

Rotary District 1240 Bulletin

November 2023—District Governor David Willis

“CREATE HOPE in the WORLD”

From District Governor David Willis



Dear colleagues,

I want to express my gratitude to PDG Jed Brooks and the entire team who were involved in organising and assisting with our recent visit to the Wilderness Foundation on October 14th. I would especially like to thank Gloria Nichols for ensuring that we were all well-fed with her delightful assortment of cakes. The weather was favourable to us, and I believe we all left with a deep appreciation for the special nature of the place. As our new corporate members, I am confident that we will have numerous opportunities to support and engage with this wonderful charity in the future.

In light of the current global situation, marked by unusual volatility, our thoughts are with those individuals whose lives are being affected by conflicts, disasters, and extreme weather conditions. Thankfully, as Rotarians, we are in a unique position to offer the assistance that is needed, whether through our fundraising efforts or our extensive network of Rotary contacts worldwide.

When I visit your clubs, I am continually impressed by the remarkable work you are all doing to support those who are less fortunate than us. I am equally impressed by the diverse range of initiatives that clubs are involved in to enhance the lives of others. These projects range from simple endeavours like collecting metal detectors to send to the Ukraine, to providing reusable menstrual products that enable young women to pursue their education, to constructing schools and toilets to provide children with a better life through education. Rotarians are making a significant impact on people's lives both domestically and internationally, and I express my heartfelt appreciation for all that you are doing.

During the conference in October, we had the opportunity to hear from the charity Wrap Up UK, which collects coats that are no longer needed to support the homeless and vulnerable during the winter months. PDG Bob Barclay is our district coordinator for Wrap Up and is organising a collection at the District Forum on 18th November at Writtle College. I encourage you to look through your closets and bring any clean coats to the forum, as this simple act can make a real difference in someone's life this winter.

Christmas has always been a favourite time for me in Rotary, as we unpack our sleighs and elf costumes and anticipate the joy we bring to children each year. I wish you all success with your collections.

I understand that many clubs were disappointed to learn that the Sleigh Tracker App would not be available to us this year. I have spoken with some of you who are exploring alternative methods of tracking the sleighs. Personally, I have been testing Google Live location as a possible solution, and others have been investigating Glympse, which operates similarly. While it is slightly more complicated than Sleigh Tracker, it does work. If anyone requires information on how to use Google Live location, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, as I have compiled a set of simple instructions for your convenience.

While cash donations remain prominent, clubs are now finding other ways to facilitate public contributions. The use of QR codes linked to donation pages such as JustGiving has proven effective, as well as the growing use of card machines. In fact, I have observed that individuals may often donate more when using a card machine compared to the small amount of change they have in their pockets.

The Christmas collections require substantial effort, but the rewards extend beyond financial gains for our clubs and ourselves. Please take care as you go out there and have a great time bringing a little bit of joy into people's lives during these challenging times.

Thank you for all you do to Create hope in the World.

Yours in Rotary

David Willis

District Governor Rotary District 1240



Margaret Webb

BISHOPS STORTFORD

We are certainly now getting into our busy time of year. On 16th October, we welcomed, as the speaker at our lunchtime meeting, Josh Macabuag from SARAID – International Search & Rescue Charity, recognised by the UN. Josh comes from Stansted – bringing the charity even nearer home. Volunteers from all works of life travel throughout the world to save lives and bring relief after a disaster, putting themselves in hazardous situations. It is an impressive charity!



On 25th October, a party of members and partners had a trip to the American Cemetery at Madingley, near Cambridge. It was a fascinating tour, but bitterly cold, on a misty, cloudy day on the edge of the Fens! We had a first-class guide, who was obviously very enthusiastic about our subject. Most of her talk was about the wall containing the names of all the missing, along which we moved very slowly. We did think perhaps, on a cold October day, our concentration levels might have remained higher, had the talk been given with slides in the warmth of the Visitor Centre, but it was excellent none the less, and full of amazing stories, including one or two about Glenn Miller, who remains one of the missing.

To warm up, we then went to the Golden Ball pub at Boxworth, where we were able to warm ourselves up with a hearty lunch.



When there is a 5th Monday in the month, we have an evening meeting with partners and guests. October brought us one such Monday. Our speaker was Jill Fraser, CEO of Kissing it Better. Jill who trained as a nurse but then had a few years working on BBC Television, including on John Craven's Newsround. All this must have helped her to become the excellent speaker she is. She now runs this charity with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Kissing it Better is a healthcare charity and training provider, working to end the isolation of old age by bringing the generations together. Jill started the charity in 2009 and described some of the volunteering projects that have since taken place, giving young people the opportunity to use their talents to brighten the day for older people, bringing benefits to both the old and the young. Jill was an inspiring speaker, on a brilliant initiative, who greatly impressed her audience.

We ended the month having enjoyed some good experiences and ready to brace ourselves for November and December, with a number of youth competitions in the offing and Christmas collections coming up fast!

BRENTWOOD



President Vicky Davies

Charter Night

On Tuesday 17th October 2023 the Club celebrated their 91st Birthday Party at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite in Shenfield. The guests were welcomed by our President Vicky Davies and Sue Straw VPI. We were able to enjoy some musical accompaniment from some young people whose Charity we support. We were delighted that the Mayor of Brentwood, Gareth Barrett, was able to join us.

The evening was a great success with a fine meal and an entertaining after dinner talk from Dennis Rensch MBE, holder of the Order of the League of Mercy and a retired Deputy Lieutenant of Essex.

The evening was well attended by Members, their partners and friends.

Christmas is Coming – and we need your help

Santa will be back in Brentwood this year with the help of the Rotary Club of Brentwood but we need more people to help us. We are not asking you to be Rotarians but to join us in helping to make Christmas special this year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP-----

We need people:

- **with a full driving license, who have experience of towing vehicles**, to tow the sleigh around some of the streets of Brentwood. A minibus will be used to tow the sleigh. The dates we are looking at are weekday evenings, from 17:00 to 21:00 hours, you will be fully briefed and have a team of people each night to help you
- Who might be happy to take **on the role of Santa** at some of our various events, with the sleigh round the street, Santa's Grotto (various dates) or static in Brentwood High Street
- Who will be willing to one **Santa's Elves** which would involve generally assisting Santa and collecting money

If you think you could help us and want to find out more please email secretary@brentwoodrotary.org.uk



BRENTWOOD (Cont'd)



Max Gunthardt – Died 2nd October 2023

Max was an extremely popular and well - loved member of our club, always at the heart of the club, and contributed greatly to its fellowship and development mainly with his great enthusiasm and “joie de vivre”.

He joined us in 1996 and was soon involved in all aspects of our club, and became our president for 2007/8, and this was a special year being our 75th Charter anniversary. Naturally our Charter Night was a very significant event that year, probably with a record attendance including many guests from District, other local clubs and our Friendship clubs Arlon in Belgium and Norresundby in Denmark. During this period he was responsible for our joint ventures with Norresundby RC by organising the collection of well over 200 sewing machines and having them shipped out to Uganda to help needy schools in Kampala. He also helped organise the refurbishment of dilapidated school premises in Uganda through our club with the assistance of Norresundby RC. He went out to Uganda, along with others of us, to see how these works were going and to get feedback on other ways we could help. These works with Norresundby RC helped cement the already strong relationship between the two clubs, and this will probably be his most lasting legacy.

He was a great enthusiast for all of our club functions but especially our fund raising events, particularly Christmas and our Golf Day where he always entered a team and generously helped with sponsorship.

He was a true Rotarian fully embodying the “Service Above Self” mantra, and this is what he’ll be remembered for by setting an high example to us all, and he’ll be sorely missed by all who were privileged to know him.

BRENTWOOD (Cont'd)

Supporting Ukraine Residents in the Brentwood area

Our Club has been supporting residents in Brentwood since the beginning of the War in a number of ways. We were recently given the opportunity to bid for some money from Brentwood Council to continue our support Network. On Wednesday, 8th November 2023 we invited, in collaboration with Brentwood Council and Brentwood, those people still living locally to talk to them about their needs in the coming months. The meeting was attended by families from Ukraine and their sponsors. The biggest issue that faces most people is "housing". Where sponsorships come to an end the opportunities for people to rent independently are very few and extremely difficult to negotiate, with landlords looking for deposits and guarantors. This is an area we will focus on with the council. The group are keen to re-establish a regular meeting which we previously organised back in June 2022. We will be doing that with a focused subject each month of their choice. There is a real desire to meet up, to share problems and find solutions together. We are also looking at how we can help young people to come together through some really proactive activities e.g. painting classes.

Christmas is Coming

Christmas is bringing some changes this year in Brentwood. With the exception of the Covid Years we have played a major part of the Lighting Up of Brentwood. That is changing this year and there will now be a number of smaller events. We are already putting together our grotto in Brentwood's Bay Tree Centre and getting it "dressed" for Christmas. We will be there, with Santa and his Elves at these key events:

18th November 14:00 – 18:00 for turning on the Brentwood Lights

25th November 10:00 – 16:00 Activities in the High Street

9th December 10:00 – 16:00 Activities in the High Street

We will also be embarking on our night trips with Santa around the streets of Brentwood, starting on the 4th December 2023 and then static collections in the High Street from the 16th December 2023.

We are always looking for helpers. Finding people to play the different roles of:

· Santa, · Driver, · Elf

If people know of people in the immediate Brentwood area who would be willing to help then please ask them to get in touch by contacting: secretary@brentwoodrotary.org.uk

CANVEY ISLAND

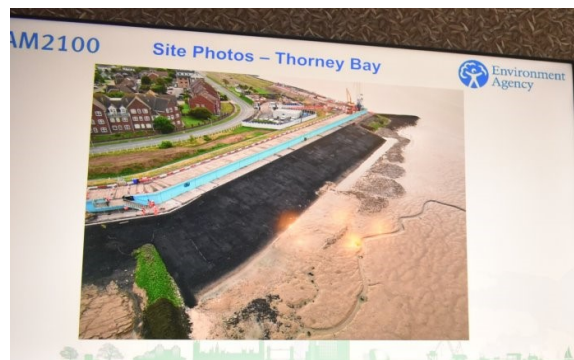
Canvey Island Seawall

David Gauntlett from the TEAM 2100 at the Environment Agency, came along to a recent Club meeting and gave a very interesting and informative talk to members and guests present, about the work being carried out on the Canvey Island Seawall.

He began by explaining the need for the work, which is to replace the revetment at the base of the seawall, from Thorney Bay all the way up to Canvey Point. The material being used will ensure the seawall integrity for a good number of years.

The work will take two and half years to complete, as work can only be carried out during low tide and is estimated to cost £75 million.

David included a number of photo illustrations showing the work being carried out and also explained the need to expand the landward side of the seawall to accommodate the large machinery being used.



He also said they are replacing all the steps and slopes down onto the beach, plus extending outward sections of the seaward footpath, to assist wheelchair users e.g. around the access steps. The footpath all along the top of the seawall will be reinstated with an improved surface.

CANVEY ISLAND

Fundraising Evening

Our Club Foundation team Faye and Robert Sayer, organised a fund raising evening on the 21st October, which raised £650.

The 90 people attending were entertained by the band



Club members Jay Blissett & John Stone twisting the night away

" FreeSpirit " who performed free of charge and is run by Club member Mike Machin, who is one of the guitarists. Other band members include past Club Member Ian Knott and singer Kay Humphreys, wife of Club member Alan.



" FreeSpirit " with Mike Machin on the right



Faye & Robert on the right with other Club members sorting the raffle tickets



A great evening was had by all and the majority opinion was to repeat the event again sometime.



The foundation team also spent three days doing bucket collections for the Polio Foundation at local supermarkets, raising a further £419.

CHELMSFORD MILD MAY



David Pond 1931-2023

Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary Club members are greatly saddened by the passing of David Pond.

David managed admirably to combine a very successful working life with enthusiastic participation in various sports and with sustained service to the community.

Born in 1931 in Hackney, David was educated in Essex, his family moving to Romford in 1935. Education at Havering Road School and Royal Liberty School and a brief spell working for a firm of chartered accountants was followed by National Service from 1949 to 1951. After National Service he qualified as a chartered accountant and worked in this capacity for several firms and for the Sports Council, where he was Finance Director.

Latterly he became Town Clerk of Epping Town Council, where he worked until his official retirement. During his time there he was awarded a medal by the Community Council of Essex. He was persuaded to stay on an extra year to help the formation of parish councils for Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell, before eventually retiring in 1997.

David was a sports enthusiast throughout his life. Football was a major interest for him at school, not only as a player but as a referee. In one match at school he acted as both the centre forward and the referee, a task which he jokingly said 'stood me in good stead for later life!' He later qualified as a Class One referee and had many happy times in this role both in this country and abroad. Other sports of particular interest to him included golf and bowls, both of which he was able to play and enjoy until very recently.

Voluntary work was part of his involvement with sports and included being secretary and treasurer of a number of football referees' societies; treasurer and chairman of the Essex County Football Association; captain and treasurer of Channels Golf Club; a board member, captain and president of the Falcon Bowling Club and secretary, treasurer and president of the Central Midweek Bowling League.

Public service, a keynote of David's life, was clearly demonstrated also in his work for Rotary. He joined Rotary firstly as a member of Epping Rotary Club. He was with that club for nine years and was its treasurer for a good part of that time, as well as serving as chair of the Vocational Services Committee. David transferred to Chelmsford Mildmay Club in 1996. He was the chair of several committees including Entertainment and Sport, Foundation, Membership Services and Youth Services. He took a special interest in Youth activities, getting very involved in the Rotary Youth Services Awards and helping to organise Group Study Exchange Visits.

He was Club President 2001-2002 and took on the responsibility of treasurer in 2019 at an age when most people would have been daunted by the task. At District level his responsibilities at various times included Youth Technology Officer and five years as Sports Officer. It was fitting that David received a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2019 in recognition of his outstanding work over many years as a Rotarian.

His service and commitment to our club and to Rotary as a whole have been unstinting and exemplary. We will miss him very much and remember him with gratitude and admiration.

David is survived by his wife, Maureen, and by two daughters, four granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

CHELMSFORD MILD MAY (Cont'd)

Walking a Mile for Polio



On 12 September, Chelmsford Mildmay Club members took up the District challenge to Walk a Mile for Polio.

John Bucknell kindly arranged for us to have a bite to eat in a barn at Fingrith Hall Farm before walking a mile. This was not against the clock, fortunately, and several of us had the benefit of John's words en route. It was a very congenial way to have a Rotary meeting and raise £150 for the campaign to end polio.

Raising money for End Polio Now

On World Polio Day, 24 October 2023, 66 Mildmay Rotarians, their friends and relatives enjoyed a delicious evening meal at the Beauvoir Arms, Billericay, in aid of the Rotary End Polio Now campaign.

After a few words of welcome from President Jean Harper, followed by grace spoken by Robin Stevens, we were ready to enjoy the culinary delights put in front of us. But we did pause for a few moments for John Bucknell to say a few words about the End Polio Now campaign. We heard that there are now only two countries that still have cases left - only eight so far this year. Over 2½ billion people have been immunised and indeed our own Pat Gaudin is one of over 20 million volunteers who have assisted in the task.

We raised just over £700 to help end polio, which will be matched 2:1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, tripling the impact!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this a very enjoyable and successful evening. Our particular thanks must go to Amran Hussain and his team at the Beauvoir Arms restaurant for making it all possible.

In consecutive months the club has therefore had the enjoyment of two convivial occasions which raised money for the campaign to rid the world of polio.



Rotary



CHELMSFORD PHOENIX

Club Activities

We have continued to enjoy a varied programme. On 12th October we had a Beetle Drive which became very competitive and was enjoyed by all those who attended. One to be repeated in the future no doubt.

On 14 October we held our popular Quiz Night. Quiz masters Chris and Wendy Hibbitt kept us on our toes with a variety of general knowledge and picture rounds. The winners were Chelmsford Lions.

We raised a total of £972.50 for good causes, £363 raffle proceeds going to the Phoenix Ward at Broomfield Hospital.



InterAct Chelmsford



On 19 October we had a speaker, Lesley Bailey, from InterAct Chelmsford, who came to tell us about the marvellous work they do. We donated £500 to them with proceeds from the Choir Competition held in March, and we were pleased to present them with the cheque.

Darts

We recently played Bishops Stortford in the District Sports. The sport was darts and all players did their best, but the winners were Bishops Stortford – congratulations to them.



Phoenix and Bishops Stortford darts team members

CLACTON JUBILEE

Club News

Following the tremendous fundraising efforts at the Clacton Airshow in August, the Club has remained very busy during September.

At the beginning of the month a collection day was held at the entrance to Clacton Pier in aid of end Polio now, raising awareness of the Club at a busy location as well as raising funds for the campaign.

The Club also donated another Shelterbox during the month in support of the aid efforts in connection with the earthquake in Morocco.

On a local level a donation was made to an animal sanctuary that relies entirely on a group of volunteers and donations.

Past President, Robert Weston, found the time during the month to drive to Romania to visit the Rotary Club of Sebes, which Jubilee helped to start many years ago, to offer our continued support for the future.

At the present time the Club is looking forward to a concert at Clacton County High School at the end of October as part of a joint fundraising project to purchase a Grand Piano for the benefit of pupils now and for many years to come.

On the sports front, past Presidents, Bob Baggalley and Tony Dumper, played Rochford Rotary Club in a closely fought final of the District Golf Competition, with Jubilee the winners.



Donation to Animal Sanctuary



Visit to Rotary Club of Sebes, Romania



District Golf Competition

COLCHESTER CAMULOS

Bikes for Ukrainian Evacuees

We continue to collect and distribute bikes to Ukrainian Evacuee families in Colchester. The latest batch were handed over by President Colin via the Colchester Refugee Action Group. This is the 3rd phase of the project and overall we have supplied over 80 bikes to date. The project has been made possible through Rotary International Disaster Recovery Grants. We have been so touched by some of the stories - a few examples here with the full names withheld for privacy reasons. "The first two bikes went to "V & E". "E" has been here with her daughter since October last year and her father "V" arrived in August which she was very relieved about; he is a widower and was very lonely in Ukraine with his only family members both in the UK. They are not living with the same hosts so the bikes mean they are able to visit each other freely. Thanks so much!". ""A" cycles from his new host in Great Horkesley to his job in Ardleigh and until today it was difficult to get there. He now has his Rotary bike to get him to work".



"Rotary in Colchester" – we are really pleased to have been able to join in with our colleagues from the three other Colchester clubs to support several "Rotary in Colchester" activities. This included the first and very successful Soapbox Derby Day on 17 September and more recently the Knife Angel Project which is being supported by all the Colchester clubs. The Knife Angel was on display in Colchester throughout October. It is 27-foot-high and made from 100,000 Amnesty knives. The purpose of the project was to raise awareness about the increasing problem of knife crime. Rotary in Colchester was pleased to have played its part in highlighting this issue.



Club Visitors – we only meet twice a month and we are always happy to receive visitors. We do not have a meal and we do not have a speaker, we simply focus on projects. As DG David recently found we do have plenty of wine available. Rotarian Stephanie Dunaief from New York (Commack/Kings Park, Long Island) has visited us several times over the last few months. The picture shows her presenting a banner to President Colin.



COLCHESTER CAMULOS

Yarra Farm re-wilding project

The schools are now back in action and the 4 Special Needs Schools who are a key part of our 4 club environmental project at Yarra Farm are beginning to visit again. The first school back was Shorefields when 9 pupils and 6 staff visited to complete the work on their insect hotel and also to start preparing the beds for sensory planting. As usual the children had a great time. Phase 2 of the project is now underway and in



early October we had a team of Rotarians set to work in preparing the wheelchair friendly pathway through the rewilding field. We were helped by PDG Keith Brownlie, who it turns out is a dab hand with the spade and rake.

Our next task was to lay the winding wheelchair friendly pathway through the wildflower meadow. This involved moving 14 tonnes of Type 1 aggregate (supplied at a great discounted price by Silvertons) from the car park to the meadow – a distance of around 500 metres. Happily, Cadman Construction volunteered to lend a hand and sent a digger and dumper to save us an enormous amount of manual effort.

The following day, 10 volunteers from Ellisons Solicitors joined us, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, and we were able to lay the path in rapid time. As a reward, we also introduced the volunteers to the farm's alpaca. Thanks to our professional drive/pathway volunteer, Lee Anderson, who was able to offer expert advice and keep us on the not so straight and narrow! Thanks also to our colleagues from the Rotary Clubs of Colchester, Colchester Forum and Halstead for their continuing support for this fantastic project which demonstrates how Rotary is able to bring the best out of the local community.



GRAYS THURROCK

What's the capital of Lithuania?

That and other great questions were posed to members of the Grays Thurrock Club and their guests at the ever-popular Quiz Night at the Thurrock Rugby Club on 6th October. There were seven teams of eight with eight rounds of questions and a break for supper halfway through the evening. There was a Heads and Tails competition and our ever-popular raffle with some great prizes. At the end of the evening the winning team was announced as The Rugby Club Ground Staff.

The club raised over £900 for the Rotary Foundation and a great time was had by all.

Thanks were due to, our hilarious but dour compare Bob Paterson, our Quiz Master and President John Smith, the Scorer Peter Hoche, who could not be bribed throughout the evening and to Kevin Watkins in charge of the raffle.

Oh! And, of course, the answer is Vilnius.

Kids Out

The Club organised with Kids Out, a trip to Southend on Wednesday 11th October. The weather for the day was perfect and two full coach loads of children with their individual carers all from the Treetops School in Thurrock, together with seven of our club Rotarians, were collected in the morning from the school and whisked away to the Southend Sea Life Centre. There the children took great delight in seeing: in the aquariums everything from sharks to lobsters and all manner of fish; in captivity, monkeys and Meercats; in a forest setting life-size models of pre-historic dinosaurs; and finally, a colony of Penguins.

After lunch at the Sea Life Centre, everyone walked along the Esplanade beside the sea to Adventure Indoors and enjoyed the rest of the afternoon on funfair rides and amusements.

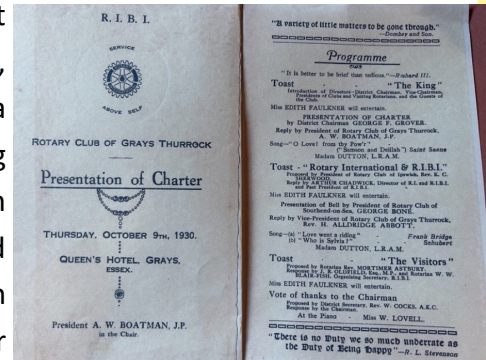
Thanks to Pam Watson-Jones the Rotary Area Co-ordinator for Kids Out, Steve Payne who organised the day from our end and club members, Bob Paterson, Adrian Alsop, Chris Churchyard, Peter Hoche, Steve Quigley and Clive Page. The coach trip home was quieter than the one out and all the children will no doubt have slept soundly the night after their day at the seaside. Next Year we hope to return to the more usual time of year for this event.



GRAYS THURROCK (Cont'd)

Happy Birthday

The Club was granted its charter at a grand Charter Night at the Queens Hotel in Grays, on 9th October 1930 and we celebrated this week our 93rd birthday. There were over a hundred Rotarians and local dignitaries in attendance at the first Charter Night and a club report at that time said, "Gay was the word for the Queen's Hotel that night and a right royal feast was put on ... with the gathering being entertained by Miss Edith Faulkner and Madame Dutton and everyone left with the feeling that the new Club had been well and truly formed" - quaint wording by modern standards. Back then the four-course lunch (ouch) at our weekly meetings cost just two shillings (10p).



We are in the Pink-erton

At the clubs evening meeting on 12th October, our President John Smith, inducted Associate Member Graham Pinkerton to the Club. Graham had been a full member in the past but had to leave through work commitments and is our first Associate Member. He continues the Walsham family membership of the club – Mr W.E. (Woody) Walsham was a Founder Member and Graham's father-in-law, John Walsham is the current Father of the Club. Membership of the club is now at 38.



HALSTEAD



The Rotary Club of Halstead
75th Charter Celebration
A Burns Night Supper

Help us to celebrate our 75th anniversary
Saturday 27th January 2024
6.30 for 7.00 pm
At the Colne Valley Golf Club
Ticket price £45.00

Three course Scottish themed Supper
including coffee & shortbread
Formal dress and wearing of tartan is encouraged

For tickets please contact Rotarian Mike Prince
on 07775 502024



Remembrance Day Halstead Rotary



President Keith Brownlie with his wife Carol.

HALSTEAD (Cont'd)

Shoeboxes



Halstead Rotary taking delivery of Shoeboxes from St Margaret's School Gosfield.

Presentation to Danya Krachanko Colne Valley

Presentation made to Ukrainian Swimmer from the Rotary Club of Halstead



HORNCHURCH & UPMINSTER

DG Visit

DG David Willis visited our club on Thursday 9th November and began by singing New York, New York.

He was a little disappointed that he didn't get to do an encore but his speech went down very well and all present thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Thank you very much David



Trier Hockvald Rotary club, Germany

On the 15th September 2023 members, partners and friends of the Rotary Club of Hornchurch and Upminster made the journey to Bath in Somerset to meet up with our friends from the Trier Hockvald Rotary club in Germany.

We twinned with the Trier club many years ago and visited each other on alternate years in a variety of English and German cities. Unfortunately, Covid forced us to curtail these trips for a number of years and this year we decided to start them up again. Bath was chosen by our German friends and what a good choice it was.

We stayed at the Francis Hotel, which made the news when a car crashed through the barrier outside the hotel and wedged itself in the basement area. This was a great choice because it captured the essence of Bath and one of its most famous residents, Jane Austen.

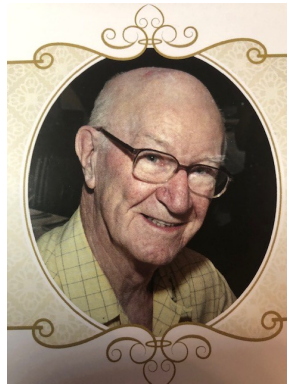
The reunion was a great success because, like all great friendships, we picked up from where we left off in those pre covid years, laughing, joking, eating, drinking and reminiscing. In a fun packed and activity filled weekend the highlights were undoubtedly the visits to Stonehenge and the Roman Baths. Outstanding!



At the more formal of our most enjoyable dinners, on the Saturday night, we exchanged gifts and set our sights on our next visit to Germany in 2024 and pledged to continue the tradition. Sunday the 17th came round all too quickly and by the afternoon we were all wending our different ways home.

If you have never been to Bath (it was my first visit) I recommend you make the effort to go.

HORNCHURCH & UPMINSTER



In Loving Memory of Ronald Charles Geggus – 1926-2023

On Tuesday 17th October 2023 at the South Essex Crematorium we said goodbye to Ron Geggus, one of the most popular and respected members of Hornchurch and Upminster and a Rotarian through and through. He joined our club in 1988 but he had been a Rotarian for many years before that and was the President of Ilford as far back as 1959. In his latter years at our club he was the speaker secretary and he booked the most wonderful and interesting guests, he was simply the best.

Ron was born in Plaistow, London, on 12 July 1926. He moved around the country many times during his school years, due to his father's work, and finally left school at 16 to work with his father. In 1944 at the tender age of 17 he joined the Fleet Air Arm. After training he sailed directly to Singapore where he remained until the end of the war. The amazing experiences there opened his eyes to the big wide world and his life-long love of travel was born.

On return to England in 1945 he continued to work with his father and later in 1951 he married, became a father to Chris in 1956 and much later a grandfather of two boys. In our club most of our members only knew Katy, his much loved companion for many years, who he married in 2019. Ron and Katy were at all our events and you never saw one without the other.

Due to ill health Ron was unable to attend club regularly but with Katy's support he always managed to attend the important Rotary functions. He left us on the 17th September 2023.

He is so sadly missed and our love and best wishes go out to Katy and his family at this difficult time

LEIGH-ON-SEA

Trust Links Westcliff

David Garston, Past Joint President of Leigh on Sea Rotary Club was delighted to present a cheque for £3000 to Trust Links Westcliff. The independent local charity members enjoy a range of activities including garden maintenance, art, music, employment support, vocational training and woodwork.

Mr Garston chose Trust Links as his charity because of its invaluable support for a wide ranging section of the community, including those with mental health issues.

Linda Addis, Community Engagement and Fundraising Officer thanked the Rotary Club for its generosity and kindness for the donation to their much needed funds and said it would help with their purchase of a new galvanised molecular ramp.

The photo shows Rotarians David Garston, current President Janice Price and Ron Price together with Linda Addis, Beckie Grout and members and volunteers of Trust Links



Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea

Saturday 2nd September, members of Leigh on Sea Rotary put on a free afternoon tea for 64 local senior citizens. Music was provided by Rotarian Keith Palmer and there was a really enthusiastic singalong at the end of the afternoon followed by a free raffle in which every person won a prize. All the scones and cakes were home made by members and the event was enjoyed by all.



LEIGH-ON-SEA (Cont'd)

Southend Young Carers

Leigh on Sea Rotary Club were delighted to present a cheque for £500 to the Southend Young Carers. The funds were specifically raised through a cream tea held in the garden of Paula and Kevin Buck.

Rotarian Paula Buck, Fund Raising Officer for the Club, said the Young Carers are aged under 18, and did wonderful work helping with care for family members and our intention was to provide them with a couple of well deserved outings.

One was to experience the thrill of kayaking at Hadleigh Park and another will be in October when they will take part in a BatWalk in Belfairs Woods. There will also be some arts and crafts activities.

Katie Prentice, shown in the photo with two of the young carers, thanked Leigh Rotary for providing them with the opportunity to have some pleasurable time. (Permission has been given to publish this photo)



Music Man Project UK

Leigh on Sea Rotary organised a concert earlier this year for The Music Man Project UK and raised around £1200 for the project and Rotary charities. On 22 September some members visited the group during their rehearsals where we were welcomed by David Stanley, who is an honorary member of Leigh Rotary Club, and his very talented singers and musicians. Pictured here with David and the group are Rotary visitors, Fred and Heather Feather, Sue Stepney and President, Janice Price.



LEIGH-ON-SEA (Cont'd)

Southend Hospital's Spotlight Appeal

Leigh on Sea Rotary Club was pleased to hand over a cheque for £3,375 to Southend Hospital's Spotlight Appeal as a result of their Great Pier Walk held in May earlier this year.

Blessed with good weather, which always helps with this annual event, there were an exceptional number of walkers, who each received a medal for walking both ways upon their return to the 'dry end'

Leigh Rotary has held the Great Pier Walk on an annual basis for nearly 20 years and in recent years various departments of Southend Hospital have been beneficiaries of the money raised.

Rotarian Phil Stepney, next years organiser, advised that plans are already underway for the 2024 walk which will take place on Sunday 19 May.



In the picture, the cheque is presented to Kayley Donovan, Community Fundraising Manager for Mid and South Essex Hospitals Charity by Club President, Janice Price, Vice President Eric Jude, who organised the 2023 walk and Rotarian John Banks.

ROCHFORD

Rochford Rotary Supports Trust Links in Rochford

Members of the Rochford Rotary Club recently visited Trust Links at Passive House, Rochford, to see at first-hand the important work that they do. Trust Links provide therapeutic activities and training to people of all ages suffering from stress and mental health issues. Since Covid and the current cost of living crisis, demand for their support has increased by 250% in the last year.

The Rotary Club have donated £2,500 in the past year to refurbish the disabled toilet and to provide a pond and garden outside the Trust Links building.

The photo shows Rotary Club members and Trust Links celebrating by the pond.



Read about Trust Links here - <https://www.trustlinks.org>

The Rotary Club of Rochford was formed in 1985.

There are more than 1.4 million members of Rotary worldwide.

It is a service organisation consisting of local business people whose motto is "Service Above Self".

Rochford had 28 founder members and currently has 30 full members and six honorary members.

The Club meets on Mondays at 1pm at the Rochford Hundred Golf Club. If you need any further information on this press release, please contact one of our public relations team - Glyn Jarvis or Paul Veitch.

If you are interested in joining our club, please contact our Secretary, Keith Holdsworth.

Contacts: Glyn Jarvis – 01702 299915 – glyn.jarvis1@btopenworld.com Paul Veitch 01702 473218 – veitchs@talktalk.net Secretary, Keith Holdsworth 01702 559246 – keithholdsworth643@btinternet.com

SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT

Social Evening out

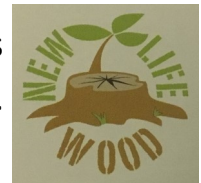
The third Wednesday of the month members met together at the Turkish Kitchen in Brentwood to enjoy a splendid Turkish meal. President Peter and his wife Mary, however, were not there but didn't miss out as they were enjoying sushi during their trip to Japan.



Quiz Night for New Life Wood

We held our second quiz on Saturday, 28th October 2023 at St. Peter's Church, Hutton. Over 40 people turned up to take part and we raised over £400 on the night for New Life Wood.

New Life Wood, as we heard at a previous District Forum, helps disadvantaged adults learn new skills and build confidence. It creates jobs for people and is a not-for-profit registered charity.



They also reclaim timber, etc. and supply a wide range of quality, low-cost recycled wood. They also make a wide range of hand crafted wood products such as shelving units, bird/nest boxes, bug hotels, crates and planters for sale. Their premises at Wat Tyler Park is well worth a visit.

(Email: info@newlifewood.org.uk)



President's table enjoying the ploughman's supper



A lovely selection of hand-made Christmas cards for sale at the quiz



Some of the Christmas selection of wooden articles made at the centre.

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Rotary and the fight against polio.

Rtn Derek Hutchinson joined the younger children at Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School to talk about the fight to eradicate Polio worldwide, championed by Rotary International and close to being a complete success.



The children thoroughly enjoyed the mess of planting crocus corm in their own pot and hearing about the significance of the "purple" flowers which hopefully will grow. Purple is the colour of the dye painted on a vaccinated child's little finger in those poorer countries in the world which would not have the vaccine program, readily available in the UK. It signifies that those children have received their life saving vaccine. Derek is pictured with a few of the many children taking part and, in doing so, raising



monies for the programme. The following day, the RotaKids Clubs of Elmwood Primary School and Trinity St. Mary's teamed up to plant hundreds of Crocus corm in the Community Orchard under the guidance of Rob, the Ranger, his small hard working team and a few teachers; Rotarians and partners. The RotaKids clubs started off with a full team handshake and then went

on to plant various areas including one which hopefully will bloom to spell Rotary. Our sincere thanks to all for their involvement in such a worthy cause.

Rotary Trees of Joy for the month of November 2023.

We were pleased again to be able to display our Trees of Joy in November this year in Asda and the Holy Trinity Church, to whom our sincere thanks go for their valued co-operation. We will be collecting new toys and books which will be distributed to disadvantaged children who would otherwise have little to look forward to this Christmas. We limit our appeal to the month of November, only to give the charities, Connecting and Uniting Families and the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity time to sort, wrap and distribute the toys and books for Christmas to the children they identify. But even so, in November 2021 and 2022 we collected the magnificent total of over 400 toys and books for distribution thanks to the generosity of the SWF community and surrounding districts. And donations are being left this year already.



SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (Cont'd)

South Woodham Ferrers – Community Garden October Update

Volunteers at the garden have been very busy in October. They had the RHS running a craft session; made baskets with miniature daffodils; and Pumpkin bird feeders as it was Halloween. Making a difference in the Community.



STORT VALLEY

Hertford fashion show raises over £2,000 for 12 children's charities

Fashion fans flocked to the Hertford House Hotel on 18 October for an event organised by Sioux Wilde, owner of preloved boutique, Mint of Hertford, in aid of local charity Helping Herts*. The sell-out audience of 60 guests was treated to a catwalk show, a raffle and night of music. It was hailed a huge hit raising £2,597.00 for Helping Herts, official charity of the Stort Valley Rotary Club. Helping Herts supports 12 children and young people's charities across Hertfordshire to help them improve the lives of the children and families they look after.



Sioux provided a stunning selection of clothing from Mint of Hertford, modelled by friends and family who strutted their stuff on the catwalk. All the clothing was preloved, featuring high street brands as well as designer labels. Beckie and her team of stylists from Fred and Ginger did a fantastic job with hair and make up for the models, and DJ Mac kindly donated his time by providing the tunes for the evening. Following the catwalk show, guests had the opportunity to purchase outfits they had seen on the models, and the evening concluded with a raffle. All the prizes were generously donated from local businesses.

Sioux said: "As usual nothing is done by one, it takes many talented individuals to bring together an event like this and to give pleasure and fun to others. We are grateful for our loyal customers who contribute and show us so much love in return! Thank you also to DJ Ross Mac and photographer Melanie Bayford for their time, and for Hertford House for allowing us to host this event - they were exceptional!"

Sarah Clancy, Digital Marketing Lead at Helping Herts, said: "The night was such a success, the atmosphere was amazing. We are so grateful to Sioux for putting on such an incredible cat-walk show and for the generosity from the fabulous guests who bought raffle tickets, helping us raise money for Helping Herts. The money raised on the night will really make a difference to all the charities we support. "This was the second fashion show Sioux has organised in aid of Helping Herts, and one of many fashion events taking place across the county. Look out for the next Helping Herts fashion event in Harpenden on Friday 03 November.

Tickets available here: <https://fundraising.helpingherts.com/harpendenfashionshow>

*Helping Herts supports 12 children's and young people's charities in the county, including Coram Life Education, Herts Young Homeless, For Baby's Sake, Herts Mind Network, Grove Cottage, Home-Start Herts, Phoenix Group for Deaf Children & Adults, PlaySkill, the Ollie Foundation, NSPCC, CHEXS and Keech Hospice.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVENT	DATE	D.G./LEADER	VENUE	ROOM	ORGANISER	BOOK	BOOKED	ROOM HOST
	2024							
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY	7 - 11 JAN	DAVID	Orlando, Florida		ROTARY INTERNATIONAL	No		
DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP TEAM	7.00PM 8 JAN	STEVE GALE	Zoom		DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	No		
DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE	5.30PM 19 JAN	KEITH BROWNIE	Zoom		DISTRICT COMM/VOC CHAIR	No		
PDG's LUNCH	TBC	ANNE	TBC		PDG Pauline Dean	No		
X SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 31 JAN	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE		DG & SEC	No		
DISTRICT SECRETARY TRAINING	4.30PM 16 FEB	RGB&I	Zoom		DISTRICT SECRETARY	No		
DISTRICT TREASURER TRAINING	4.30PM 16 FEB	RGB&I	Zoom		DISTRICT TREASURER	No		
LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT FORUM	17 - 18 FEB	ANNE	UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK	TBC	RGB&I	No		
X DISTRICT FORUM	7.00PM 21 FEB	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE	MAIN HALL	DG & SEC	Yes		
W DISTRICT SECRETARY & TREASURER TRAINING	4.30PM 23 FEB	RGB&I	Zoom		DISTRICT SECRETARY & TREASURER	No		
T COMPLIANCE OFFICER - DATA PROTECTION T	6.30PM 29 FEB	RGB&I	Zoom			No		
T COMPLIANCE OFFICER - HEALTH & SAFETY TR	6.30PM 7 MARCH	RGB&I	Zoom			No		
DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP TEAM	7.00PM 11 MARCH	STEVE GALE	Zoom		DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	No		
CT COMPLIANCE OFFICER - SAFEGUARDING TR	6.30PM 14 MARCH	RGB&I	Zoom			No		
DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE	5.30PM 15 MARCH	KEITH BROWNIE	Zoom		DISTRICT COMM/VOC CHAIR	No		
FOUNDATION LUNCH	12noon 17 MARCH	DISTRICT FOUNDATION TEAM	Channels Golf Club, Pratts Farm Lane East, Chelmsford. CM3 3PT		DISTRICT FOUNDATION TEAM	No		
CEE MDPETS	MARCH	ANNE	TBC		DGE & DISTRICT TRAINING TEAM	Yes		
DISTRICT COMPLIANCE OFFICER - DEI TRAINING	6.30PM 21 MARCH	RGB&I	Zoom			No		
DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING	9.00AM 23 MAR	ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE	ROOM L53	DGE & DISTRICT TRAINING TEAM	Yes		
FOUNDATION SEMINAR	9.00AM 13 APR	ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE	MAIN HALL	DISTRICT FOUNDATION CHAIR	Yes		
X SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 23 APR	DAVID	WRITTLE COLLEGE	ROOM L53	DG & SEC	Yes		
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY	9.00AM 11 MAY	DAVID & ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE	MAIN HALL	DGE, SEC & DISTRICT TRAINING TEAM	Yes		
DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP TEAM	7.00PM 13 MAY	STEVE GALE	Zoom		DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	No		
DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE	5.30PM 17 MAY	KEITH BROWNIE	Zoom		DISTRICT COMM/VOC CHAIR	No		
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION	25 - 29 MAY	N/A	SINGAPORE		ROTARY INTERNATIONAL	No		
X DISTRICT HANDOVER	30 JUN ?	ANNE	TBC		DG & DGE	No		
X SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 3 JULY	ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE	ROOM L53	DG & SEC	Yes		
X DISTRICT FORUM	7.00PM 17 JULY	ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE	MAIN HALL	DG & SEC	Yes		
DISTRICT CONFERENCE	OCTOBER ?	ANNE	TBC		DG & CONFERENCE TEAM	No		
X SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 23 OCT	ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE	ROOM L53	DG & SEC	Yes		
X DISTRICT FORUM	9.00AM 16 NOV	ANNE	WRITTLE COLLEGE	MAIN HALL	DG & SEC	Yes		
Pre-PETS	7.00PM 25 NOV	MARK	WRITTLE COLLEGE	MAIN HALL	DGE & DISTRICT TRAINING TEAM	Yes		

KIDS OUT



How can my club get involved?

Last year Clubs supported **over 3,160** 'Toy Boxes'.

The Rotary Christmas Toy Boxes provide children in refuge with brand-new toys to support mental health and make the world a little kinder.

Every £25 donated will provide a Toy Box that will contain over £80 worth of gender/age appropriate toys and designed to promote social and educational development and family bonding. They will be packed and delivered to (5,700+) child residing in a UK 'Domestic Violence' Refuge over the Christmas 2023 period

Donations should be made/received no later than 30 November 2023, but will be accepted up to and including 21 December 2023

To ensure confidentiality is maintained KidsOut provides all the necessary Refuge data, identifying locations nearest to your Rotary Club, in time for Christmas.

To Register your Club's Interest / Donation: Follow, click on the link below. Rotary Christmas Toy Box Initiative 2023 - KidsOut where you can sign up and make BACS payment. Every 'Toy Box' will be branded 'ROTARY'

Pam Watson Jones 1240 Kids Out Ambassador E: pwj02@aol.com



WILDERNESS FOUNDATION



Environmental Action Group
Rotary 1240 Essex & East Herts.



Open Day 14th October 2023

The Wilderness Foundation Team opened their doors to Rotarians on the 14th October 2023. More than 110 members, family and friends attended from 19 clubs.

John and Jed greeted members at registration before Angela guided them into the main hall for a briefing by the CEO, Jo Roberts. Then it was off on guided tours around the site stopping at the Safari tent for talks around the fire, in the woods for bushcraft demonstrations with Lian Morgan and Terri Dawson with her family and then to the pond to observe the wildlife.



Joe with Rotarians around the Campfire Terri and Liam under the canopy Rotarians by the pond

Gloria Nichols, District Co-ordinator for Young Environmentalist from Shenfield & District club, provided all the delicious cakes whilst Tony Stringer supported the Wilderness Team in providing the coffees and teas. A special thanks to Clare Martin for organizing the day.

Over £300 was raised on the day.

The next steps

On arrival Rotarians were given a questionnaire to capture all the ongoing projects this was followed up by an online questionnaire.

The team are reviewing the feedback to identify similar projects.

The aim is to inform the clubs of the activities so if there is an opportunity to co-ordinate activities together, we can support each other.

We will also get a list Wilderness Foundation of the volunteering activities they would like Rotarians to be involved in and this list will also be shared.

WILDERNESS FOUNDATION (CONT'D)

Thank you letter from Jo Roberts, CEO of the Wilderness Foundation

WILDERNESS
FOUNDATION UK

Harnessing the positive power of wilderness to change lives and
the positive power of humanity to save wilderness

Jed Brook
Rotary District 1240
Via email:

19th October 2023

Dear Rotary Members,

Rotary Wilderness Day 14th October

On behalf of the trustees, staff and beneficiaries of the Wilderness Foundation UK, I would like to thank you and all the District 1240 Rotary members (110 in total, I believe) who were able to attend the Rotary Wilderness Day on the 14th October. The interest you have shown in our foundation and commitment to helping us in the future is something we are extremely grateful for and so the opportunity to share our work with the District members was a fantastic experience I hope everyone enjoyed.

Your kind support including covering the cost of the venue, delicious cakes from Gloria who had been baking for several days and donations on the day are just a small insight into the generosity and kindness of the Rotary. Continuing support, as volunteers and fundraisers, plays an important part in the foundation's mission in helping young people through our wilderness therapy and education programmes and we look forward to the future with Rotary as a partner where every donation and offer of volunteering will make a huge impact to a young person's life.

The Rotary's support is so important to the foundation, not only supporting us financially but also for helping spread our name throughout the county. We are very grateful to all those who visited us and took the time to get to know the Foundation a little better. We hope our partnership continues long into the future.

Thank you once again for your support on behalf of myself and the Wilderness.

Yours sincerely



Jo Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
jo@wildernessfoundation.org.uk

Some of our volunteer



CHRISTMAS GUIDE FOR CLUBS (For Information)

It is that time of year where I have to mention Christmas. I am also going to bring in fireworks events.

Your clubs will be looking to make their plans for these events and it is essential that they know what to do. Please, if you have not already done so, start having these conversations with your clubs. Firstly, they must read the current insurance guidance. Secondly, carry out a risk assessment which will include safeguarding. Thirdly, plan everything. The following lists are not exhaustive, every event, as you know, is unique.

Santa/Mrs Claus/Elf/festive Sleigh

1. Road Traffic Act and trailers - Organisers don't always realise that the Road Traffic Act will govern everything. Santa (or whoever else it may be) has to be safely belted in when moving, the trailer must be roadworthy and checked by a mechanic who is MOT standard. The trailer may have developed faults whilst being in storage. If it has been left on its wheels, it is possible the wheels will be out of shape, literally. Brakes can seize up too. Your mechanic can check all of this and it will be money well spent.

2. Insurance - The driver's car insurance will not cover Santa in the Sleigh. The driver must be fully insured and have the appropriate licence for pulling a trailer. Rotary GB&I insurance will not cover the event.

3. Visibility – Your volunteers need to be seen. Get those hi-vis vests out. Make sure they know to keep the public away from the sleigh when it is moving.

4. Safeguarding - Check your volunteers. DBS may not be required as it is not a regulated activity but you must check your volunteers. There are people who are not allowed near children or adults at risk of harm (previously known as vulnerable). There was an incident last year where a previous member was involved in a Santa Sleigh despite being banned from all Rotary events.

5. Safeguarding – Know the needs of your volunteers. Last year, two teenage volunteers were helping but it was not known that they had support needs. They had come from an external organisation with a great reputation but not even they knew that the volunteers had support needs.

6. Nobody except for Santa is allowed on the sleigh. No person may get on the sleigh, no matter how much a family may want a cute picture of their little one with Santa. It is a flat no. Your supporting volunteers must be alert to this.

7. Food safety – will your volunteers hand out food? Check this! Allergens, hygiene, parents might not want food items given to their kids so check first.

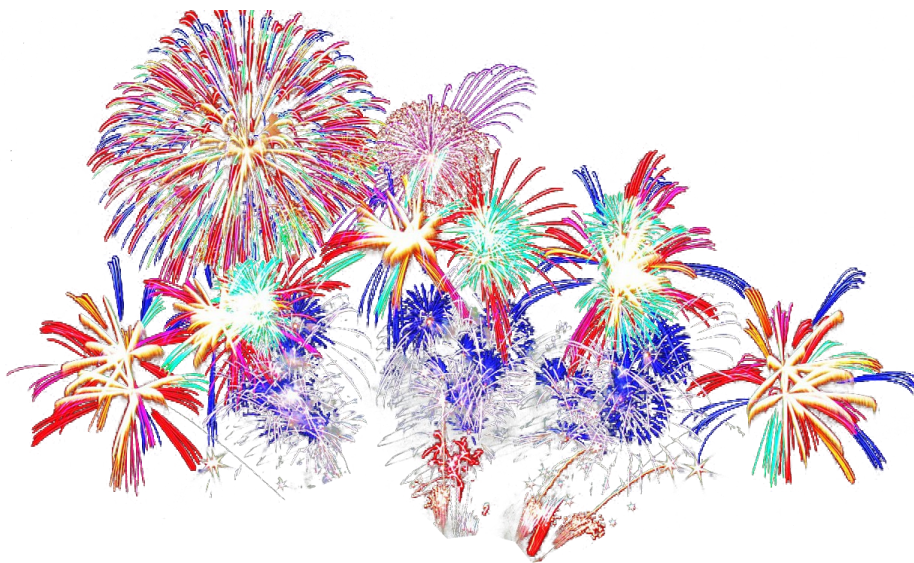
8. Let the police know what your plans are, what route and when Santa will be on their travels.

CHRISTMAS GUIDE FOR CLUBS (For Information) (CONT'D)

Fireworks

1. Check the insurance guide to find out what exactly is covered. Do your clubs and districts need anything in addition?
2. Visibility – Your volunteers need to be seen. Get those hi-vis vests out.
3. Safeguarding - Check your volunteers. DBS may not be required as it is not a regulated activity but you must check your volunteers. There are people who are not allowed near children or adults at risk of harm (previously known as vulnerable). There was an incident last year where a previous member was involved in a Santa Sleigh despite being banned from all Rotary events.
4. Safety – plan these events with the help of professionals and make sure your clubs and districts do their own risk assessments. The external fireworks display companies may have one, you need one too.

In all cases, permission for photography must be secured in writing. Yup. afraid so. We all love the PR opportunities; nobody loves the fallout from published pictures where permission was not secured. Your district PI officers will be aware of this and can offer more support in this area. Everything can be found on the compliance pages of the website including a Santa Sleigh pack; Compliance - Rotary GB&I Members Area (rotarygbi.org)



PENS AGAINST POLIO

Pens Against Polio - An Unnecessary Assassin

Looking for a stocking filler for Christmas? This new anthology of crime fiction by British authors is raising funds for polio eradication. Lorraine Stevens had the motive and the means. All she needed were accomplices in her plot: publishing a collection of original crime fiction to raise money for the fight to end polio. Among the book's highlights are stories by Ann Cleeves and Lee Child. Cleeves' contribution, "The Habit of Silence," is a detective story set in a distinguished library. In Child's "Safe Enough," a contractor working on a suburban lot begins stalking the lot's previous owner. Child interweaves his menacing tale with a critique of economic policies that hurt the working class.

Taken from the internet (there may be some strange characters! 't' in particular)

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The idea for the anthology of short stories, published in July 2023 as "An Unnecessary Assassin," came to Lorraine last year at a literary festival in Yorkshire, England. She'd recently learned about the poliovirus reappearing in Great Britain and was talking with friends about how upset she was by the news.

"I happened to mention that polio had been found in the sewers of London," says Lorraine, a member of the Rotary Club of Scunthorpe, Humberside, England. "I found that quite disturbing. I had known polio was still around, but not as much as I went on to find out. One of my author friends said

A former librarian who regularly attends crime-writing festivals, Lorraine knew her friend was right. This was something she could do. She began asking authors she knew to donate stories for the book. Her first recruit was David Penny, the author of a well-regarded series of historical mysteries. He was eager to fight polio.

"Growing up in Wales in the '50s, polio was a major issue for us," David says. "This was just prior to the vaccine coming out, and it was pretty much everywhere. As a kid of six or seven, it was always on your mind. I knew people who were in leg braces or iron lungs — or who died from the disease. That stays with you. It becomes almost an embedded fear in you."

David helped Lorraine assemble a diverse group of short stories and arranged to self-publish the book using Amazon's print-on-demand program. The pair were excited to receive two submissions specifically about polio. Gerralyn Ingram, who writes under the name G.L. Waring, used her story to channel her anger at both vaccine deniers and arrogant doctors. A former paediatric nurse, Ingram based the villain of "It Takes Three Drops" on doctors she'd encountered.

PENS AGAINST POLIO (Cont'd)

They think they know everything, and their opinion is the only opinion that counts," she says. "In the story, basically, here's a doctor who thinks he's God... [and] who doesn't think that a woman can be equally as qualified and actually know better."

Stories feature a wide range of situations. Chris McGeorge's "Box" is a locked-room mystery set in a glass box 820 feet (250 meters) underwater. Robert Scragg's "Revenge is Best Served Hot" and "F.D. Quinn's "Best Served Cold" each give a culinary twist to crime. Judith O'Reilly's "A Face for Murder" combines a whodunit with a satire of YouTube makeup tutorials.

David was delighted by the diversity of the stories.

You don't want all the same thing," he says. "There's some funny stories, and there's some poignant ones in there."

David's own contribution, written as DG Penny, was based on an idea he'd been thinking about for several years: What are the consequences of trying to do the right thing? In "Drive By," David's protagonist tries to protect a victim of human trafficking and soon comes to regret it.

"An Unnecessary Assassin" also includes two poems. That's unusual for a crime anthology, but one of them further cements the book's link to polio. In "Surviving Relations," Jim Taylor describes a man who had polio as a child and now embraces a succession of dangerous pastimes. "He would never run. It didn't stop him doing what he wanted," Jim writes. "Look him in the eyes, and he would look straight back, unwavering."

The anthology also references polio in its cover art, which is shaded purple, and in an afterword explaining the significance of the colour. It's what is used to print children's fingers at mass vaccination events to show that they've received the vaccine. The title refers to the fact that polio is preventable with a vaccine.

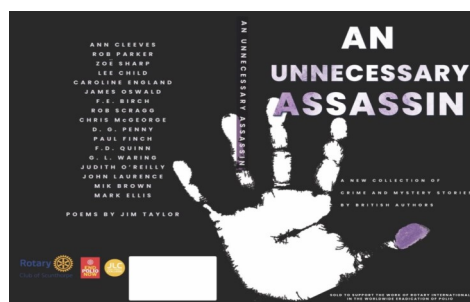
"We came up with all sorts of different ideas. There were probably over a dozen potential titles," David says. "This one won because of the alliteration."

The book is available in paperback and Kindle formats. Lorraine has also sold it at Rotary club meetings and crime-writing festivals all over Great Britain. It's raised more than US\$3,000 so far, and its proceeds will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation. said, 'Well, you know enough authors, Lorraine. Why don't you do an anthology and sell it for charity?'

"The phrase 'An Unnecessary Assassin' kind of sums up the thing". David says "Polio is totally an avoidable disease, provided there is enough money to immunise each child."

Copies can be purchased through Amazon on <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Unnecessary-Assassin-Various-Authors-ebook/dp/BOCB1CNQCD>.



WRAP UP ESSEX



Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland



Working with



Hands On
LONDON



Publication criteria for submissions to the 1240 District Bulletin -

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 a good quality photograph(s), (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)