

Rotary District 1240 Bulletin

July 2023—District Governor David Willis

“CREATE HOPE in the WORLD”

From District Governor David Willis



Dear District 1240 Rotarians, I am sure you would all join me in thanking our Immediate Past District Governor, Jed Brooks and his wife Linda for their hard work and dedication over the last Rotary year.

It has been a joy to work alongside Jed with DGE Anne Moriarty and DGN Mark Williams to ensure our district is one of the most progressive districts in the country. Jed's passion for the environment has shone through and the conference in April gave us all ideas on how we can get involved with environmental projects in our towns and villages.

Our new theme is Create Hope in the World and I am looking forward to working with you all to bring that hope to as many people as we can. As Rotarians we change peoples lives on a daily basis at home and abroad which is something you should all be proud of.

Rotarians have always been the first to step up when a crisis happens and I thank you all for what you have achieved, firstly when the war in the Ukraine happened and then when the Turkey & Syria earthquake hit. Within weeks we had organised lorry loads of aid and raised millions of pounds. We continue to support the refugees that arrived on our shores and will continue to do so for a few years to come I am sure.

For me, meeting new people has always been one of the most enjoyable parts of Rotary, so I am looking forward to getting out and visiting you all at your clubs and events where possible. The role of District Governor was one I never thought I would take on, but after serving as an Assistant Governor for four years I started missing the visits to see what other clubs were doing and the amazing people I met along the way.

Rotary has given me so much in the form of amazing friends in my own club at Manningtree and as part of the district team as well as an overwhelming satisfaction in giving something back to our world. The journey to become District Governor has brought me new friendships with Rotarians and their partners across the world and has resulted in us joining with District 1260 Beds, Bucks & Herts to organise the first joint district conference in Great Britain with my good friend Barbara Middleton, the District Governor for District 1260. We already have over 250 people signed up and there is space for at least another 100. As well as speakers from charities and organisations Rotary supports we have some inspirational and fun speakers as well, plus a bigger than ever Rotary Showcase for you to browse shop and be inspired by.

I am looking forward to working with our five new Assistant Governors who are starting their role on the support team this year as well as our new Secretary, Graham Reeder and new Treasurer, Chris Bushell.

Membership has always been a passion of mine and I am pleased to say that lots of clubs have embraced the opportunity of corporate membership and used the services we have been offering as a Membership Team to have stands at their events. Our new District Membership Team Leader, Steve Gale and Jed Brooks as Club Development officer and the team are ready to help clubs if they need it. I would encourage all clubs to shout loudly about the work you do to make a difference in your community and soon the public will be asking you how to join. To help you achieve that we will be organising another public image and social media training event. Once we have confirmed the venue and date we will let you all know.

I was delighted to be invited to be a judge at the Youth Debates final this year and was in awe of the confidence the young speakers displayed. If your club does not get involved with the youth competitions then please do consider it as all of the youth competitions give the youngsters so much confidence and an opportunity to engage with the parents who are all potential new members. Do get in touch with our Youth Team Leader, Peter Dowse, who will be happy to send you any details you need on the various competitions.

My wife Sandra and I are looking forward to the year ahead and also having some fun along the way with you all, so please continue to enjoy your Rotary and lets Create Hope in the World.

Yours in Rotary DG David Willis

DISTRICT HANDOVER 8TH JULY 2023

Some “nuggets” from PDG Jed Brooks’ Handover presentation



“The role of District Governor, in my opinion, is that of a team manager/coach. You need good people around you to ensure success, those who are committed to a strategic plan, ready to help, and share the tasks at hand. I believe the role has evolved to require direct involvement and participation with clubs: building relationships and trust are key”.

“The world we live in today is so different from when the Rotary organisation was founded in 1905. The world has moved on, the pandemic further escalated the changes in working practices, and communication methods and how people live their lives have been transformed. We, as Rotary, have had to re-position in line with these changes: we must be a reflection of the communities we serve”.

“Over the past twelve months we have built on our strengths, with regular continuity meetings, planning for the future, dealing with bumps in the road, not covering over those bumps, or sweeping them under the carpet but understanding why they are there and fixing them for the good of all”.

“New clubs have been formed, new members have joined, clubs are working together, communications are better, club and District relations have improved, social media postings are better and more frequent”.



“Our plans for Rotary’s seventh area of focus - the environment - are well underway with the appointment of the Wilderness Foundation as corporate members and partners.”.



“I know that this District will survive. It will become stronger; we have the right people to make that happen, David Willis, Anne Moriarty, and Mark Williams have the imagination and ability to create “hope in the world” and ensure the Rotary brand and image is better communicated and better recognised”.

BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER

Billericay Mayflower SummerFest 2023 – months in the planning

And the people came - the only unknown quantity!!

But the weather was kind and by mid-afternoon Sun Corner in Billericay was abuzz!! It was a winning combination of good food and drink, brilliant entertainment, and attractions to keep everyone happy.



This year there was a designated food fayre, which was very popular and catered for most tastes. The beer tent did a roaring trade (thank you, Billericay Cricket club), as did the Pimm's and Prosecco tent, which was run by Billericay Town Rotary.

For the petrol heads there were some beautiful classic cars and several "celebrity" cars including the DeLorean from Back to the Future, the jeep from Jurassic Park, and "KIT".

For music fans, there was entertainment to suit most visitors, from "ABBA" to a great reggae band, from Funky Voices, to some hard rock from the Zorbs.

There were charity stalls aplenty and some interesting craft stalls too.



For our younger visitors, there was a funfair, bungee jumping, zorbing, and some fascinating birds of prey.

Although primarily a community event, we're delighted to be able say that we made some money for our charity fund. And although not all the calculations have been done, it's thought that between £6,000 to £7,000 was raised. A win-win!

Mark Chambers – Event Manager



BISHOP STORTFORD

Margaret Webb

We were back to normal in June, after a month of Bank Holidays in May.

Who knew there was a POW camp at Hatfield Heath? Not all of us did, but we do now! Mark Ratcliff, our speaker on 5th June, gave a fascinating talk on PoW Camp No.116 at Hatfield Heath, life for the prisoners and the stories behind some of them. Many worked on local farms, so could come and go, and some married into local families. Some of the buildings remain.



We played our part for Kids Out on 14th June, when we arranged and paid for children from Amwell View School, Stanstead Abbots, to have a day at Paradise Wildlife Park at Broxbourne. As the photos show, they had a great time



The Club held a super social event on Saturday 17th June, when we held a BBQ at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club to mark the end of Jane Mitchell's year as Club President, attended by around 40 members, friends and guests. Jane had been a first-class President, and, as a mark of our appreciation. She was presented with an orchid by Immediate Past President, Brian Morgan. Well done, Jane!



Rosie Johnstone, from St Mary's Catholic School, has been crowned Bishop's Stortford Rotary Young Chef for 2023 at the annual Young Chef competition and will go forward to represent Bishop's Stortford at the Rotary District 1240 Young Chef competition next year. 17 teams from local secondary schools participated in the competition held at Birchwood High School on 22 June. The task was to produce a 3 course healthy meal for two for £22 in 90 minutes. The junior team from Herts and Essex High School – Poppy Kenny, Lucy Moore and Freya Hooper - whose lemon drizzle cake gained particular praise – won the junior prize. St Mary's Catholic School's team – Evie Harrington, Rosie Johnstone and Jessica Komolafe - won the intermediate competition. Their menu was pan-roasted duck breast with accompaniments, prawn and bamboo shoot dim sum and choux pastry pulls filled with lavender creme patisseries and seasonal fruit coulis.

BISHOP STORTFORD (continued)

The judges were Simon Cottam from Bishop's Stortford's Host, Sanjay Kumar - Sous chef at Novotel Stansted, and Barry Bridgen, former catering lecturer at Hertford Regional College, who were very impressed with the cooking standard, teamwork and range of skills. Alan Beere, chairman of the judging panel, commented, "The judges had a very difficult decision to make." Many Congratulations to Rosie!



Handover was a little different this year. The role of President is being shared by three of our members - Bernie Cotton, Hugo Richardson and Richard Hartley.

They will all share the whole year, but each one will be designated as "lead" for four months at a time. Bernie will start the year, and, at our meeting on 3rd

July, Jane presented him with his chain of office.

Bernie presented Hugo with an associate ribbon while he waits for his turn to wear the real thing.



Richard Hartley was away on holiday and will receive his on his return. It's different! But, with the very active year our Club always has, they will all be kept busy!



Our Satellite Club has started tidying up the garden at the New Apton Centre in the centre of the town, an Age UK facility for the elderly to go for lunch or classes in a variety of subjects. The first week went well and a small team is carrying on the work until it's done.

Now we're into the new Rotary year, with plans for fundraising and social events – and some superb speakers at our meetings. Exciting times!

BRENTWOOD A BECKET

President Paul Chambers handed over the chain of office to incoming President Tony Clarke. It's the second time Tony has held the post and is a very active Rotarian. Tony is one of the main organisers of the successful Half Marathon that the club has held for over 40 years. We look forward to a very active year ahead. With membership already up and lots of new ideas and fundraising activities to promote. We look forward to a very active and exciting Rotary year. Good Luck Tony.

Stefan Tkaczyk is the new Vice President and Treasurer of the club and Keith Hawkes is taking over as 2nd VP.



IPP Paul Chambers



2nd VP Keith Hawkes



Treasurer Stefan



We are all delighted that Grenville Roberts. 'Greg' has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship.

See photo with New President Tony Clarke awarding Greg with the PHF.

Greg is a very busy businessman and active Rotarian. He gets involved in many of the club activities and can be relied upon to do a great job in whatever area he is asked to help with. He has particularly made a big success of the Membership of the club. He introduced new forms of Corporate and other membership which has increased our club and created a vibrant atmosphere, inspiring us all.

Chelmsford Phoenix

BUSY TIME FOR PHOENIX ROTARY CLUB

The Club has had a busy couple of months. Having ceased our meetings at Chelmsford College, we have now settled at The Hive Café at Oaklands Park, which is a great venue in lovely surroundings. We have had some interesting speakers – The Mushroom Theatre Group came to give us a short performance and to tell us more about the charity, then Margaret Webb of Bishops Stortford Rotary Club came to tell us about the Rotary Jaipur Limb Project which was very illuminating and it was fascinating to see some of the examples of prosthetic limbs on display. Clair Dade from the Mid & South Essex Hospitals Charity also gave an interesting talk on how the Charity distributes their funds.

Following our successful Primary Schools Choir Competition in March, which was won by The Bishop's C of E & R C Primary School at Springfield, and thanks to the generosity of New Hall School for providing the venue, together with our sponsors Gepp, Solicitors, we were able to donate £500 each to Interact Chelmsford, Little Havens and the Phoenix children's ward at Broomfield Hospital. We have already sent a cheque to Little Havens. Phoenix Ward sent a wish list of toys which we bought and presented to them. Interact will be coming to speak to us in the near future when we will present their cheque.



Chelmsford Phoenix (continued)

We met Ingatestone Rotary Club in the quarter finals of the Hugh Markham District Sports. We played Kubb at Oaklands Park and after a close contest, Phoenix were declared the winners. A lovely evening enjoyed by all who took part. Some were talking about buying the game for their gardens!

At our Club Assembly, President Elect Mike Littlewood was pleased to induct new member Linda Knights. She has been attending meetings regularly since March and we are delighted to welcome her to the team.



Members of Phoenix and Ingatestone Rotary Clubs enjoying a game of Kubb

Mike welcoming
Linda to the team



Toys presented to Phoenix Ward

Chelmsford Mildmay

Chelmsford Mildmay President's Handover Dinner

Mildmay Club members and their guests enjoyed the President's Handover Dinner on 27 June at Waltham Barns, Little Channels.

Tom Harper handed over the Presidency to Jean Harper. Jean then welcomed Val Chiswell as Vice President.



We were delighted to welcome Nick Alston and his wife Pippa, Nick having recently completed a term of office as High Sheriff of Essex; Jed Brooks and wife Linda, Jed nearing the end of his role as Rotary District Governor; and Geraldine Beaurain, President of Mildmay Inner Wheel Club.



We also welcomed Lyn McLintock and Jo Roberts representing our two preferred charities: the 'Hidden Harm' section of the Children's Society East based in Springfield Road, which supports children of parents suffering from drink or drug addiction; and the Wilderness Foundation based at Chatham Green, doing great work with young people and adults through education and therapy in an environmental setting.

Following an excellent meal (thank you Little Channels!) Jed Brooks proposed the Toast to Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary, followed by guest speaker Nick Alston CBE DL.

Nick was appointed High Sheriff of Essex in 2022 and has recently completed his one-year term of office. He entertained us with a whistle stop talk of his time as High Sheriff, covering the range of his contacts and visits reaching all parts of Essex – probation, courts, Essex farmers, prison service, Samaritans, police, voluntary sector and much more. He highlighted what a wonderful and diverse county we have in Essex and how vital volunteers and voluntary organisations are to the community. He drew our attention to The Essex High Sheriffs' Fund and gave out copies of the beautifully illustrated booklet which describes the work of the Fund - established in 1993 but transferred in 1997 to the Essex Community Foundation. Look out for Tom's chapter "Crime Scene Investigation".

For more information or to donate: <https://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/highsheriffs-fund>

The raffle raised £350, to be shared between the Children's Society East (Hidden Harm) and the Wilderness Foundation.

Chelmsford Mildmay (continued)

Tom Harper then reflected on his two years as President, which started as we came out of a period of pandemic restrictions. He was instrumental in our Santa Sleigh initiative, now in an established 'patch' in North Springfield/Beaulieu/Channels/Walthams and Boreham. Special mention went to Hayward Frost "our very own Rudolf" who not only co-ordinated the building of the sleigh, but also drove it virtually every night. Another of Tom's highlights was watching Secretary John Tilsley perfectly perform as the 'grumpy elf'. He was made for the role! In the project's second year thanks are due to Countryside for their sponsorship.

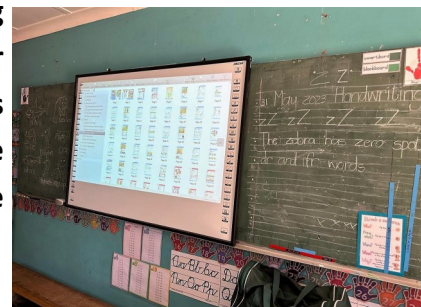
The Baddow Races has run for 40 years and had to be run virtually in 2022. Much to Tom's disappointment they had to be cancelled in 2023 but plans are in hand for a comeback "bigger and better" in 2024. There has been a host of other social/fundraising events including Cream Tea and Pimm's and Virtual Balloon Race. We have established partners with Beaulieu Community Centre and Beaulieu Land Trust and run Santa's Grotto at their Christmas fayre as well as helping run the recent Coronation Party by creating a throne and regalia for children and adults to have their photographs taken. And we've increased our membership!

Before finishing, those who had contributed to the evening were acknowledged for their contribution, not least Nick and Pippa Alston, Jed and Linda Brooks, Geraldine Beaurain and Anthea Tilsley. Our thanks to Tom for all he has achieved in the last two years and our good wishes and support to Jean for the coming year.

The Rotary Club of Klerksdorp, South Africa, has been our 'twin' club since 2019 and we have been pleased to help with a successful project to improve the educational facilities for youngsters living in poor townships. The initial project was for a shipping container to be converted into a classroom, fitted with computers, printers, desks and chairs and installed with Wi-Fi and electricity.

In 2021 we raised sufficient funds, together with a district grant, and asked our colleagues in Klerksdorp to oversee the acquisition, equipping and installation of another container. This work went ahead and was successfully completed in June 2022. Mildmay has now helped provide two of the four internet classroom containers in the Klerksdorp area. The work has continued and we are delighted that our colleagues in Klerksdorp have recently installed a number of interactive whiteboards to help with children's schooling.

It was a pleasure to help our colleagues by providing some funding to assist with these purchases and our association with Klerksdorp continues to strengthen. This is a great example of Rotary clubs collaborating and we look forward to exploring new projects together in the coming year.



Chelmsford Mildmay (continued)

Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary Club are in need of balloon enthusiasts to purchase and launch their balloons to compete against other friends & family for the much sought after cash prizes on offer. Please circulate this competition to friends, family members, grandchildren and not forgetting Auntie Tilly & Uncle Arthur who always like a flutter! Our charities will benefit from your generosity.

Thanks and "may the wind be with you."

Buy your balloons online at www.balloonrace.com/RCCM

Rotary
Chelmsford Mildmay

Come Fly with Us!
Virtual Balloon Race

Support local charities including
The Children's Society East
(Hidden Harm)

**Buy your balloons NOW and
no later than 03 August.**

The race starts at
12 noon on 05 August
and finishes at 12 noon on 12 August.

Prizes

**The balloons that
travel furthest win**

1st £50
2nd £30
3rd £20

Buy your balloons direct www.balloonrace.com/RCCM

Online paid entries must register their balloons two days before the race start date.
Free postal entries are processed the same as paid entries and must arrive on or before 05 August 2023.

More info on Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary website
Good Luck! See you at the finishing line!

Charity number 1027110

CLACTON JUBILEE



At the meeting on 5th July, Dan Austin received the chain of office for the year from Past President Tony Dumper.

Following a very successful Charity Golf Day held at Clacton Golf Club in early June, President Tony Dumper and three Club members, were invited to the airfield at Earls Colne to present a cheque for £2473.00 to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.



As the Club were unable to arrange a formal presentation for the same event held in 2022, the opportunity was taken to present a further cheque for £3024.00 in recognition of the donation made last year. The Club Members were given a tour of the operational airfield and provided with much information regarding the high running costs of this worthwhile Charity.

CLACTON

Rotary coin spinner. Free, but must collect. Contact John on secretary@clactonrotary.org".



COLCHESTER

Dutch Rotary Club helps save lives in Colchester

Last year The Rotary Club of Colchester commemorated its Centenary and as part of its celebrations it invited its sister club, The Rotary Club of Zwolle in the Netherlands, to join them. When they visited, the Rotary Club of Zwolle gave a donation of £1000 to the Colchester club to use to help the local community in Colchester. Over the last couple of years the club have been purchasing and installing a number of Life Saving Defibrillator around Colchester so they decided use the donation to part fund the installation of another, sited at the Officers' Club in Londinium Road, Colchester.

This installation has now been completed and Nigel Hildreth President of the Rotary Club of Colchester said " I'm extremely pleased that we have been able to use the very generous donation from our Rotary friends in Zwolle for such a good purpose. The Officers' Club has a very active Tennis group so having a defibrillator readily available could prove life saving".



Pictured: L to R - Nigel Hildreth (outgoing President of the Rotary Club of Colchester), Amanda Dumas (Officer's Club Manager), Chris Highfield (Officers' Club Chairman), Peter Rutland (Incoming President of the Rotary Club of Colchester).

COLCHESTER (continued)

Kids Out Day

Wednesday 18 June was National KidsOut Day and the Rotary Club of Colchester invited over 70 disadvantaged children from 5 local schools for a Day at Colchester Zoo.

The schools which attended were:

Lexden Springs Primary

Kingswode Hoe

Market Field

Langham Oaks

North Primary



Standing L to R: John Enfield, John Hawkins, Ray Dias, Martin Wood, Martin Nelson, Nigel Hildreth.
Seated L to R: Ann Reeves, Robert Macaulay

The groups were met by a team of Rotarians and photos were taken with our Club President, Nigel Hildreth. After a short welcome and briefing, the schools were free to explore the zoo.

Our Rotarians then served packed lunches in the covered picnic building (in three sittings) and once again the children were free to explore before heading back home.

The weather was amazing, with unbroken sunshine and lashings of suncream and cold drinks were needed as the visit went on.

All the children behaved brilliantly and they all had a great time. Staff from North Primary enthused about the train taking them into the Lemur enclosure where the children could get really close to these amazing animals.

Many thanks to the team at the Zoo, who were great and made the visit easy for us. Thanks also to my fellow Rotarians for helping on the day. Special thanks to David Casey for his organisational help, and best wishes for his speedy recovery.

By John Hawkins

COLCHESTER CENTURIAN



Obituary for Melvin White

1956 – 2023

Treasurer – Rotary Club of Colchester Centurion

Melvin was born in Leicester and attended the local schools in the city. After leaving school he joined the Anglian Regiment serving as a bandsman and medic for 25 years. Upon leaving the army he became an administrator for the local Co-operative Society where he worked until his retirement. He joined the Rotary Club of Colchester Centurion, the first dual gender club in Colchester and became the club's treasurer. He also became active in a number of other local community projects. He was the heart and soul of every event and the club were saddened when he passed away suddenly last month. He will be remembered with much affection and missed at the clubs events. He leaves a wife, four children and eight grandchildren.

GONE TO HIGHER SERVICE

Grays Thurrock

Tri Partite a great success

The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock hosted the annual 62nd Tripartite of the Rotary Clubs of Iserlohn (Germany), Voorschoten-Leidschendam (Holland) and Grays Thurrock at Greenwich and Orsett over the extended weekend of 26th – 28th May. The weekend began with a golf tournament at the Orsett Golf Club for the golfers in the three clubs and in the evening continued with a drinks reception at Orsett Hall before everyone was split into groups for evening dinner parties at our members houses.

On Saturday the fun started with a ride on the IFS Cloud Cable Car which took us to Greenwich for lunch and an afternoon in near perfect weather, touring the Cutty Sark, the Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory, local shops and the Royal Park. A drinks reception was held at the Old Brewery Hall with a marvellous string quartet entertaining us before and after dinner. On the way home, the fellowship continued on the double decker bus with singing accompanied by our own Chris Churchyard on his guitar.



On Sunday a brunch was held at the Orsett Hall where following a solid breakfast, speeches from our President Clive Page and the Presidents of the Iserlohn and Voorschoten Club's thanked all those involved, in particular the Grays Thurrock Tripartite team of Kevin Watkins, Adrian Alsop and Raj Mobile for a truly fantastic job organising such a successful event.

The President of the German club confirmed the dates of the 63rd Tripartite which will be held on the 10th to the 12th May 2024 hosted by the Iserlohn Club.

It was great to compare notes with and see what projects the other clubs were involved with.

Grays Thurrock (continued)

Another busy year for Grays Thurrock Youth Services

Our Youth Services were back in full swing this year and most of the planned activities have now been completed and we are in the process of giving out trophies, certificates and vouchers to the lucky winners at numerous school assemblies etc, in the area. Here's what our Youth Services team got up to:

Youth Debate. In January Youth Debate was well supported by teams in the various age categories and in February our two winners, Grays Convent (Intermediate) and Hathaway Academy (Senior) did very well at the District Finals at Chelmsford Cathedral – Grays Covent winning their section.



Young Musician. Our competition at Gateway Academy was a lot of fun with lots of entries and the standard extremely high. This was evidenced at the District Finals at Chelmsford Cathedral on 18th February, where our Thurrock winners put in a very creditable performance. Our Young Singer, Ismael Dosoo was runner up and our Young Musician, Melda Kondo (violin) was Commended.

DG Jed Brooks, at the prizegiving with Melda and Ismael.

Young Writer. This year we had 96 entries which proved quite a challenge for our judges, Clive Attwood and Raj Mohile but they were up for it. The topical theme for their submissions was 'Peace' but it was amazing how many of the short stories or poems were actually about war. The competition was divided into three age groups with the winners going through to the District Finals.

Young Photographer and Young Artist. There were lots of beautiful art and clever shots submitted for these two competitions and again our competition winners were submitted to the district competition. Thanks to Bob Paterson for the organisation and judging. Disappointingly we had no entries for the Young Filmmaker which was a shame, as last year our entry to District did so well and it's not that entrants didn't have the equipment - most smartphones have all the technology that's needed these days.

Grays Thurrock (continued)

Two new members at Grays Thurrock

On 1st June, at our regular luncheon meeting at the Orsett Hall, the Club President inducted two new members, Mr Ross Bungraz and Mr Barry Price bringing our thriving club membership up to 38 active members.

Presidents' Weekend in Sancerre - 23rd to 26th June 2023

14 Grays Thurrock Rotarians and partners travelled to Sancerre in central France for the President's Weekend from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th June 2023. The weekend started on the Friday with a drinks party and buffet meal around the pool and the next day there were trips to the Wine Museum in Sancerre to discover how wine is made followed by a wine tasting on the museum terrace. After lunch and in brilliant sunshine (temp in excess of 30 degrees) we had a guided walk around the town, starting at the Esplanade Porte-Cesar with a fantastic panoramic view of the Loire and finished at the library on the other side of town with another great view of the vineyards. In the early evening there was a wine tasting at the Joseph Mellot Historic Cellars in town and later we all dined at the Auberge Restaurant in the town Square. There were informal speeches and we were able to meet the President of the Sancerre and Cosne Rotary Club, Mr. Regis Jouan and his partner, Christiane who were our guests. Regis was glad to receive a Grays Thurrock Rotary tie which he wore with pride and we received a banner and a bottle of Sancerre wine engraved with the club's name.

On the Sunday everyone was again greeted in the morning by brilliant sunshine and blue skies for another hot day. We gathered at the Joseph Mellot Winery at 10.00am, inspecting the vines and then into the huge winery for a tour and explanation of how wine is made - from grape crushers to giant stainless-steel vats and the bottling and packaging plants. After the tour, you guessed it, there was another wine tasting. After lunch a convey of cars met at the Panoramic hotel and we drove down to the banks of the Loire at St Satur for a boat trip along the river to the Wildlife Sanctuary and back. That evening, we met for the final evening meal at the Le Connétable Restaurant, eating al fresco on the terrace in the town Square. Many thanks to Catherine Corbeau Mellot of the Sancerre Rotary Club and our President and particularly his partner Fiona East, for organising the event.



Ingatestone

The last two months have been a very busy time for our club. In terms of fund raising ,it has been more a case of preparation for two of our larger fundraisers-our charity golf day, held on 2nd June, and our Summer Evening Summer Jazz concert, to be held on Saturday 15th July at Ingatestone Hall.

A situation facing all clubs is one of gaining new members, and attend-



ance. President Nigel Wagland has done his utmost to encourage both aspects. Our social programme in the last two months has included more economic social evenings in local pubs, a Treasure hunt in Maldon followed by a meal. A

Petanque evening at South Weald Cricket Club, a visit to the Cliff's Pavilion to see Madama Butterfly, preceded by a meal. These were all very successful, and we intend continuing this trend over the next twelve months.

On Friday 2nd June was as successful as ever. 72 golfers, which included Sir Trevor Brooking, enjoyed their golf at Maylands Golf Club. Those that had poor scores enjoyed the proverbial 19th hole even better! We had a shotgun start, and four and a half hours later, they were back with stories of their missed putts, glorious birdies, and nearest the pin victories! Member Neil Macalister had rustled up four teams from his club at Crondon Park, and two of them proved to fill the two top spots in the team competition, and one of them was also an individual winner. The usual, tombola, raffle and auction proved well supported, and it resulted in £6,000 being raised. £600 will be given to St Francis Hospice, of which Sir Trev is an ambassador, and the remainder to be shared between the international charity, Hope and Aid Direct, and the University College Hospital Lymphoma Charity. Our total now over the 24 years now exceeds £130,000.

Meanwhile we continue to support Hope and Aid Direct by helping to load the trucks destined for Ukraine, and several members helped clear the tents, sleeping bags , etc. from the Creamfields music Festival at Hylands Park. These will be taken to Calais .

Our satellite club, Kelvedon Hatch and Villages held its very popular 'Whose Wine is it anyway?' at the end of April, and made £1000 to be distributed to local Ongar charities



The winning team with Sir Trevor

Ingatestone (continued)



CHARTER NIGHT

On the 22nd June, our club staged its 48th Charter Evening. Held in the Margaretting Suite, Ivy Hill Hotel, Rotarians and their guests enjoyed a welcome drink - followed by a three course dinner. After the meal, **President Nigel Wagland** gave an excellent speech - pointing out how life was when the club was incorporated in 1975. It was extremely interesting. District 1240 President Elect David Willis then addressed the diners; he is to become President in a week or so, so his coming to our celebration was appreciated. He spoke movingly of a 'magic Rotary moment', when a raffle ticket 'saved' a young mother's Christmas. Nigel gave us The Final Toast. We then enjoyed our Singer & Entertainer, Dan Sharp, who played and sang music to enjoy and for the active ladies, to dance the night away. In past years, we've had greater numbers attend this key event in our Rotary Year - however, the evening went off well and those who came, made the most of what had been well organised by Noelle Hones-Cloke & Nigel Wagland - not forgetting Libby the manageress and her staff at Ivy Hill.



President Nigel Wagland (3rd Left) and Guests



KHV National Chair, Michelle Rawlings, and guests.



DG Elect, David Willis delivering his speech



Its Disco Time, but where are the men?!

The winning team with
Sir Trevor

HADLEIGH CASTLE

YOUNG CARERS' DAY OUT

We took along a group of 15 Young Carers from Carers Choices to give them a break from their caring duties and time to be children again and to relax and enjoy a day away from their responsibilities.

The Young Carers aged from 8 years to 15 years old - all had a fantastic time, if anything we struggled to get them to leave when the minibus arrived at 4pm to collect them.

We have had some really lovely feedback from Young Carers and Parents, that the children were still buzzing the next day from the day out.



Also, that it has helped with some of the Young Carers Mental Health Well-being and gave them the lift that they needed. Unfortunately, a lot of Young Carers become the victims of bullies at school as they cannot go out or socialise some times when they are invited out because of caring duties or tiredness.

A simple act of kindness goes along way in making a big impact on these Young Carers lives.

Rotarians Jed Brooks, Terry Box and Sharon Box were joined by two helpers from Carers Choices to make the trip happen for them.

Days out like this along with other youngsters in similar situations means they can be themselves without feeling they are being judged and feel valued.

A big vote of thanks to Pam for organising this valued trip each year.



HADLEIGH CASTLE (continued)

Save The Bees Project.



We wanted to do a project that was important to the environment and makes a difference to the world that we live in. Sitting in your garden and hearing the buzzing of the Bumble Bees is music to your ears, you know that they are busy pollinating your plants and gathering nectar to make honey.

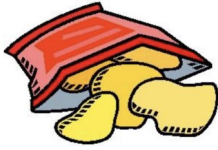
Making people aware of the importance of Bee's and the good that they do for the environment is paramount to our Bee's existence. We decided to make up a Bee Board highlighting the good and importance of Bees to showcase to people, we went around all the Young Carers in our group asking them for a quote stating the importance of Bees and why we need to protect them.

We then made a tree of truth display to take to events with us with all the quotes on leaves on the trees for people to read and consider their actions towards bees in the future. We also made items to sell to raise funds to sponsor some Beehives to help promote Bee Friendly Environments. We made up some Bee Friendly bags to sell at events – in these bags were Bee Friendly Flower Seed Bombs, that we made, with instructions how to plant them and why certain plants and flowers are more Bee Friendly than others. A Bee Keyring, a Bee theme pencil and notepad to encourage people to log down how many Bees they have seen and the success of their Bee Friendly Garden. Also, a personal letter to every purchaser "Thanking them for buying a Bee friendly bag and the importance of Bees and little changes that we can all make to make our world more Bee Friendly. We also had some Cotton Bags, pencil cases, T-shirts printed with Bee Kind on them, these were sold at events and to family and friends to raise more funds to sponsor more Beehives.

At the center where we have our Young Carers Group, we planted a Bee Friendly Garden to encourage more Bees into the garden and made Bee Houses out of Recycled empty Food cans and bamboo canes. We put up Bee Friendly signs and Bee Kind to Bees, so all visitors were aware that it was a Bee Friendly Garden and in hope this may inspire them to go home and make some changes to their own gardens. Before purchasing the plants, we researched which plants would be best for the area of garden that we had and spoke to a local Nursery to make sure the choices that we had made were the best options. Part of our responsibility with the garden was to make sure the plants were watered, deadheaded and the garden kept weed free. Attending events and talking to people about Bees and what differences we can make to ensure that Bees continue to thrive and be part of our world for thousands of years to come. We raised enough money to sponsor three Beehives in various locations over England and our next aim is to be able to visit them and be a beekeeper for the day, so that we see the result of the Bees busy lives collecting pollen.

Harriet & Lily Carers Choices Young Carers

HADLEIGH CASTLE (continued)



Survival Blankets for The Homeless.

We wanted to do a project that was not only environmentally friendly but would also benefit someone with our actions. We researched recycling projects, and we came across an article about making survival blankets out of empty crisps packets. This fitted all the criteria that we wanted to achieve. We knew that all our families and friends were great crisp lovers and as a nation we dispose of a lot of Crisp Packets in our rubbish weekly.

We began to put things in place by asking friends and families to collect crisp packets for us of any description. We calculated that we would need 60 – 80 packets per blanket. We asked parents to put boxes in their workplaces asking for people to recycle rather than bin their crisp packets. We collected Crisp packets at school and were amazed how quickly the pile of empty packets was mounting up. We then cut open all the packets, sorting them into sizes and colours, these then had to be washed in quite soapy water to remove all the grease from them. These were then hung to dry for a day and then wiped over with kitchen towel to make sure they were completely grease free. We then laid the crisp packets into lines of 5-6 with their edges overlapping, then brown paper was laid over the top and a warm iron was run over the seams to fuse them together. Once we had 10 rows prepared, we then began the process of fusing them all together to form our blankets. We tried to make each blanket different and its own identity, seeing how many different combinations we could come up with, made this task more fun.

We approached a local supermarket to ask them if they could save any large pieces of plastic sheeting for us, we explained our project to them and explained also that it was a great way for them to recycle the plastic for them also and helping provide waterproof and heat retaining blankets for some of the local homeless. The plastic sheeting was then laid over the top of the crisp packets and again fused onto the packets with a warm iron. And repeated the same process on the reverse side also. We then trimmed any overlapping plastic to make sure the edgings were all fused and tidy. We then rolled each blanket up and put a note with them for the recipient to know they are made with kindness and helping our environment also by recycling.

We made some essential bags of goodies up and put in each of the bags a crisp survival blanket and these were handed out to the homeless in our local area.

We were thanked for taking the time to make and provide these blankets, which made us feel proud of what a difference a small act of recycling and time can make to others.

Such a simple recycling project can make such a big difference to someone's life on the street, at a very minimal cost to us. It is also a good way to get all your family and friends involved in making a difference to the world that we live in and for future generations.

Halstead

ORDINARY BUOYS – ROWING THE ATLANTIC

3,000 miles, One Boat, Four Men. Sailing from San Sebastian in La Gomera, Canary Islands to Nelson's Dockyard English Harbour, Antigua.

The Rotary Club of Halstead is proudly supporting the adventure that will raise funds for the Heart Foundation, Campaign against living miserably and Marine Mind Spirit. Come along and meet the Daff, the Captain and see his amazing boat.



Hornchurch and Upminster

Handover Dinner 29th June 2023

The last Friday in June has always been the night of the club's Handover Dinner at the Upminster Golf Club since I became a Rotarian in 2004 and presumably for many years before that. At that time new members were instructed to make sure they had two dates in their diaries which were not to be missed, the President's Dinner and the Handover Dinner! Because of Covid and the restrictions the last Handover dinner was in 2019.



Terry Monk President Christine Smith
Kochummen John and George Larkey

When Rotarian Christine Smith became President in 2021 it was decided that she should hold office for 2 years as it was felt that much re-building was necessary for our club to get back to how it was pre-covid. Her primary aim was to build up the Fellowship of the club before engaging in money making activities. Those two years have been hard work for her and the members but we can look back and say THANK YOU and she can be proud of what has been achieved. Despite lower attendance figures at meetings, a fate which is affecting many clubs, we can say "We are Back".

This is so important for the incoming President to build on. The attendance at the dinner, held at TOP Meadow Golf Club in North Ockendon was excellent, and after a most satisfactory and enjoyable meal Christine said a few words about the club, made some personal presentations and very quickly became Past President Christine Smith and we welcomed in our new President Eddy Edison. The Rotary Club of Hornchurch and Upminster wishes President Eddy all the very best for the coming year and with the strong support of the members we should be able to move on and become stronger and even more successful.

Handover awards:

Anne Monk- a BGF (Bloody Good Friend) of Rotary Paul Harris Fellow award :

Club Secretary Terry Monk and PP Kochummen

John Saphire Paul Harris Fellow award:

PP George Larkey Rotarian of the Year:

PP Gerry Harrington PP Liaquat Govani a Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow who is our long term Foundation Officer was presented with the Silver Salver which had been given to our club, at the Conference, in recognition for making the largest contribution to Foundation in District 1240

Hornchurch and Upminster (continued)

GOODBYE MR.ROTARY

Most Rotary clubs have one, just like us! A long standing member, well liked, friendly and respected, he who has seen and done everything there is to do in a successful club. Our Mr.Rotary was BRIAN TAFFS who joined the Rotary Club of Hornchurch, as it was known then, in 1984.

Sadly my friend and fellow Rotarian Brian passed away on the 24th.May 2023. Oh! How he will be missed and remembered by all who knew him.

There was very little that he didn't know about Rotary and, as a 20 year veteran when I became a Rotarian, he was the friendly face you could go to for advice and assurance that you were following all the rules.



Brian Taffs

September 23rd. 1944 – May
24th. 2023

In his nearly 40 years. of Service Above Self he was President twice, club Secretary and assistant secretary several times, Club Service, Club Council member, Father Christmas, the prime organiser of the Christmas collections and so many more activities (too many to mention). The activity that I associate most with Brian is our annual Charity Walk which evolved from an Equine event which the club organised and involved horses and riders from all over Essex years before I joined. The 'walk' raised tens of thousands of pounds over the years which went to support the work of St. Francis Hospice at Havering -atte -Bower and it was fitting that dear Brian should be there at the end. As a Rotarian Brian was also great supporter of district activities, attending many conferences, assemblies and Matchstick Club breakfasts over the years.

Most of our club members, who were able, attended a packed Hornchurch Methodist church service, together with friends and former colleagues from all aspects of his life, on Monday 19th June 2023. It was a brilliantly organised service, with fine words and music, to Celebrate the Life of Brian Taffs. It was primarily conducted by the vicar and close family friends with his daughter Alison and son Keith providing many amusing and touching anecdotes about a full and happy life including his involvement with the Scout movement (from childhood to the end of his life) Rotary and his garden which he was so proud of and full of 'sheds'. Now that is another story for another time!

Condolences to his lovely, supportive wife Jan, Alison, Keith and all members of the family.

RIP MR. ROTARY

MALDON

Little Havens Children's Hospice / Maldon Rotary Club

The Photo shows Maldon Rotary President Judy Smith (re elected for a second year) presenting a second cheque for £ 1000.00 to Aron Lane, representing Little Havens Children's Hospice.

Aron's very personal talk detailed the care provided by this vital organisation to children from all over the County of Essex. Organisations such as Rotary and other Clubs and Charities help to cover the running costs currently over £6000.00 per day.



Maldon Rotary Club is proud to support this Charity using monies donated / raised in the local community.

P James Howard—01621860372

The photo shows Maldon Rotary Club President Judy Smith re-elected for a second year giving the Club's medal of office to newly elected Vice President, Steve Brown.

With Membership at a post Covid high the Club is in safe hands with these dedicated Officer and their teams. Serving the Town and local area with Events and fund raising activities this Club is, in keeping with Rotary principles. "United in the ideal of Service "



ROCHFORD

THE BIG SING SOUL CELEBRATES AT ROCHFORD ROTARY CLUB "HANDOVER" EVENING

The Rotary Club of Rochford held our final meeting of the Rotary Year on 26 June and celebrated in style at Rochford Hundred Golf Club with our ladies and guests from "The Big Sing Soul", a charity that unites communities with uplifting and motivating music, inspired by gospel music and teaching. It is much more than a choir, it is a "family". So many members have found the choir to help them through loneliness, depression, grief and illness.

Following an excellent meal, our outgoing President, Geoff Newman, presented a cheque for £2,000, to Emma Smith, their fundraising manager. He said: "I was delighted with the evening. The 'Big Sing Soul' was one of my charities for the year and I was so pleased to be able to help them continue their great work in making music accessible to vulnerable children and adults and to bring them the joy of singing together. My thanks also go to Rochford Hundred Golf Club who again did us proud with an excellent dinner".

The evening also marked the installation of the new club officers for the 2023-24 Rotary year (see below)



Geoff presenting the cheque to Emma

Pictured are, centre, President Craig Reynolds, left, Senior Vice President, Ajay Desai and right, Junior Vice President, John Smoothy.



ROCHFORD (continued)

ANOTHER BUMPER CHARITY GOLF DAY!

The Rotary Club of Rochford welcomed golfers from far and wide for an excellent golf day with all the proceeds going to Charities.

It was a lovely June day, the course at the Rochford Hundred Golf Club was in excellent condition (though the rough was extremely punishing) and the evening dinner was enjoyed by all.

On the day the Team winners were the 'Chemical Brothers' with a combined best three scores on each hole of 117 points. In the Individual competition, Matthew Wright (Green Thumb) came 1st with 38 points followed on count back by Paul Usher (Take Heart) and Trevor Plumb (Romford Rebels) both on 37 points.

A raffle with sixty prizes and an auction with ten prizes added to the money raised which in total was £5,300.

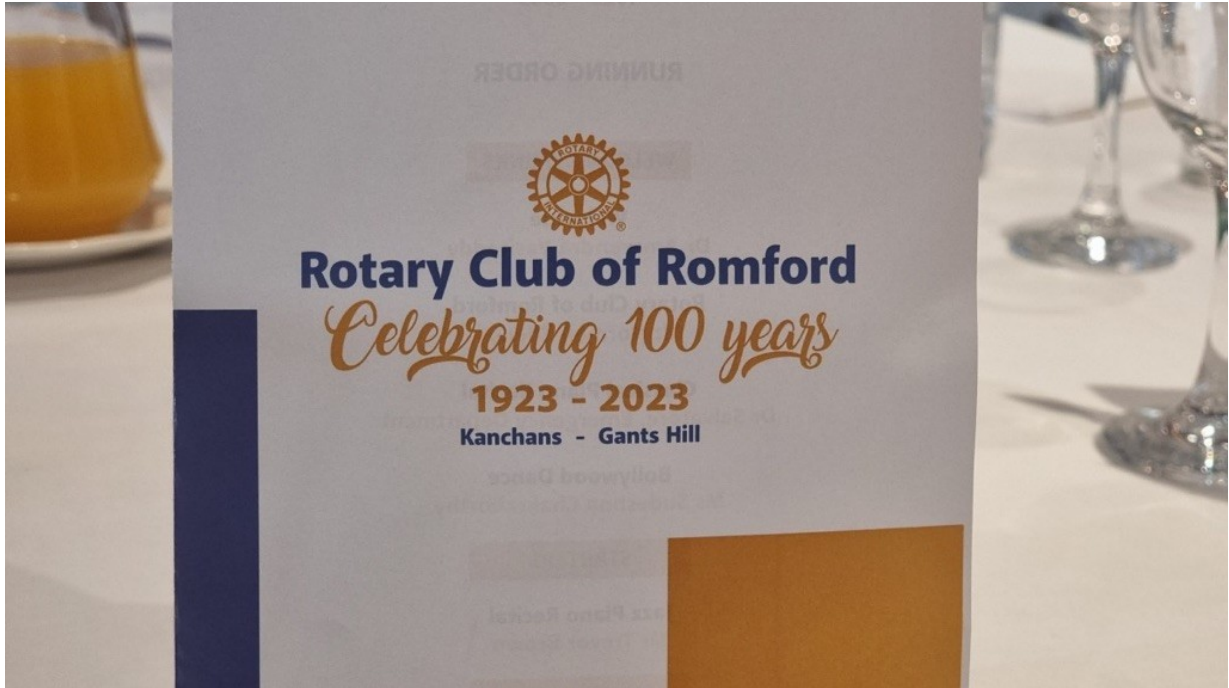
Rochford Rotary Club President, Geoff Newman, was delighted with the day. He said: "I'm afraid my golf round didn't really trouble the scorers. But it was so pleasing to see over 70 golfers supporting my main charity for the year, 'The Big Sing', whose aim is to provide uplifting, inspirational and motivational singing workshops to be accessible to vulnerable children and adults to bring them the joy of singing together. My thanks also go to Rochford Hundred Golf Club for allowing us all to use the excellent course and the catering staff who did us proud with breakfast bacon butties and a superb dinner."

The foursome ready for action!



ROMFORD

Last Friday we had a celebration to mark 100 years of Romford Rotary Club, something which we do feel should be recorded. A journalist from the on-line newspaper Havering Daily was present as a guest of our member Siv Matchendran. We are hoping that you can use what he has written – probably after removing the appeal for membership and anything else which is surplus to requirements



Many Congratulations Romford Rotary. Well Done!



Shenfield and District

So far this year we have participated in the Coronation Fair in King Georges Playing Field in Brentwood selling Pimms and Prosecco. The day was not particularly sunny but we managed to take over £1,500. After expenses, our charities will be receiving the spoils of our hard work.

Likewise we attended the Billericay Summerfest on Sun Corner where we arranged a tombola stand for both adults and children and a Disk Drop game for the younger children. We had a pleasant day and met many people wanting to win our 'bottles' (on the adult stand, of course).



The takings were in the hundreds but our presence at the event was there, flying the flag for Rotary and proving that we are 'People of Action'.

Champion of Champions

Our Vice-President, Gloria Nichols, had a surprise invitation to the 'Champion of Champions Awards' evening at The Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. You may recall that she won the award in 2021/2 for her work on the Backpack Project for Mary's Meals. It was during Covid and she received her Award by post and had a 'Zoom' presentation. This was the 'real thing' and Gloria enjoyed her trip to Birmingham, and also meeting other recipients of the Awards. Gloria is still an Ambassador and District contact for Mary's Meals.



SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

RotaKids' remarkable contribution to ShelterBox.

The partnership between the Rotary family and ShelterBox has provided a place of refuge throughout the world to people facing some of the most difficult and uncertain moments in their lives. Our Club was particularly pleased that, of their own volition, the RotaKids club of Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School chose to support ShelterBox by organising, in early June, a sponsored walk which involved 184 children in six year groups and a reception class running and walking round Compass Gardens.

The result was amazing. Intending to raise monies to purchase two Boxes, RotaKids in fact raised sufficient to purchase four. As the deputy head, Mrs Allan said "I am completely overwhelmed by the generosity of all the pupils and their families and the fantastic job the RotaKids have done. I think they should be very proud of themselves". SWF Rotary Club is certainly proud of them.

Pre-positioned stock enables ShelterBox to provide supplies quickly, for example to Turkey and to families affected by the Pakistan floods. They now need Rotary clubs' help as they re-stock ready to be there when people need them most. Our RotaKids superb achievement gives that help to them. Moreover, the donation will be doubled through a matching donation scheme funded by an independent ShelterBox supporter.



A great outcome, RotaKids.

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (cont'd)

RotaKids support ShelterBox.

The RotaKids club of Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School, as an International Project, chose to support ShelterBox by organising a sponsored walk which involved 184 children in six, year groups and a reception class running and walking round Compass Gardens for thirty minutes each group over a total of three hours.

Our Rotary Club was pleased to help marshall the event and, fortunately, not to be asked to keep up with such enthusiastic children at the gardens. Under the direction of the Deputy Head Mrs Allan and guidance of teachers and support staff the event took place with precision.

The RotaKids had researched ShelterBox and understood that it provides emergency relief to families throughout the world, forced to leave their homes because of a disaster. The understanding of the children can be summed up by quoting one RotaKid with his hands on the shoulder of a younger child puffed from the exertions, saying "never mind, think of the benefit to those who have nothing."

Our Rotary Club congratulate everyone involved.



SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (cont'd.)

Flew the flag at Presidents Gala Night

We wine, dined and danced with partners, family and friends at the Rayleigh Club to celebrate a very successful year for our Club under the Presidency of John Robinson and to roundly welcome Kush Dave to the role of President for 2023/24, seen below receiving his regalia.



Before handing over his responsibilities, John was pleased to induct Glynis Comben as a welcomed new member of our Club and to present a Paul Harris Fellowship award to Rtn Geoff Thompson, a founder member who was able to re-join us a number of years ago and has worked tirelessly chairing our Youth and Vocational Committee.



Fun and friendship in a Club that helps the Community.

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (cont'd)

William de Ferrers School Fayre.

Our Club ran a stall at the Fayre, organised by the Friends of the school. Threatened by rain just before the opening, the afternoon weather was very pleasant enabling our Club to run a successful (for us) "ping pong ball in the jar" event with the considerable help of the RotaKids Club of Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School. Without our prompting the RotaKids soon took charge of the stall, providing seven balls per person, collecting the thrown balls very few of which found the way into the jars, collecting the monies and handing the sweets to winners and losers alike. They even found time to go round the field, under the supervision of their Deputy Head, Mrs Allan, to hand out Rotary leaflets encouraging men and women to join our Club, part of a world-wide organisation, for fun, fellowship and to help the community.



Rtn Roger Gatford and Rtns Terry Tilbrook, Don Wragg and Peter Ferry with some of the RotaKids team.



But Vice President Kush Dave and Terry get distracted from their work by Elsa from Frozen



SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (cont'd)

At the William de Ferrers School Fayre.

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FOUNDATION IN CRISIS!

As Rotarians we know that giving to the Rotary Foundation is just something we do because we understand it helps to finance good works in the world, be it for a big project such as ridding the world of polio, or that small community project at a local school. They are all equally as important projects to the people that benefit from them. As time passes the number of projects needing help around the world has increased significantly and correspondingly so has the total amount of money needed from The Rotary Foundation to fund them.

During the pandemic period it was readily anticipated that donation levels to Foundation in D1240 would decline as the chances for our clubs to raise money became severely restricted. As the pandemic diminished in its impact and the economy started to open up again, the restrictions on movement reduced and it was possible for Rotarians to meet, plan events and raise money for their projects. This change in circumstances allowed our clubs to be more generous in their donations to the Foundation's Annual Fund in 2021/22 with a 30% increase from 2020/21 total from \$82,085 to \$106,621.

It is only possible for your charity, The Rotary Foundation, to support the amazing life changing sustainable projects that it does within our District, nationwide and internationally, is because Rotarians like you and me support Foundation with donations. It was therefore disappointing for me to see the interim end-of-year results for 2022/23 indicating that the District had not maintained the level of giving from the previous year. There is no way of describing this year's total other than very disappointing with a reduction of over a 34% from \$106,621 to \$70,081.

Whilst some clubs have remained very supportive and have continued to give generously, a significant number have only donated between 0-\$250. For a whole Rotary year that must be seen as very disappointing.

What is the reason for the decline in giving? Why does your club not support The Rotary Foundation more? Is your club at the top of the league or could you do better?

FOUNDATION IN CRISIS! (cont'd)

Many clubs will say the reason they can't donate on the same scale as those in the top 10 is because they are a much smaller club than the likes of Colchester or Billericay Mayflower. That is a fair point.

The number of clubs reaching the Rotary target of donating \$100 per month.

What can be done about this situation? The new Rotary Year has only just started so there is plenty of time for every D1240 club and D1240 Rotarian to put plans into place. As a club, why not make The Rotary Foundation your club's charity of choice and donate the proceeds of a club event to Foundation? As an individual Rotarian why not set up a direct debit now to the Rotary Foundation RFUK, for say £10 per month, and become a Sustaining Member? You will also be able to boost your giving if you are a taxpayer by claiming Gift Aid on your donation. What's stopping you?

A number of club's leave donating to the end of June and this does run the risk of them not being attributed in the correct Rotary Year. Can I therefore ask that this year Treasurers make their club donation to the Annual Fund much earlier, say in April or May at the latest, to avoid this issue. To help Rotarians understand how their club's donations are progressing in the new Rotary Year I will endeavour to publish regular updates as this information becomes available.

Martin Sulley

D1240 District Rotary Foundation Chair

DISTRICT DIARY 2023/24



Wednesday 19 th July 2023 –	Forum –	6.30 for 7.00pm	Writtle College, Main Hall.
Wednesday 25 th October	Support Team –	6.30 for 7.00pm -	Room L.53 Writtle College
Saturday 18 th November	Forum –	8.30 for 9.00am	Writtle College ,main hall.
Wednesday 31 st January 2024–	Support Team –	6.30 for 7.00pm –	Room L.53 Writtle College
Wednesday 21 st February –	Forum –	6.30 for 7.00pm –	Main Hall, Writtle College
Sunday 17 th March –	District Foundation Lunch	12.00 noon,	Channels Golf Club.
Tuesday 23 rd April –	Support Team –	6.30 for 7.00pm –	Room L53 Writtle College
Saturday 11 th May –	District Assembly –	8.30 for 9.00am –	Main Hall, Writtle College

District Handover provisionally booked for 30th June but, as yet, no venue.



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, Publisher or a jpeg. Do not embed photos in your written article.
2. Include a good quality photograph(s), (jpegs please), with captions and/or full names.
3. Please include a title for the article.
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).—(I don't yet have any).
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/17th).
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)