow!



Rogues' gallery



Christmas carols outside
Sainsburys



FUNDS RAISED

Bringing Santa to town is a community service but the importance of collections in aid of Rotary Charities is not to be overlooked. Club Treasurer, Don Wragg has done the sums:

“We raised £330 at the Town Fayre split between the sleigh and Father Christmas.

Overall we collected £4577 of which £1364 was by Inner Wheel.

We used the QR code and Contactless methods for the first but a vast majority was raised with cash.

Asda collections were the highest on Record with £2254 of the overall total collected over that weekend.”

Thank you letters have been sent to Asda and Sainsburys for their generous permission to collect outside their stores.

A FINAL WORD FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES CHAIRMAN

David Peffer writes:

“The lead up to Christmas seemed fraught with even more uncertainty than in nearly two years of living with the Pandemic. Many of us will have experienced last minute change of plans as a consequence. Looking back and notwithstanding a number of lessons learned, how gratifying it is therefore that, our Club put on a “Jolly Good Show Chaps” bringing Santa to the children (and parents) and toys and books to children who would, otherwise, have had little to look forward to. Well done all and thanks.”

The management and staff at the offices of “Woodrot” wish all their readers a Happy, Safe and Prosperous 2022

We'll Take a Cup of Kindness Yet

The words of “Auld Langs Syne” have more meaning for 2022. The pandemic has given rise to stories of people supporting others in acts of kindness and “Be Kind to Others” is appearing on tee-shirts. But what is kindness? And how kind are people generally? The importance of such questions in the contemporary world prompted the the BBC and Surrey University to carry out a survey to find answers to them.

Past studies have found that acting kindly can improve your wellbeing. Researchers have found that a kind act can have a a positive effect on how you feel. Neuroscientific research confirms that the warm glow we experience when we do something nice for someone shows up in our brain’s reward system. It makes us likely to act kindly on future occasions.

Can we say that Rotary Service is the means by which Rotarians engage in kind acts? If so membership of a Rotary Club is good for your mental well-being. Perhaps the toast should be **“Rotary and Peace, and Kindness, the World Over.”**

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Barrow Farm Riding and Carriage Driving for the Disabled struggled to keep going during the worst of the pandemic and donations from the Club’s charity account have been very welcome. Charlotte Jessop, one of the youngsters supported by Barrow Farm sadly passed away from cancer in August and the Club decided with the agreement of her parents to support the work of the Trust by donating a trophy in her memory.

Tom and Andrea Jessop have been shown the trophy and have described it as “*truly magnificent*”. They are looking forward to being involved in presenting it this year. The Riding School will be one of the beneficiaries of the Swimathon this year and the trophy will be handed over at the opening ceremony in March.



“What does the secretary do?”

You may wonder what the Club Secretary does behind the scenes especially if you have not been in the post before.

The most obvious and visible duty is when you see the Secretary scribbling during a club meeting taking notes for the Minutes that he will circulate later. Part of that is preparing an Agenda for the President and Members for a Business Meeting.

As part of this process he attends Council Meetings and gathers in Reports from the Chairs and circulates them firstly to the other Council Members, then the Minutes including reports to the general membership. The Storing of the minutes for future referencing and archiving. These represent the weekly activities of the Secretary. Other periodical duties include keeping records of Club Members, overseeing and updating the Club Handbook, including updating the RI/RIBI/ District databases, and keeping the Club Calendar up to date. The creation of the general Duty Rota is sent out on a quarterly basis and a record of members last duties i.e. ‘Vote of Thanks’ is kept to ensure a fair allocation. The circulation to members of the SGM Part 1 & 2 Nomination Forms in good time before the meetings, along with the ‘7 day letter’ prior to inviting new members to join.

A few other occasional items have to be done including, applying for licence(s) for the sleigh or other activities where we collect money. Keeping the Insurance Policy ‘live’, ordering Regalia for the outgoing President, ensuring the ‘visitors Book’ is handed round to Guest and Visitors, Accessing the District Directory for information of other Clubs and acting as a Sorting Office for incoming mail and re-circulating to the appropriate members.

What is the most important job? - RINGING THE BELL BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO SPEAK.

And finally, getting oneself fined for misdemeanors or dereliction of duty most weeks. I have probably missed out something that I won’t remember when the time comes leading to another fine.

CROCUS PLANTING AT TRINITY ST MARYS

Key Stage One children at Trinity St Mary’s School happily got their fingers dirty planting crocuses for the “Purple Pinky” Campaign to eradicate Polio. Covid-Safety rules did not allow club members to join them but it’s clear that the activity teaches children what the campaign is about. The school’s Acting Deputy Head said that children who had planted crocuses two years ago remembered and were able to talk about Polio, the vaccine and the purple finger of vaccinated children.

“Well done, Trinity St Marys” said the Club’s Community Services Chairman. “And sincere thanks to parents for their donations”,



KEN'S FUNNIES

Always good for a laugh, Ken Walker sent some examples of genuine extracts from letter sent to the Local Council. Here is editor's selection of the choicest.

This is to let you know that there is a smell coming from the man next door.

I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

Toilets seem to be a common source of quirky quotes:

Our toilet seat has broken in half and is now in three pieces.

The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.

This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broken and we cannot get BBC 2

And this complainer could have been a politician's speech writer, using fifty words where three would do!

When I applied for a rebate you said that you would have to take something off. Now that you have taken it off, I have been told that you should have put something on. So will you please take of what you took off and put on what you should have put on when you took it off.

Confused?

How many Rotarians does it take to change a light bulb.

The answer is 5

- 1 to propose the change
- 2 a seconder for the motion
- 3 the Chairman of the committee responsible
- 4 the allocated member to change the bulb
- 5 The member who actually changed the light bulb because number 4 forgot.