

Rotary District 1240 Bulletin



May 2023 – District Governor Jed Brooks

“Imagine Rotary”

From District Governor Jed Brooks



Dear fellow Rotarians,

Well, the weather seems to have turned a corner and so have our outside activities.

Since my last report, Linda and I have had the pleasure of attending Billericay Mayflower's Soapbox Derby, Brentwood King's Coronation Festival in the Park event, and last week, the Southend Pier Walk organised by the Rotary Club of Leigh on Sea.

As Rotarians we certainly know how to organise events and raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves. There are many members of the public wanting to know more about Rotary and we need to ensure we follow up these leads and encourage others to join us.

Currently we have a growing number of new members (an overall increase of 37). We must keep the ball rolling to return to previous numbers of 1400+ members in District 1240.

We have now signed up the Wilderness Foundation as corporate members and they have agreed to champion our environment projects, which will be a great help to all clubs. An open day is being arranged for Rotarians to visit them in Chatham Green, just north of Chelmsford in the next couple of months. It will be a very worthwhile trip, and I would encourage you all to visit their website

<https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk>

I was very happy to be able to distribute over £5,000 to the speakers who presented at the April District Conference, including £1,200 to our own charity, Rotary Foundation, which represented funds that were unspent from the conference budget.

I ask you all again to “show and tell” what we do, why we do it, and for whom we do it.

I am very proud of our District and all we achieve, being a District Governor is a great role and the benefits far outweigh the hours of driving, long days, and a full calendar.

I am now looking forward to the next six weeks before handing over to DGE David Willis and the team to continue the great work.

Until next time, stay safe well, and keep smiling.

Best Regards, *District Governor Jed Brooks*

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



Rotary District 1240- mainly Essex



A further appeal to support Ukraine



Ann Holmes
- Colchester

Once again, members of Colchester Rotary have responded generously, sending items of clothing, food, rechargeable bulbs, and lamps to the war-torn country of Ukraine.

An amount of £762.50, including gift aid, was raised and we also received a large box of army socks from Colchester Garrison.

On Sunday morning, April 2, the eight boxes of goods were loaded onto a van taking them directly to Ukraine where they will be distributed to



those in great need. Olha, a Ukrainian lady domiciled in Wivenhoe is our contact and she will monitor them to ensure they arrive at the intended location. My sincere thanks to all members who supported this appeal. It only goes to endorse my feelings that I am proud to be a member of the Rotary Club of Colchester.

An enjoyable Quiz Night for Colchester Young Carers

One of our club's longstanding associations is with the Colchester office of the charity "Action for Family Carers", which supports Young Carers. We hold a number of events throughout the year and recently held a quiz night for the young carers at Stanway Youth Club.

It was great fun and enjoyed by all. The subjects were, General Knowledge, Disney, Sport, and a picture round of Film, Pop, and Sports celebrities. Prizes were handed out to first, second and third contestants.

We are looking forward to organising another quiz night in the autumn. *Ann Holmes*



L to R: Rotarians Ann Holmes, Martin Wood, Martin Nelson, and Robert Macaulay



Fun Lunch for disadvantaged children at Colchester Officers Club



John Hawkins - Colchester

On March 16, we held our annual Fun Lunch for disadvantaged children at the Colchester Officers Club. Fifty five children from five local Primary Schools attended with their teachers and carers for a special lunch followed by a thoroughly enjoyable performance by Magic Olly, an excellent magician and children's entertainer.

During the lunch, Olly performed tricks at each of the tables, keeping the children amused. At the end they were each presented with an Easter Egg.

A great time was had by all, including the adults and Rotary team, who were kept busy serving lunches and refilling glasses.

Many thanks to the Colchester Children's Charity, the East of England Co-op, Amanda and her team at the Officers' Club, and the Rotarians helping on the day. *John Hawkins*



Colchester: Art Competition Winners



Peter Rutland - Colchester

Colchester's Art competition is held each year for primary schools in the Colchester area. This year's the theme was Sunset and Sunrise. We had eight schools participate and received some 275 entries, which were of a high standard.

The winners were presented with their prizes at our awards ceremony held on Friday, May 5, at Christ Church, Colchester.

There were three groups based on age, and some 31 finalist received certificates commending their efforts.

The winners for each age group were:

Group 1 - Kitty Lightening (Hamilton)

Group 2 - Tia Yeung (St Johns Green)

Group 3 - Neili De Costa (Hamilton)

(Continued next page)

The overall winner, and winner of the “Ann Holmes Cup” was Neili De Costa.

Well done to Neile and all other winners and participants.

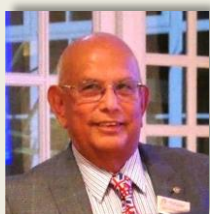
We are also very grateful for the support of the teachers and staff at the schools that took part namely: Colchester High, Gosbecks, Hamilton, Hazelmere, North Primary, St James, St John’s, and St John’s Green.

Also, thanks to Rotarian Pat Prestney for all



her efforts in coordinating this competition and to Honorary Rotarian Val Tyrrell and her team for undertaking the mammoth job of judging the entries. *Peter Rutland*

Service above Self – Feeding Homeless People in Chelmsford



Dr Chuda Karki
- Chelmsford

Instead of our normal weekly meeting, Chelmsford Rotary turned out in force to help Sanctus on April 27. Fifty to sixty homeless people were provided with lunch, and, after the tables had been cleared, our members also enjoyed lunch and gave a donation to the charity. This raised £255 which was handed to Toni, the manageress of Sanctus (pictured right). Toni said that the donations would purchase sufficient basic food ingredients to feed all their clients for two weeks. Sanctus is a registered Homeless charity, based in Broomfield Road, Chelmsford. It has been providing support to homeless and vulnerable people across the city since 2011, with a motto, “Love All Serve All”. Just before Christmas we learnt that with reduced donations of food

and money, and rising numbers of homeless people arriving for lunch (from 40 to 80 daily since January 2022), Sanctus had regretfully had to make the difficult decision to stop serving lunches at weekends. Our club raised £530 during this crucial period and handed over the money on December 20, providing some relief at a time of great need.

One of our members, Sara Arun, volunteers at Sanctus on a regular basis, and we agreed to join her one week to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. After our visit, Rotarian Geoff Dickman wrote, “Today was

brilliant and, in my opinion, should become a monthly event. By helping at Sanctus and giving a donation, we directly benefit very needy men and women. And surely, isn’t this the purpose of Rotary?”

Other members said of the visit, “Brilliant, and surely proof that we should visit Sanctus at least once a month”. The food was rated as excellent too! Following our very positive experience, the club is already proposing regular visits to Sanctus.

The premises also offer the potential to have joint or social events such as bingo nights, quiz evenings etc., with food and music for 50-60 people at a reasonable cost, which would also benefit the charity.

I am sharing our experience with all clubs across District 1240 and ask that you to consider Sanctus for future events.

Dr Chuda Karki



Buggingham Palace Hotel



**Jo Portway –
Colchester Forum**

Colchester Forum, as part of their community environmental initiatives and to celebrate the Coronation, started a bug hotel build at Yarra Farm on May 9, with young adults from four schools assisting at a later stage.

What is a bug hotel? It's a structure that is made of natural materials, built in an outdoor space to provide shelter for insects. Bug hotels can come in all shapes and sizes, be created using a variety of eco-friendly materials, and can be called different names - Forum's hotel is called "Buggingham Palace Hotel!" Bug hotels can be made all year round, it provides a much needed, cosy, and safe place to hibernate for a variety of winter insect wildlife. Any number of creatures can be attracted, from bees to beetles, wood lice to ladybirds.

Jon Neill, Colchester Forum President, is providing all the timber from his felled trees and he wants this community Coronation event to be a lasting legacy at the farm.

Yarra Farm is located in Stanway and is run by Sue and Zac Middleton. In 2021, they agreed, with Peter Herring from Camulos Rotary, that 2/3 of an acre could be used as a rewilding site. Other local Rotary clubs have since joined forces to carry out this work with Camulos, in conjunction with local schools who look after young adults with special learning requirements.

The environmental programme has so far resulted in 250 hedgerow saplings being planted plus a small pond created. Wildflower planting, a seated area, and pathways will be part of the programme this year.

Bug hotels are a superb creation for using up waste materials in your garden while providing benefits to insects and other wildlife. Such safe space areas are rapidly dwindling, so bug hotels are much needed. And they are a great opportunity to teach young people about biodiversity.

Forum's support for young carers

President Jon Neil joined Louis Thorpe, Michael Jones, and Irene Kettle from the Food for Thought Forum Committee at the 1240 District Conference in Thurrock in April to promote this pioneering project to other clubs. Forum was invited to attend by DG Jed Brooks. The committee thought it was important to be represented at the Conference Showcase as Forum are in receipt of a District Grant to equip the planned community kitchen. There was a great deal of interest from Rotarians. His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst, was a guest and was keen to learn more about Jamie's Ministry of Food and their work with young carers. Food for Thought, set up by Forum, has helped dozens and dozens of young carers learn how to cook healthy, nutritious meals and is busy trying to roll out the initiative to other clubs.



L to R: Louis Thorpe, Pres. Jon Neil, Michael Jones, Irene Kettle



L to R: Jon, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst, Irene

Sleeping out for charity

It was cold, it was raining but did that dampen spirits? No, of course not! Forum members, friends, family, and local business along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester (Tim and Nicola Young) slept out in the grounds of Castle Park, Colchester in April in a magnificent display of plastic-lined cardboard boxes and the occasional tent. Huge thanks have to be offered to Tesco who provided hot food and drinks, which were most welcome.



Sleep Out organiser Tony Dutch said: "My most sincere thanks to all those who participated in the Big Sleepout in particular those who slept in some amazing cardboard structures which appeared to even withstand the rain!! Our thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress joining us to help raise funds for the Foodbank, Emergency Night Shelter, and Beacon House. I am hoping that we raise around £10,000, but we will let everyone know the final figure. An incredible effort." *Jo Portway*



King Charles III – a celebration in the park - Brentwood



Rose Bolton -
Brentwood

Brentwood were delighted to join forces with Brentwood a Becket and Shenfield clubs to create a Rotary Village at the Coronation Festival in the Park in Brentwood on May 8, 2023. We were all prepared for rain, but thankfully we were all packed up and on our way home, before the first raindrops fell.

The event was arranged by Brentwood Council and exceeded their expectations in every way. Adults visiting the Rotary Village had the opportunity to purchase a glass of fabulous Pimm's, or Prosecco (Shenfield Rotary), to take part in a



The Rotary Village

tombola (Brentwood a Becket), or just join us for a cup of tea or coffee. And for the children - the chance to create their own picture of a crown and take part in the "name the dog" competition. (Continued next page)

We were delighted at how all three clubs pulled together, not only with the erecting and dismantling of our stands, but also the general bonhomie of us all working together.

We were also joined by DG Jed and Linda Brooks, who both did a sterling job with the coffee and teas. Our stalls were busy from the moment Celebrations in the Park opened, until the closure. We all took the opportunity to talk to local residents about what Rotary does and to raise our profile in the community. Several parents praised us for having activities for the youngsters at “no cost”, saying how important it is when you have two or three children who want to try everything to have somewhere that they could come to take part in something creative – free! It was much appreciated!!

It was never the Brentwood club’s intention to raise money at this event, but to see it as a community event and an opportunity for good PR. However, when we were told by the council that their vendor for tea and coffee could not attend, we stepped into the breach and raised circa £500 as a result!! *Rose Bolton*



L to R: DG Jed Brooks, Dave Eagles, Linda Brooks



Children's handiwork



Working together

ROTARY ISN'T JUST A CLUB TO JOIN, BUT RATHER AN INVITATION TO ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES.

Rotary



Mayflower's Billerica Soapbox Derby



Colin Campbell –
Billerica
Mayflower

Sunday, April 30 saw Sun Corner, Billerica buzzing with activity – or should that be roaring? Twenty two karts raced down London Road competing for a variety of prizes in a number of categories in Billerica Mayflower's Soapbox Derby 2023. Spectators lined the road (safely behind barriers, of course) to cheer them on, while many relaxed on the field and watched the action on the big screen. There were numerous food and drink outlets that did a roaring trade and a well-supported bar. The entertainment provided (Funky Voices choir; Helen Arber and the Billerica Theatre artistes) was much appreciated.

Mayflower is pleased to announce that nearly £20,000 was raised from this very popular Billerica event, all of which will be used for the great causes that Mayflower supports. If you'd like to know more about Soapbox Derby please go to:

<https://mayflowerrotary.org/about/>

Mayflower would like to thank Billerica Rotary's Peter Greene for the splendid photographs.



DG Jed Brooks, PDG Keith Brownlie, and DGE David Willis and his wife Sandra hosted the Rotary Village



Local student wins national award for service to the community



Jane Ladner -
Thorpe Bay

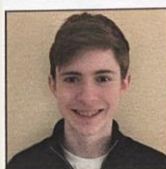
Matthew Howard, a 16-year-old student at Southend High School for Girls, has won the National Award of Young Citizen of the Year from the National Rotary Club of Great Britain. This Award celebrated his development of educational opportunities for young people from all backgrounds across the world. He is a remarkable young man.

For the past two years, Matthew has been developing a youth-led charity dedicated to improving financial literacy and economic education called GAEE UK (Global Association of Economic Education). This project includes a student blog and a YouTube channel. Over fifty articles, videos and book reviews have now been published and has been read over 13,000 times around the world.

The charity has also developed online seminars that introduce young people to the study of Economics beyond A-Level and prepares them for university life. Matthew's plan over the next year is to introduce a life-skills course geared towards secondary school students. You can find out more by visiting the website:

<https://gaeek.org/>

Matthew also enjoys giving back to his community and is involved in a number of local initiatives including the Summer Reading Challenge at the Library in Leigh-on-Sea. His experience as a senior member of the National Debate Team (a charity that promotes formal competitive debate for young people in this country) is enabling him to help establish a debating society within his school.



MATTHEW HOWARD
YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD
NOMINATED BY: ROTARY THORPE BAY

For the past two years, Matthew has been developing GAEE UK - a youth-led charity dedicated to improving financial literacy and economic education. GAEE UK has developed a student blog and YouTube channel where they have published over 50 articles, videos and book reviews that have been read over 13,000 times around the world. The charity has also developed online seminars that introduce young people to economics content beyond the A-level syllabus.



Matthew receiving his National Young Citizen Award on April 29

In the future, Matthew hopes to study Economics at university with an emphasis on global affairs and political economy. He has chosen to donate his Rotary prize money to "One Love Soup Kitchen" in Southend. You can volunteer and donate to this Charity by copying and pasting the link below into your browser:

<https://theonloveproject.co.uk/> *Jane Ladner*

Basildon Concord's 14th Stroke Awareness Day



Danny Lovey –
Basildon Concord

On Saturday, April 29, 2023, the club held its 14th Stroke Awareness Day at Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon.

As usual over the past 14 years (except for the Covid interruption), the St John Ambulance were in attendance to measure the blood pressure of members of the public.

This of course is voluntary, but we believe providing this facility potentially saves lives. Every year we find people who do not know their blood pressure or have not had it checked for many years.

As a result of this testing, some people are recommended to have a full check of their blood pressure by their own doctor.

The last couple of years the number of people referred to their doctor has been 33%, which is higher than previous years. *Danny Lovey*



Two club members, Mark Hambleton and Danny Lovey having a blood pressure reading taken by members of the St John team.

Bishop's Stortford's Young Musician competition – a huge success



Margaret Webb –
Bishop's
Stortford

What a strange Spring and early Summer this year is proving to have! So many Bank Holidays that it's difficult to know where we are.

The first major event after the Easter weekend break was the District Conference at Thurrock, which three of our members attended as day delegates.

We all thought it was a splendid event, with the best programme of speakers we had heard for many years. It was good to be meeting up with friends from around the District again.

Many congratulations to Jed Brooks and his team for organising such an informative, motivating, and interesting conference.

Our first club speaker in April was Major Alan Frederiksen of the local branch of the Salvation Army, who told of his journey through various locations as a Salvation Army officer. **(Continued next page)**

Born and raised in Denmark, he had spent the whole of his adult life in the UK. He told us of a new project in the town, just beginning, to convert a block of offices in the centre into a base for them to serve the local community. They would see what was needed first and then hoped that there would be something going on there every day of the week. Major Frederiksen also plays the trombone and played for us at the end of his talk, which was certainly something different!

Below - Marcus Chan, Young Vocalist of the Year, receiving his trophy from President Jane Mitchell



On April 22, the club held its 7th Annual Rotary Young Musician Competition at Bishop's Stortford College, by kind permission of the Head, Kathy Crewe-Read. We had a record number of entries – 150 in all – over 5 categories - with just about every primary and secondary school in the town represented. It was a long and full day, but highly enjoyable and very rewarding, with a high standard of performance.

In the Evening Concert, the 15 winners of the daytime classes competed for the titles of Overall Junior, Intermediate and Senior Winners, and, from these, the Young Musician (Instrumentalist) and Young Vocalist of the Year were chosen by the team of three adjudicators. After a 12-hour day, we all went home, very satisfied with the way the day had gone.



Young Musician of the Year, Fred Blackshaw, with the three Adjudicators - Nathan Williamson, Derek Harrison and Florian Mitrea

On the following Monday, April 24, 20 club members, partners and friends drove to North Weald Airfield, where we visited the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Visitor Centre. After an interesting talk by two of the volunteers, we were fortunate to be able to watch the helicopter return to base after a mission and to meet the paramedics, doctors, and crew. It was a very special experience. To top off a splendid afternoon, we visited the new Rosey Lea café facility, where we had a cream tea!



As a result of the number of Bank Holiday Mondays, as we meet Monday lunchtimes, our meetings have been delayed, but on May 15, we held our Business Meeting and AGM.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, May 11, it was all hands to the wheel for our Annual Golf Day – our major fundraising event of the year – more of which in my next report!

Margaret Webb



It's Spring again and everything's coming up Rotarians!



Glyn Jarvis -
Rochford

Rochford recently welcomed four new members to boost its numbers.

President Geoff Newman, centre, is pictured, left to right, with Rob Ardley, David Sales, Graham Turner, and Terry McEwen.

The club, which started life in 1985 with 28 members, now boasts 30 active members and six honorary members, to help it continue to expand its role, working in the local community.

Glyn Jarvis



President Geoff welcoming new members with open arms

Maldon's 61st birthday!



James Howard -
Maldon

Maldon celebrated its 61st year of service to the local community with a lunch recently, with over 70 guests including club members, members of Witham, South Woodham Ferrers, and Danbury and Villages clubs, as well as friends of Rotary, families, and representatives of District 1240.

Speaking after the meal, President Judy Smith thanked everyone for contributing to the club's success. Membership is increasing and we have a full programme of events planned for the next year.



After a fascinating account of his voyage to Antarctica, Andy Berharrell (pictured above with President Judy) was presented with a cheque for £1,000 for the charity, "The Woolverstone Project", which provides sailing tuition for those with disabilities. *James Howard*

Brentwood a Becket's been busy!



Jean McGinley –
Brentwood a
Becket

Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Essex, Graham Clegg presented Brentwood a Becket Rotary Club with a Certificate of Appreciation award for 5 years' service helping with the Poppy Appeal, by manning the stall inside Sainsbury store in Brentwood for the day. Rtn Greg Roberts Chairman of membership committee and Rtn Jean McGinley also received certificates for 5 years' service.

We were fortunate to induct a new associate member on April 24. Daphne Clarke has been attending meetings regularly for the past few months. She finally took the plunge and joined.

The Coronation Festival in the Park held at King Georges Park Brentwood on Monday, May 8, was an event to bring communities together in volunteering initiatives and all who took part were presented with a volunteer's badge by Brentwood Borough Council.

Brentwood a Becket Rotary Club set up a Tombola stall which was very popular, and along with Brentwood Rotary, who set up the Pimm's and Prosecco stall, and Brentwood Breakfast set up a "Rotary Village".

Our District Governor Jed Brookes and his wife Linda manned the tea and coffee urns throughout the afternoon.

The event was well attended, and everyone was entertained royally by the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band and St. Thomas' Church Choir. To top it all, the weather was kind for most of the day.

Jean McGinley



Danbury and Villages



**Eric Cater –
Danbury and
Villages**

We were delighted with the response to our quiz night in April. A capacity attendance ensured a successful evening. The fish and chips arrived on time and provided a welcome break from the questioner! The raffle too sold very well, with lots of good prizes, courtesy of Rotarians. We made a surplus of over £700 after expenses. We hope to hold another quiz in Little Baddow later on this year.

At the quiz we took the opportunity to pay public tribute to one of our founder members with the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship to recognise his exceptional contribution to the success of our club. David Denyer has given tireless service to Danbury and Villages Rotary since we started two years ago and has been a big part of our success. Formerly a member of Maldon Rotary, his nomination for this award was fully supported by them and made possible by the generosity of our mother club Chelmsford, for which we express our grateful thanks.



**Founder member
David Denyer
receiving his Paul
Harris award**

Danbury held a Coronation Celebration on May 7, and we were invited to help. We manned the car park, hosted a few games, and we had a gazebo selling soft drinks etc. This event was very well attended, and we will have made a surplus for our charity account. Fortunately, the sun shone, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was also another opportunity to publicise Rotary.

We arranged a tree planting at Sandon School on June 11 to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Pupils from the school were there to help us.

Another initiative we have undertaken at the request of Chelmsford Rotary is the collection of used blister packs that contained medicines of all descriptions. They have found a recycling resource for them. Boots the Chemist at Eves Corner have very kindly agreed to be a collection point for these items, and we will arrange their removal. A good contribution to helping our environment.

Our club artist, Geof Clark, presented one of his paintings to Kids Inspire for auction at their Ball on May 19.



The next event we have planned is a Race Night at Danbury Leisure Centre. This will be held on Saturday, June 10, at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are £12, which includes a fish (or chicken) and chips supper. Do come along and watch the races and perhaps have a flutter. Tickets are available from Linda on lindabrowning1@icloud.com or info@danburyandvillagesrotary.co.uk

If you would like to join one of our meetings please use the above contact details. You will be made very welcome. Our present meeting place is the Queens Head pub on Maldon Quay.

Eric Cater

Hornchurch and Upminster support worthy local charity



George Larkey -
Hornchurch and
Upminster

A few weeks ago, we had the pleasure of welcoming two members of staff from HAD (Havering Association for people with Disabilities), one of our chosen local charities that we have been supporting for the duration of President Christine Smith's two-year presidency.

The work they do, with the help of many volunteers, is wonderful and we feel very proud to be working with them. During the evening they were presented with a cheque for £1,500. The following letter was received the day after their visit:

Good afternoon George,

It was a pleasure chatting with you yesterday at the Railway Hotel. I just wanted to say a very quick thank you for the hospitality, everyone made us feel very welcome and was a very pleasant evening. A very big thank you to all the members of the Hornchurch and Upminster Rotary club for all their support.



I have attached some photos of the crocus plants which are now starting to bloom in our garden, and which you kindly donated to us. They are really coming along well.

If you are ever passing, please do come in and join us for a cuppa, you are more than welcome anytime. Have a good weekend. Kindest regards, Denise Hanrahan Community Inclusion Officer

Members of our club were delighted to present a cheque for £1,500 to HAD, which is one of President Christine's chosen local charities.



President Christine was pleased to present a certificate to Former Rotarian David Goodhill, who was made an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Hornchurch and Upminster for all the support he has given the club over many years.

George Larkey



Big Fun Day at the Cornelius Vermuyden School, bigger than ever!



A vibrant poster for the Rotary Big Fun Day. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting hangs across the width. Below it, the word "ROTARY" is written in large, bold, orange letters, and "BIG FUN DAY" is in large, multi-colored outlined letters. To the left of the text is the Rotary International gear logo, and to the right is a circular seal for Cornelius Vermuyden School featuring an American flag. A yellow rectangular box in the center contains the date "SUNDAY 25TH JUNE 2023", the location "Cornelius Vermuyden School, Dinant Ave SS8 9QS", and ticket information: "GATES OPEN: 12 noon - 4.00 p.m", "ENTRY: £3 adults under 16's free", and "PROGRAMMES: £1 including raffle ticket". To the left of this box is an illustration of a paint palette with a brush, and to the right is an illustration of three ice cream cones. Below the yellow box, the activities are listed in a colorful, playful font: "Craft stalls | Games | Rides | Car show", "Displays | Art trail | Ice cream | Fast food", and "and more including the Thundersley Superhero Alliance.". To the left of this text is a cartoon illustration of a red sports car, and to the right is a comic book cover for "Thundersley Superhero Alliance" showing a group of superheroes. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the text "Proceeds to Rotary Club of Canvey Island and Cornelius Vermuyden School".

ROTARY
BIG FUN DAY

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE 2023
Cornelius Vermuyden School, Dinant Ave SS8 9QS

GATES OPEN: 12 noon - 4.00 p.m
ENTRY: £3 adults under 16's free
PROGRAMMES: £1 including raffle ticket

Craft stalls | Games | Rides | Car show
Displays | Art trail | Ice cream | Fast food
and more including the
Thundersley
Superhero Alliance.

Proceeds to Rotary Club of Canvey Island and
Cornelius Vermuyden School

A very active Interact Club



Rod Bishop –
Canvey Island

Canvey club members Malcolm Tugwood, Faye and Robert Sayer, who spent two days at Morrisons Supermarket promoting and collecting, raising £225 for Rotary's End Polio Now Campaign



The Rotary Interact Club at Cornelius Vermuyden School held their annual Young Photographer and Young Writer competitions, and the winners were pictured in the School Spring news magazine. Also included was the Interact Clubs Easter charity raffle which raised £200.

The Interact Club currently have 16 members who are mentored by Rotarian Tracy Winch who is a teaching assistant at the school.



A page from
the Cornelius
Vermuyden
School
Spring news
magazine

Publication criteria for submissions to the 1240 District Bulletin

- Please send your articles as a **Word document**, **NOT** as a pdf, or a PowerPoint presentation, or a jpeg. Please include a **title** for the article.
- Please send **good quality** photograph(s), (jpegs please), with captions and/or **full names**.
- If you're submitting for the first time, please include a head shot of the author to accompany the article (or a photo that could be cropped).
- Please include the name of your club in your email.
- Links might not work, so please, copy and paste links into your browser.
- Please be aware of date-sensitive items. The DB will normally be sent out in the middle of each month (15th/16th).
- Make sure you provide a **full name** for everyone who is mentioned in the article (not just a first name).
- The deadline (not the target!) for submissions is the **12th** of each month, although "as soon as possible" is always preferred.

Thank you - Editor.

Smart Canes



David Pepper – South Woodham Ferrers

Our club was very pleased that Ellie Medhurst came to a recent Tuesday evening Club meeting at The Eatery.

Ellie, who is partially sighted, is shown in the picture with our President John Robinson and Rtn Raj Vora. She has supported our Swimathon for a number of years swimming an incredible number of lengths on her own. And we were grateful that she was prepared try out and tell us about using a new Smart Cane.

Via zoom, Ellie and Raj spoke with the inventor of the cane and she was given instructions on how best to use it, having used a white cane for many years. The smart part of the cane is a sensor, which vibrates in different modes to indicate an object in its path. This can be adjusted to detect things such as tree branches, open windows etc., rather like a car parking sensor, which a normal cane is not equipped to do.



This all came about when, a few years ago, Raj, together with members of our club and our twinned club from Germany, visited a school for blind children just outside Pune, in India. From the school's headteacher, who is also blind, they heard about smart canes and the contribution to mobility they make for visually impaired people. They also visited a centre where a group of blind men were making candles and gift items for sale to earn their keep instead of living on donations. We started the smart cane project to help. The project took some time to reach fruition, largely because of Covid, but some 500 canes have now been provided. Our thanks to Ellie for trying it out in our town.

SWF Food Bank

Some of the items supplied this month by the SWF to the local Food Bank are shown in the picture. Our aim is to provide five tranches of items (of which this is the second), identified by the kind volunteers at the Food Bank as in short supply.

Their workload unfortunately remains high trying to assist those less fortunate, and our club is pleased to "do its bit".



SWF's visit from the Brain Tumour Charity

The charity is UK-based, and is dedicated to funding research, raising awareness of brain tumours, reducing diagnosis times, and providing support - practical and emotional - and information, for people with brain tumours, their family, and friends. SWF was interested to learn more of the charity's work from Claire Howell, who has had a full time job for six years seeking to raise funds better to meet and to increase the charity's good works. Claire became involved following the loss of her husband from a tumour that went undetected for a long while. Only 3% of the Government's capital for research is focussed on brain tumours.

A number of us have had personal experience of the impact on families that tumours can have. Our President, John Robinson, shown in the picture presenting a cheque from the club, nominated the



charity as the principal recipient of charitable funds raised from the Swimathon, which the club held in March. Those present at our meeting also made donations to support the invaluable work of the charity. *David Peffer*

1240 Diary

DISTRICT HANDOVER	1 JUL	DAVID W	IVY HILL
SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 5 JUL	DAVID W	WRITTLE COLLEGE
DISTRICT FORUM	6.30PM 19 JUL	DAVID W	WRITTLE COLLEGE
ROTARY ACTION SUMMIT	15 - 17 SEPT	N/A	MIDLAND HOTEL, MANCHESTER
DISTRICT CONFERENCE (Jointly with D1260)	6 - 8 OCT	DAVID W	CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
SUPPORT TEAMS	7.00PM 25 OCT	DAVID W	WRITTLE COLLEGE
DISTRICT FORUM	9.00AM 18 NOV	DAVID W	WRITTLE COLLEGE
Pre-PETS	TBC	ANNE MORIETY	WRITTLE COLLEGE

NO ACT OF KINDNESS,
NO MATTER HOW SMALL,
IS EVER WASTED.

— AESOP

District Sports



**Derek Hutchinson
– South Woodham
Ferrers**

I am very thankful to all the Team Captains who played their matches promptly to enable the competitions to be completed by the end of March. The total number of teams entered was 63, with darts proving to be the most popular with 19 entries. However, only 26 clubs entered a team(s), less than half of all clubs! I would hope that this can be improved upon next winter especially for cribbage, dominoes, and snooker. These are not “fitness” events and even darts is not too strenuous as most of the time players are sitting down watching their teammates.

The Badminton trophy was won by Colchester Centurion, with Paul Hitchens and Chris Raynor their “stars” overcoming the challenge from Mo Sadiq and Graham Furnival.



Paul & Chris on the left of the court

The Darts Trophy went back home to Leigh-on-Sea where the quartet of Peter Millard, Keith Palmer, Dennis Freeman, and Alex Bunney overcame Rick Hale, Dan Austin, President Tony Dumper, and John Sowton of Clacton Jubilee “A”. After the singles legs, the score was level with 2 each, all decided by 2-0 scores. The pairs matches proved to be the deciding factors, with Keith and Dennis taking on Dan and Rick and managing to win 2-0. Next up were Peter and Alex against Tony and John. The first leg went to Leigh, with Alex making a fine, two-dart finish. The next leg was close with all scoring well, but Peter managed to hit the double one to win the final leg and take away the Alf Bush trophy.



Dennis in action watched closely by Rick and Keith

The Cribbage was won by Rochford’s Keith Holdsworth and Geoff Newman beating Elaine Stevens and Jim Benson from Clacton Jubilee “A”.

The Dominoes trophy went to the formidable pair of PDG Graham Savage and Rodney Stock from Bishop’s Stortford, with the runners-up being Chelmsford Phoenix.

Indoor bowls was won by Tony Chambers and Mark Harvey of Epping Forest beating Grays Thurrock.

Finally, the Snooker trophy was captured by Harwich & Dovercourt, thanks to Norman Cory and Graham Parmenter in a close fought match against Manningtree Stour Valley.

Many thanks to all of the contestants and I hope that we will see you again later in the year. *Derek Hutchinson*

Chuckles

Nothing succeeds like a toothless budgie.

My grandad gave me some sound advice on his deathbed.

He said, it's always worth paying a bit more for good speakers.

I was at the doctors yesterday he said I'm afraid your results don't look too good why is that Doctor he said my printer ran out of ink.

What do you call a Magician who's lost his magic?

Ian.

I said to the Doctor, "I've got an ingrowing toenail, athlete's foot and sweaty feet....".

He said, "I wouldn't like to be in your shoes mate....".

Had a policeman at my door. He asked me are you familiar with the letters HB? I said, "No, I'm not". "How about LS?". "No!". "What about JD?".

I said, "Hang about, am I a suspect or something?".

He said, "No, these are just initial enquires!"

I am trying to find the name of a comedy show from the 80s. It was about a bar somewhere in Boston I believe, run by a guy called Sam. If anyone can help me out on this, I'd be grateful.

Cheers.....

Elton John has bought a treadmill for his rabbit.

It's a little fit bunny.



I'm planning to tell jokes about building a wall.

Watch this space, there is mortar to come!

I was so bored last night that I memorised six pages of the dictionary!

I learned next to nothing.