

WOODROT

The aim of Woodrot is to be to be a medium of information and more importantly, a record of the activities of the Rotary Club of South Woodham Ferrers and its members.

40th Anniversary year

6

Our new
President
John Robinson



July
2022—20123

Contents

Committee members

Vice President Kush
says...

40th Charter night

Compliment

Jubilee Celebrations

New Members

PHF Award

Treasurers 40years on

Committee reports

Photo competition

Sylvia Skerratt

**“LET’S KEEP THE
FELLOWSHIP
GOING”**

“The Club is in a good place” said John Robinson in his address to Club Assembly. Five new members have joined in the past year. The recruitment of two lady members is a breakthrough and John hopes that this will lead to more women joining. “Let’s keep the momentum going, he said, “and if we can secure another three good members in the coming year I will be happy. So keep talking to people you meet and encourage them to come along as guests. It is equally important to get new members involved and feel properly included as a valued Rotarians.”

John does not want the Club to give up on the idea of a Satellite Club in South Woodham. We should be thinking of younger people we know who could be the nucleus of such a Club. “It would be a real feather in our cap”.

Compliance and safeguarding are important and should be properly overseen. John has asked David Osborne to fulfil the role as **Compliance and Safeguarding Officer** and he has agreed. “I believe that his background lends itself well to this role. So, for committees arranging events please liaise with David over getting a proper written safeguarding and Compliance Document for each event.”

John and his Vice President Kush have a lot of ideas for events throughout the year but is also up to members to say what they want. “There is nothing more sole destroying than coming up with ideas that members don’t like and are not supported. Let us keep the fellowship we have rebuilt this year.”

Officers & Committee Members

Membership Services

Kush Dave

Mick Fry	Derek Hutchinson
Don Wragg	Tony Graham
Ken Walker	Cec Norton
Eric Johnson	Roger Restell
Steve Evans	Dave Osborne

Youth and Vocation

Geoff Thompson

Paul Duffy	Roger Restell
Roger Gatford	Dino Kahn
Derek Hutchinson	Ces Norton
Graham Pretty	

President

John Robinson

Vice President

Kush Dave

Junior Vice

Steve Evans

Secretary

Derek Hutchinson

Treasurer

Don Wragg

P R O

Tony Graham

Almoner

Mick Fry

Speaker sec

Eric Johnson

Safeguard & Compliance

Dave Osborne

Community Services

David Peffer

David Shea	Roger Restell
John Acklaw	Peter Ferry
Kush Dave	Tony Graham
Terry Tilbrook	Ken Walker
Don Wragg	Graham Pretty
Steve Evans	Lisa Kelly
Tory Melliush	

International / Foundation

Terry Tilbrook

John Robinson	John Acklaw
Eric Johnson	Raj Vora
Malcolm Sismey	Lisa Kelly
Mick Fry	



I am very much looking forward to working with my Membership Services team in 2022/23 and with the help of all Club members we will make the coming Rotary Year one to remember.

Kush

Vice President Kush says.....

I have been invited by the editors of Woodrot to outline my aspirations objectives for 2022/23 as Vice President. Here is what I hope to achieve:

- ◆ Encourage more fellowship visits by SWF Rotary members to other clubs.
- ◆ Encourage ALL SWF club members to join a committee or have a serving role within the club
- ◆ To introduce more members into the club either via existing members or other means
- ◆ Members handbooks to re introduced (although this will have to be determined by vote)
- ◆ Reintroduction of "A Candle of Friendship" (again subject to a vote)
- ◆ Arrange more events/functions/activities to encourage fellowship



GOOD TIMES RETURN AT THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

There can be no doubt that the Club's 40th Anniversary Dinner was an outstanding success. 110 members, partners and guests had a very enjoyable evening of celebration of the Club's achievement since its foundation in 1982. Good food and an excellent venue contributed to a happy atmosphere that had always been there on similar occasions in the past. More than one member remarked that the Club's "good times" had returned. In-coming Vice President Kush Dave summed up the feeling when he told Woodrot,

"Last night was a great success and it was lovely to celebrate such an achievement by this club and not only did I feel proud of how we have overcome recent adversities in the last couple of years, but I am full of excitement and anticipation as to how SWF Rotary can become even more stronger going forward."

Proposing a toast to the Club on behalf of the guests, former member and past President Trevor Ayres said that the Club can be proud of its 40 years of service to South Woodham Ferrers. President Mick Fry announced that the Club had raised over £500,000 for charitable causes at home and abroad since its foundation. A further £800 was added to the Charity Account from the proceeds of the evening's raffle and auction. Trevor Ayres, a life-long supporter of Tottenham Hotspur FC, paid £300 for a signed Arsenal football shirt. Such is the regard that a well respected former member has for the Club!



THANKS FOR THE COMPLIMENT

It is good manners to accept a compliment. So our thanks go to Margaret Webb who recently updated the Club on Jaipur Limbs. Margaret, a member of Bishops Stortford RC, wrote to speaker secretary Ken Walker to say how much she enjoyed her visit to the Club.

Thanking us for an enjoyable evening she said:-

“I think you are a fantastic club! The enthusiasm and good humour in the room was tangible! I shall tell my Club all about you”.

So there we have it. Confirmation of what we knew. South Woodham Rotary Club is “fantastic”!



The picture that went on Facebook of the bench (tree to come) in the Orchard.



SUMMER FLOWERS

Our thanks to Meadowcroft Nurseries for these summer flowers ready to plant in the Town Centre.

A BENCH AND TREE

The provision of benches where they are needed in favourite walking areas is a perfect way of showing that Rotary is working in the interests of the town's residents. So there was no question that the Club should respond to a request to replace a bench in the Community Orchard near Creekview Road. Being the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year and the 40th Anniversary of the Club's foundation, the Community Services suggested that we also plant a commemorative tree in the orchard. The bench and tree will be a symbol that South Woodham Ferrers Rotary Club will be around for generations to come.

SUMMER TOWN PLANTERS



A SMASHING JUBILEE



Rotary's "Smash the Crockery" stall proved to be a smash hit at the Platinum Jubilee Fete on the Village field. The queue of people eager to take out their frustrations by hurling wooden balls at china plates and cups lasted all afternoon. "It's amazing how such a simple idea is so popular" said organiser David Shea. Popular enough on this occasion to have raised nearly £300 for the Club's Charity Account.

Club members were also on hand to act as marshals during the day and into the evening when the Jubilee Beacon was lit by the Town's new Lady Mayor. After the event Tory Melliush, who had done a great job as chair of the Village Hall organising committee said, "Thank you for everyone's help and support today, what a successful event for the town."



Welcome to our three new members who were inducted on 12th April 2022



President Mick inducting the new members into the club

Left to right

Lisa Kelly Dave Osborne Tory Melliush

A WELL DESERVED AWARD

The award of a Paul Harris Fellowship is the Club's way of recognising the outstanding contribution of a member to its Rotary's aims and service objectives. The recipient is usually someone who has gone beyond Rotary's guiding motto "Service above Self".

No one merits the award more than Roger Restell to whom a Fellowship was presented by President Mick Fry at the 40th Anniversary Celebration. Roger is a founder member and past president of the Club and has described himself in the past as "A long standing and loyal member of SWF Rotary Club". Never slow to offer his time to the Club over the years, his practical skills and knowledge of sound systems has been instrumental in making the Christmas Sleigh a success. He was quick to offer his vocational skills as a printer and publisher as co-editor of Woodrot as well as producing and printing materials in support of membership and other activities.

Roger's commitment to Rotary is not limited to SWF Rotary Club. He is a member of the Executive Committee of The International Fellowship of Caravanning Rotarians. He and Christine are responsible for merchandising ICFR clothing and other items; a role from which SWF Rotary has also benefitted.

Well done, Roger!

JA

Paul Harris Fellowship



Happy 75th Birthday

Terry





CHARITY GIVING THE TREASURERS JOB 40 YEARS ON



Club Treasurer and founder member Don Wragg offers his insight into the Club's fund raising since its foundation.

Don writes

For many years the role of the Treasurer was relatively straight forward. The job is now more complex. Where once, the Treasurer simply collected cash, paid cheques and used the local bank branch for deposits, now there is on line banking, bank cards, QR codes, Gift Aid, "Invest my Community" internet fund raising, and international payments.

The club became a Charitable Trust in 1995 and we have to submit accounts to the Charity Commission. The Trustees are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each year new names are notified to the Charity Commission and the bank; and deeds of amendments have to be endorsed at special meetings.

*Since I have been Treasurer the club has raised and donated over **£150,000**. This year we have raised over **£21,000** and by the end of June 2022 we will have donated or agreed to spend **£20,000**.*

*In total the Club has raised **£500,000** in the 40 years of its service to the Town.*

WHO SAYS I DON'T LIKE SPENDING MONEY?

Don Wragg

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022/23

Club Assembly is an opportunity for the to look forward to the new Rotary Year. Our Committee Chairmen have mapped out their plans for 2022/23 and are looking forward to building on the foundation of a successful year following a difficult period of lockdown.

Community Services Chairman David Pepper reported that his committee intends to repeat and, where possible, better the outcome of successful events in 2021/22: Rotary Sleigh, Trees of Joy, and Swimathon. He looks forward to the ongoing support from the whole Club for these events in the coming year, benefitting from "the enthusiasm and camaraderie which prevails across the board in the Club". Money raising efforts and donations will focus principally on the needs of the Town and smaller charities nearer to home.

2022/23 will be a year to consolidate the progress made with projects initiated last year and before, said Youth Committee Chairman Geof Thompson. This means continued development of the Rotakids Club at Elmwood and promoting the establishment of a second Rotakids Club in Trinity St Mary's School. Geof reports that with a second Club in Woodham, effort should be made to create some sort of liaison between the two. The two Clubs will need a concentrated focus on development from the Committee.

Consolidation also applies to the Photography Competition. William de Ferrers School and Woodville Primary will be willing to participate particularly after their successes but the Committee will aim to attract entrants from a wider field. Thought is being given to a local competition to foster interest in general. Although consolidation of existing achievements is the Committee's primary focus in 2022/23, "Nothing is ruled out", said Geof.

Terry Tilbrook, International and Foundation Committee Chairman, looks forward to meeting our European partners at the Reunion in Saarbrücken and reminds the Club that it will be our turn next to host. An international weekend away will be planned. Collections for "Meals Around the World" will continue and the committee will seek opportunities to support refugees who have arrived in the town.

Winners of the National Competition



Geoff Thompson, chairman of the youth committee said that The Photography Competition may have had a slow start with the hangover from Covid limiting entries but our Judge, Adam Bennett, Secretary of our local Camera Club had considerable praise for the worthy winners who went on to impress the District Judges who awarded them first prize in each of the age groups.

We are hopeful of making this an annual event and discussing the prospect of additional local competitions to encourage involvement.



Emily Thompson (Senior)

Ruby Wakefield (Intermediate)

Kaiser Hume (Junior)



Well done the Rotakids club of Elmwood School



The RotaKids club of Elmwood School have raised nearly a whopping £800. Particularly given the stalled start, Elmwood RKs has done a magnificent job in raising nearly £800 plus useful things of all sorts sent to The Ukraine through Chelmsford Fire Brigade. We are going to present the club with a certificate from South Woodham Ferrers Rotary club in recognition of their hard work and enthusiasm.

Sylvia skerratt

The Rotary Club was well represented at the funeral of Sylvia Skerratt, demonstrating the high regard in which she was held by Club members. Sylvia was a long standing member of the Inner Wheel and was always there to help whenever the Inner Wheel or the Rotary Club needed it.

She was well-known in the International Caravanning Fellowship of Rotarians and was made a Life Member in recognition of her work. She and husband Peter organised many caravan rallies over the years, and attended rallies at home at abroad with Rotary friends throughout the country.

