

Rotary District 1240 Bulletin

September 2023—District Governor David Willis

“CREATE HOPE in the WORLD”

From District Governor David Willis



Dear District 1240 Rotarians August went past in a flash and my visits to your clubs still continue to impress me with how much hard work is being done around our district to make a difference in people's lives.

Just as important as creating hope in our communities and abroad is the support we give each other and it has been amazing to speak to so many people who have praised their fellow Rotarians for the help they have been given by club members through whatever crisis they may be going through. The fellowship we all enjoy is an important part of our organisation and I have been privileged to have met so many inspirational Rotarians at home and abroad.

Our Rotary Foundation plays a significant role in the positive impact we make in the world. I was recently reflecting on the reasons behind our contributions and how we can make our Foundation more appealing to clubs, and encourage their continued support for our own charitable efforts.

I am proud to say that my own club in Manningtree actually provided a higher amount to the Foundation during the last Rotary year than we claimed back.

So, why do we contribute to the Foundation? In general, most clubs give more than they receive in grants, recognizing the profound difference our contributions make in people's lives, both globally and locally. Supporting our Foundation allows us to assist clubs with projects that we currently may not be able to support on our own.

Furthermore, by giving to the Foundation, your club creates opportunities to apply for grants in the future, allowing us to bring the transformative power of Rotary to even more individuals.

Considering the decreased contributions to the Foundation over the past Rotary year, I kindly urge you to consider organising an additional event during the year to contribute a little more to the Foundation and our End Polio Now campaign.

As we head into Autumn and our thoughts inevitably turn to my favourite time of year in Rotary, Christmas, I was disappointed to learn that the Sleigh Tracker App that so many of us have used over the last few years is no longer available. I have tried contacting Duncan who designed the App without much success. So if there is a tech wizard out there who knows how to create something similar please let us all

As we all look at planning our walk a mile for polio events in October, why not combine that with picking up some litter on the way.

We are incredibly close to eradicating Polio from the world, and together, we can truly finish the job. It would be a proud moment for us all to be able to say in a few years time that we were the driving force in eradicating this awful debilitating disease from the world.

I have noticed recently how many groups have sprung up to help improve the environment. This is a great opportunity for clubs to engage and work with these groups and make a bigger impact in our local communities. There is the added opportunity of attracting new members to our clubs as well.

Our District Membership Team leader Steve Gale would love to hear of any initiatives clubs are taking to attract new members, especially if you are willing to come together to hold information meetings. He would also like to know if you have any potential new members. Our district membership is in plus figures which is encouraging and I have already met several new members on my club visits who have impressed me with their passion to get involved with their clubs.

As always my aim is to have fun, whilst making a difference and I hope you all continue with the fun and fellowship you continue to enjoy in your clubs.

Yours in Rotary

District 1240 DG David Willis

BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER

People Of Action - Aid for Ukrainians

Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower's Barry Howe has made a number of visits to Moldova, a small country bordering Ukraine, to deliver aid in this country and to fund and help build washroom and toilet facilities in schools where no such facilities existed.

The Rotary Club of Billericay has helped support these projects and reported on them in previous Newsletters. We were particularly moved by the reports made by Barry on his return from his last trip to Moldova where he saw at first hand two locations where Ukrainian refugees are housed, and how desperate is the deprivation in which they find themselves.

Disaster Fund Application

Barry Howe and Peter Greene of the two Rotary Clubs of Billericay, and Billericay Mayflower, got together earlier this year to see what could be done to help, and applied to the Rotary Foundation Disaster Response Fund for a grant which, together with donations by their two clubs, would fund a lorry of aid to Ukrainians in Moldova.



The issue was identified by the local community to Rotarian Barry Howe when he was last there in August 2022, and details were itemised in a WhatsApp post on April 28, 2023, in which this community appealed for food, toiletries, clothes and school supplies. (There are widespread shortages of basic foods and supplies.) The Grant request was made on June 12, and after review by the District Grant's Committee was approved at end July.

Act Fast! - Time was of the essence as the next scheduled Aid Convoy to Moldova was scheduled for just ten days later so timing was very tight, but both clubs "broke records" transferring the money to source all the goods and to pay for them within a day of receiving the grant, on August 4.

Barry pulled out all the stops, and collected the aid which was so desperately needed, and had it loaded onto the trucks and vans heading to Moldova. The bulk of the aid comprised food, clothing, children's pens, pencils, books, bicycles and toiletries.

BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER (CONT'D)

People Of Action - Aid for Ukrainians

The Aid convoy vehicles, one 18-ton lorry and one 40 foot Artic, plus two tall long wheel base vans, assembled at Albea in Colchester (cosmetic tube manufacturer who allow the lorries to be securely parked there). All the aid was loaded onto the vehicles there, and the vehicles set off on schedule on August 10 for their overland journey to Moldova, where they arrived on August 13.

Barry and wife Janet, (Janet is a member of the third Rotary Club in Billericay – the Rotary Club of Billericay Town) left at the same time in a separate motorhome and were waiting for the aid convoy when it arrived in Moldova. They were on-site to ensure that the aid was safely distributed to the Ukrainian refugees who needed it most, in the camps which Barry had visited on his previous trip last year.



Why Moldova?

It's a little known fact that ...

The Rotary Clubs of Billericay and of Billericay Mayflower were shocked by the plight of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and further investigation established that Moldova has received 718,657 Ukrainian refugees and 84,077 third country nationals since late February 2022.

Of these, 107,480 have chosen to stay in the country as of 16 April 2023, and of these, 47,298 are under the age of 18 years old. (UNHCR)

It is hosting the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per head compared to other EU and EU-neighbouring countries including Poland! (UNDP December 2022)



Margaret Webb

BISHOPS STORTFORD

August is usually a quiet month, with projects, because of holidays. But we did have some interesting speakers. On 7th, we were delighted to present Tim Havers with a cheque towards the work undertaken in Ukraine by him, Andy Graham and Jason Neilus. The same sum has been donated by our Satellite Club. We were very moved at our meeting on 31st July to hear about the 6 trips already made and the 7th planned before winter. Their courage, selflessness and determination is beyond words (see photo with Tim and Joint Club President Bernie Cotton). We shall be asking Tim back again after the team's 7th trip and will hope to get more local publicity for their splendid and selfless work.

At the same meeting, our speakers were Caroline Peat, Watch Liaison Officer, Broxbourne & East Herts, and her colleague Derrick Sweeney. They gave us a great deal of useful information and advice on the Neighbourhood Watch initiative, and encouraged us all to sign up for OWL (Online Watch Link) which provides members with the latest local alerts and crime prevention advice.

Just nudging into September, on 4th our speaker was John Miles of Global Sight Solutions, the Rotary charity which funds, in conjunction with Rotary Clubs in individual locations, eye treatment (mainly cataract ops) to restore eyesight for the poor. A cheque for £100 from the club was presented to John Miles by the club's International Service Team Leader, Alan Beere (see photo).



BRENTWOOD

Our New President

In July as a club we were able to celebrate Rose Bolton's presidential year and welcome Vicky Davies as our Second President. We enjoyed a great evening at Thorndon Golf Club where we were joined by Gareth Barratt, the new Mayor of Brentwood. As well as the usual agenda for President's Handover, Rose Bolton was delighted to present Paul Harris Fellowes to Richard Albon and Vicky Davies for their long and outstanding work in the community. We look forward to the coming year with Vicky at our helm.

Rotary Club of Brentwood at Play

Recently we have moved away from a local annual sports evening to a number of evenings once a year with a focus on a specific activity. On the 29th August Ian Kirby and his wife Frances organised a fantastic evening at Brentwood Bowls Club. Members, partners and Friends of Rotary were invited along and a great evening was had by all.



New Plans

As we move through our Indian Summer we have turned our attention to plans for Autumn. Activities underway for some new rotary projects, the regular monthly quiz and Charter Night and, of course. Christmas.

Quiz

We are still enjoying our highly successful, monthly quiz on line. If you are keen to get up a team or even join an existing team it is a great way to pass a Friday evening with friends.

For details please visit our website: <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=922020&ClubID=1393>

CANVEY ISLAND

‘T By The Sea’

With the sun shining, the Club held its 8th " T By The Sea " on Sunday 3rd of September on the Band Stand at Canvey seafront. There were three bands, all of which once again performed free of charge, to promote the Rotary Club of Canvey Island.



Crowds lined the seawall and the area around the bandstand where some were dancing, whilst others were outside adjacent bars and cafes. All in all another great day organised by President Elect Sue Hampson and Community/Vocational Chairman Tony Clarke.

Of the five members of the band Free Spirit, one guitarist - Iain is a past Club Member, whilst vocalist Kay is the wife of Club Member Alan Humphreys and also on guitar is our Club IT Officer Mike Machin.



Hedgehogs and the Environment.

I was recently invited to a meeting attended by a representative of Essex Wildlife Trust, to hear about the current plight of hedgehogs and that hedgehog numbers are decreasing rapidly all over the UK, threatening their extinction. There are a number of reasons for this decline including decreases in natural habitat, the uprooting of hedges in rural areas and the use of pesticides on arable land, fenced off and paved over gardens in urban areas. So, how can we help to stem this decline and encourage growth in numbers? The most important thing we can do, is to put a hedgehog hole in our gardens. This is simply a 13cm x 13cm hole in a fence or wall which can help to create a "hedgehog highway".

Further help is provided by putting out freshwater in a shallow dish; leaving out dog or cat food (they can be fed all year round and it will not affect their hibernation); avoid using pesticides and keep the garden chemically free (they are gardeners' friends because they eat beetles, caterpillars, worms and other invertebrates you might not want); check before using mowers, strimmers and lighting a bonfire; leave an untidy area of garden with long grass, weeds, wildflowers and leaf piles; keep an eye on dogs at night in the garden; cover open drains and provide escape ramps from ponds.

We can also encourage our children/grandchildren to keep a record of hedgehog sightings, information which should be gathered, and then passed on to Essex Wildlife Trust who are conducting a survey.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals and if you find one out in the day it is ill and needs help along with any that are visibly injured. Contact Hedgehog Haven Essex on 07709 767511 or South Essex Wildlife Hospital 01375 893893. For more information <https://ptes.org/campaigns/hedgehogs/>

Val Chiswell Environment Champion - Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary





Barbara Stroud

CHELMSFORD MILD MAY (CONT'D)

Visit by District Governor.

Chelmsford Mildmay Rotarians were very pleased to welcome District Governor David Willis to speak to the club on 15 August.

David is pictured here with Club President, Jean Harper.



Chelmsford Mildmay's Virtual Balloon Race Success

For the second year running, Chelmsford Mildmay Rotarians Phil Westlake and Roger Spall organised a successful virtual balloon race in aid of charity.

A virtual balloon race has, online, all the elements necessary, such as balloons and even kites and ducks, travelling through a virtual panoramic atmosphere with competitors' names added. After one week, the three balloons that have travelled furthest are declared winners.

This year there were 163 competitors and, with other donations, we received the net profit of £334.56 after payment for the prizes and the website lease. There were three prizes awarded - £50, £30 and £20 - with the winners ranging from 2 to 88 years old!



Phil Westlake's imagination was flying as well.

Firstly, he envisaged the route and final destination for each winner. For example, the first prize winner, which had travelled 10,406 miles, landed on the Eureka Centre in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. Secondly, poetic inspiration took hold of him and the virtual balloons were further celebrated in verse - now preserved for posterity in our online bulletin, Mildmay Matters!



In a virtual field just south of West Wittering
Where butterflies flutter and birds are
a-twittering

Stand tethered balloons of every known hue-
Inflated and ready to take to the blue

The skies above host cotton-wool clouds
Expectant to gather our spherical crowds

All marked with the names of the motliest crew
There's Chizzy and Betty with Honeybee too

The numbers are awesome and competitors wait
For release of one-sixty on the fifth of the
eighth

They'll travel one week to some far-flung domains
Which one is the furthest? The answer remains

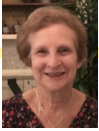
'Til the twelfth of the month when some lucky few
Will capture some cash and discover what's due

First fifty, then thirty and twenty is last
All other balloons these fortunes will pass.

When next time we stage this airborne event
(Our charities applaud these flights heaven-sent)

Good fortune be with you, may that be your fate

While your constant support we just celebrate.



Janet Littlewood

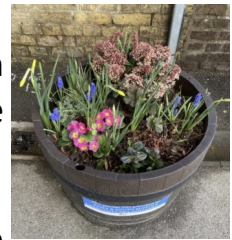
CHELMSFORD PHOENIX

During the summer, we decided not to hold formal meetings but had occasional socials at members' houses, Hyde Hall etc. We had an enjoyable barbecue in the President's garden and this year managed to escape the rain! During that meeting, we were delighted to present a Paul Harris Fellowship to non-Rotarian Martin Johns. Martin has supported Phoenix Rotary Club over a number of years by playing the keyboard at our Christmas carol singing in High Chelmer and keeping us all in tune!



Martin Johns receiving his PHF from President Mike, with his wife Elaine

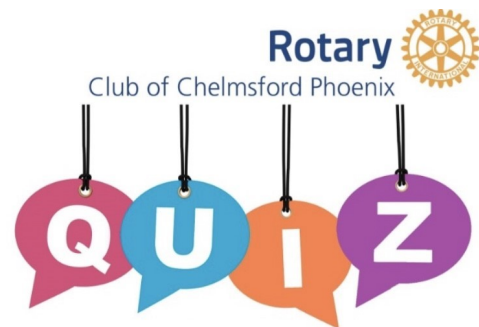
We have also continued with our community project, to maintain the planters at Chelmsford Railway Station in conjunction with the Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership.



Human Fruit Machine stall

In July, we ran our human fruit machine at the Helen Rollason Vintage Fair. We had great fun and raised £100 for Helen Rollason in the process.

We are now looking forward to the new Rotary year and our first fundraising event which is a Quiz Night on Saturday 14 October in aid of the Phoenix Children's Ward.



Saturday 14th October

CYGAMS, Meteor Way, Chelmsford CM1 2RL

7pm for 7.30pm start

£8pp

Teams up to 8 people

Bring your own drinks & nibbles

Raising Funds for
Phoenix Children's Ward at Broomfield Hospital
and other local Rotary charities

Contact Janet Littlewood
janetlittlewood910@hotmail.com

CLACTON-ON-SEA

More support for youth drama development

Clacton County High School has established an enviable reputation for drama and enthusing and developing the acting talent of its pupils to put on some truly impressive productions. The Rotary Club of Clacton-on-Sea has in the past recognised and supported the work done at the school to inspire pupils of all abilities to get involved, including those with disabilities, by helping to boost funds to pay for costumes and other materials. Sarah Cooper is a drama teacher at County High and is also a co-director, along with actor David Garlick, of the CO15 Theatre Group which is dedicated to staging and performing “provocative” works created by and for the community in and around Clacton.

The Theatre Group’s inaugural project back in 2021 saw them workshop and write a play about the legendary Weeley Festival, which took place close to Clacton in 1971 and since has gone down in music folklore. This festival was the brain-child of two members of the local Round Table who thought they might get as many as 10,000 people to attend. It was a run-away success with more than ten times that number turning up to enjoy music from many of the biggest names in rock music at the time.

It was always Sarah and David’s aim to develop this play into a full-on stage show and this year, 52 years on from the festival, their production called ‘Get it on’ opened at the Princes Theatre, Clacton. Sarah and David not only involved children from Clacton County High but others from five more schools around the district, more than 60 kids in all. A similar number of musicians, including a 24 piece orchestra and various bands, came together to recreate some of the sounds from the festival. The ages of all involved ranged from 11 – 71 years, underlining the huge local community support.

Sarah now wants to provide opportunities for the children to further explore how they can develop their acting talent and at the weekly lunch for club Rotarians on the 31st August, President Brian Henesy presented Sarah and David with a cheque for £1,000 - money they intend to use to help pay for a planned trip to London with the pupils.



CLACTON-ON-SEA

The formal Induction of Rotarian Derek Emerson into the Rotary Club of Clacton on Sea

President Brian Henesy invited Rotarian Rob Suttling to introduce Derek:

Rob spoke of his friendship with Derek over the past two years and how he thought he would become an excellent Rotarian. Derek has been to a number of lunches in the past six weeks and helped with the airshow parking and other events.

After the formal process, Derek spoke of his working background; 20 years at Southend Aircraft Engineering/British Airways, Medical Profession Engineer Manager and finally with the Civil Service. He then met all members who welcomed him into the Club.

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER



**WORLD
POLIO DAY**
24 OCTOBER

Rotary  

COLCHESTER

Rotary in Colchester donate funds to 'ABF The Soldiers Charity'

It was a pleasure to welcome Simon Ferrier and Alys Potter from 'ABF The Soldiers Charity' to our meeting on 15 August.

Simon gave us a short talk on how the charity supports Soldiers and their families throughout the UK, including some examples of the fantastic work that they undertake. They are also a major fundraiser and financially support many other Military Charities, who could not carry out the work they do without the backing of the ABF.

We were please to present them with a donation to their charity being some of the funds that were raised from the Rotary in Colchester 10K Race held in May this year,

The 10k Race is an event which organised and supported by all 4 Rotary Clubs in Colchester and the picture shows Presidents from all Clubs, together with Simon and Alys. A great example of 'Rotary in Action', in Colchester.



Picture L to R: Peter Rutland (Colchester), Colin Brodie (Camulos) Alys Potter (ABF) Simon Ferriers (ABF) Jackie Bowis (Centurion) Colin Bennett (Forum).



Peter Herring

COLCHESTER CAMULUS

Bikes for Ukrainian Evacuees

We were delighted to receive a further Rotary International Disaster Recovery Grant of £2,000 that is allowing us to purchase bikes for Ukrainian evacuee families based in the Colchester area. Last year we supplied about 50 bikes (again using Rotary International Disaster Recovery grants). When we asked the self-help group (Volya Ukraina) what they needed, the overwhelming response was “more bikes please”. We purchase the bikes from Facebook market place, carefully checking that they are safe and in good condition, we also supply a helmet and high viz vest- all packed in a sport bag supplied by Ellisons Solicitors. The first batch of 20 bikes were handed over to the group on 23rd July. It was so good to see the smiling faces of the happy recipients. The bikes mean so much to them. Apart from providing essential transport it is also a brilliant way of families being able to spend time with each other. We are now searching for the next 20 bikes!



Yarra Farm re-wilding project

Phase 1 of our project is now complete. We have planted around 250 hedgerow saplings around the border of our 2/3 acre project field and created 4 wonderful insect hotels. All this has been done in conjunction with the four special needs schools who are part of the project. We are now raring to go with Phase 2 which will include a wheelchair friendly pathway and a covered shelter for the children to use when they visit the re-wilding project. We are also in the process of restoring two bee-hives to keep the emerging wildflowers well pollinated – and of course to produce some wild honey. The project involves our colleagues from the Rotary Clubs of Colchester, Colchester Forum and we are very pleased that Rotary Club of Halstead have also joined the team. This has become an environmental project which also benefits the pupils of local special needs schools who love coming to the area and having some hands on experience.



COLCHESTER CAMULUS

Ukraine National Day

It was an absolute pleasure to be able to host a Ukrainian National Day BBQ at Yarra Farm. The self-help group Volya Ukraina asked if we knew anywhere they could hold a BBQ. We spoke to Sue Middleton, the owner at Yarra Farm, and she happily agreed to open up especially for the group. Staff at Yarra were also on hand to show the 30 odd adults plus children around the farm to see all the animals and feed them. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces and the occasional tears of joy for the opportunity to have a wonderful respite day and forget the horrendous situation the members of the group have in their home country. This was Rotary at its best – using our connections and acting as a catalyst to help people. Volya Ukraina presented us with an unexpected Certificate of Appreciation for the help we have provided them.



Clean Water for Mongolia

On Saturday 2nd September we held a fundraiser BBQ at the Shoulder of Mutton. All proceeds were to support our project in Mongolia to provide clean water. It was a very pleasant afternoon and not a burnt burger in sight. Thanks to all those who attended and helped to make this a fun event for all ages. Many thanks to Rtn.Jon Neill (Colchester Forum) for hosting the event at The Shoulder – a superb venue in Ford Street, Aldham – do visit if you like browsing antiques, followed by a lovely lunch or cream tea!



GRAYS THURROCK

A fabulous day on the Course

26 teams of 4 teed off on a shotgun start at Orsett Golf Club for the Grays Thurrock Rotary Charity Golf Day on 22nd August under sun and a brilliant blue sky. With some useful golfers entered, including last year's winning team, there was an intensive day of competition. Seconds before the off, a Spitfire flew low over the course which was a fantastic sight and then the gun was fired soon after at 2.00pm.

Teams came off the course at about 6.30pm, happy but tired after 18 holes and a very competitive Putting Competition. At the end of a long hot day competitors relaxed in the club bar regaling stories of the day followed by a lovely meal in the club dining room and a well-supported raffle, auction and prize giving.

The overall winner was Trevor Heaps who received the Griffin Residential perpetual Trophy, a winner's trophy, Champagne, a £50 golfing voucher and free entry to next year's competition. The Runner Up was Gary Bennett who also received Champagne and a golf voucher. The winning team was Gary Bennett (Captain), J Howard, Danny Gallagher and D Bennett who received a sheave of balls and wine. The winning Lady by one point, was Sue Lister and Dave Oakley managed to win a hotly contested Putting Competition by sinking three out of his four balls. Nearest the pin on the 3rd, was won by Dave Lister and nearest the pin in 2 on the 6th, was won by Scott Ourton. There was also a Beat the Pro session which everyone enjoyed, save for perhaps the pro who had to play the same hole 26 times. Having said that those organising the Putting Competition had to watch the same put over 400 times, but all good fun. The raffle was well supported by everyone and had some great prizes, including a TV, a Hamper, a handbag, lots of spirits and vouchers for golf and restaurants from our sponsors.

It was a good club team effort but particular thanks go to event organiser Ray Smallcombe, scorer John Smith, Dave Wheatley on programme and admin, Ivan North on entry coordination, Clive Page and Adrian Alsop running the Putting Competition, Dave Hamilton on photography, Kevin Watkins on the raffle and Steve Quigley as score runner. Our principle sponsor Griffins Residential and indeed all our other sponsors, were generous in their support of the event and in all we managed to raise over [£5,000] which will go towards our Clubs charities. Club Past President Clive Page presented the trophies and thanked in particular all the sponsors for their continued support.

GRAYS THURROCK (CONT'D)

Grays Thurrock on our recent Charity Golf Day and some pictures - the first is some action from the course, the second the overall winner and the third the overall winning team.



HORNCHURCH & UPMINSTER

Dereham House (Upminster) Summer Fete

In our planning for this Rotary year the club agreed to 'adopt' a local care home with the intention of supporting each other's activities. On Saturday 19th August we set up our Rotary tent at the Dereham House (Upminster) Summer fete. We were blessed with a wonderful sunny but breezy day and we entertained our customers with a game of PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT.

It was great fun even if the stiff breeze did blow the cards off the frame and threaten, a couple of times, to move the tent to another pitch. The small but enthusiastic group of Rotarians (Jim Haines, Ray Leach, Terry Smith, Norman Ellenby and yours truly) who attended with our PP Christine Smith, our event co-ordinator, had a good time and Christine went so far as to have her face painted.



A big thanks must also go to Rotarian Gerry Harrington and Ian, his brother in law who is a Rotary Friend of our club, for delivering and erecting our tent and collecting it afterwards.

INGATESTONE

SUMMER EVENING JAZZ

We were Blown Away!!! Well , Almost by the weather- at the Summer Evening Jazz on 15th July , IN THE GROUNDS OF INGATESTONE HALL



With our old favourite Classic Traditional Jazz of The Salty Town Six who got our over 700 crowd in a foot-tapping mood. Despite so many calls asking if the event was still taking place the entrance gate had people turning up in droves before 5pm, three-quarters of an hour early!!!

Probably because it wasn't very warm, the Scouts BBQ & Burger stand; Phil's Pizzas and Brentwood Brewery plus the Coffee Van did very well .. but sadly Molly's Lollies was a bit out in the cold!

However, everything turned out to be "Too Darnned Hot " when The Jive Aces hit the stage to great applause and soon everyone was dancing to the excellent tunes and music they played for us.

Thanks go to the many dedicated helpers we had who despite the rain on Friday and wind on Saturday made it all happen. Our sponsors and generous raffle prize donors plus our wonderful audience will ensure our charities receive substantial funds from our joint efforts, WHICH WE THINK IS IN THE REGION OF £12,000

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL - Rtn. Andrew Clarkson (Jazz Committee Chairman)

Charter Night - 22nd June 2023 Our 48th Charter Night Celebration

Our main social event of the last two months was our 48th Charter Night. 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.



INGATESTONE (CONT'D)

THE FAMILY BBQ

You've got to hand it to the **Pudneys**, they know how to put on a BBQ.

Having hosted it for many years now, it has become a highlight on our social calendar.

Sally and Alan , as always, left nothing to chance. The magnificent gardens—a wonderful groomed lawn, and some extremely attractive flowers and shrubs—were also boasting our new club gazebos, with tables and chairs set up.

Then there was our two stalwarts, **Helder and Celia Lemos** running the BBQ and Pimms stall. Helder has now increased his skills by offering three variations of his chicken, sausages, and burgers. They come either lightly burnt, moderately burnt, or cremated! And everyone just loves them.

There was 70-90 who attended— members, spouses, friends and friends' children and relatives , and most members' wives also brought food ,enough to fill the Pudney garage, with quiches, salads, rice dishes, and some wonderful desserts.

It didn't take long before everyone was enjoying both food and fellowship. This was interrupted on one occasion by a solitary **Lancaster** flying low over the field, and back again. Although we didn't have last year's fly past, you have to admire Alan for knowing people in high places!!

With every one content with the lunch, Sally started the annual games, mostly for the children and younger adults., although some more middle aged attendees joined in the fun. Otherwise, the majority sat and enjoyed the fun, or just took a Sunday afternoon snooze.



There was chucking the wellies, sack races, sprint races, and the inevitable rounders'. The latter revealed some real talent in our offspring, although some of the older members are down to a hobble these days. Sally gave everyone that participated, sweeties Everyone's a winner in Sally's eyes!

LEIGH-ON-SEA

Trust Links Westcliff

David Garston, Past Joint President of Leigh on Sea Rotary Club was delighted to present a cheque for £3000 to Trust Links Westcliff. The independent local charity members enjoy a range of activities including garden maintenance, art, music, employment support, vocational training and woodwork. Mr Garston chose Trust Links as his charity because of its invaluable support for a wide ranging section of the community, including those with mental health issues.

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



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

MALDON

KYDS, TIPTREE



The photo shows Rotary President Judy Smith presenting a cheque to representatives of the charity KYDS based in Tiptree. The money will go towards a new sound desk for this amazing, vibrant theatre company for young people.

Also this month, some £5500 has been distributed to local Charities and Groups including:-

Beeleigh Ancient Mill

Maldon Wentworth school

St Francis' School

Thomas Plume Library

Museum of Power

MATCHSTICK ROTARY

“Twas a good morning, Bernard”, so wrote one of the Rotary Worthies following a breakfast at the Marygreen Manor Hotel on Wednesday 23rd September 1987. That was the message of congratulation from Assistant Governor Geoffrey Player who had attended the breakfast meeting.

A special breakfast celebrating the beginning of the Matchstick club, started by a group of the Brentwood Presidents, that working together they might undertake even more projects as they moved forward, and their clubs grew.

Like many good ideas eventually it outgrew its day or maybe the idea of working together lost its appeal, we know not.

Not though the idea for groups of Rotarians continuing to meet quarterly for English breakfast at the Marygreen in Brentwood.

The only requirement in the early days was you were in rotary and male, well somethings had yet to change!

Numbers attending wax and wane, and so also the clubs from which we come. Today, some forty years on we meet every first Wednesday in the months of March, June, September and December.

Reading and maybe glancing at a recent picture gives an indication of the various interesting and enjoyable conversations, some rotary some not that take place at table.

If these few words prove to be of interest and an early start to the day appeals why not come along and join us—the sausages, the bacon is of the best.



RAYLEIGH MILL

Thursday 24th August saw the members and friends of the golfing fraternity of the Rotary Club of Rayleigh Mill meet up at Ballard's Gore Golf Club to compete in the annual Club Golf Championship.

The competition was preceded by a breakfast of coffee and bacon rolls before a relatively early start of 9:45. The weather was predicted to be showery but, as luck would have it, after a very slight shower soon after the start, the weather remained warm but fairly dull with a few bright patches during the competition.



The course provided an interesting and different challenge to the members taking part with some long holes and some tricky par threes. This resulted in the final scores being somewhat lower than expected. With everyone back in the clubhouse, the participants enjoyed a traditional golfer's lunch and a few well-deserved drinks before the event organiser, Dave Jarvis, totted up the scores and presented the prizes.

ROCHFORD

INTER-CLUB GOLF CHAMPION 2023

The Rotary Club of Rochford is pleased to announce the winner of the Inter-Club Golf competition for 2023 is Rotarian, Brian Hunt.

He fought off all his colleague golfers in the Club to lift the impressive Silver Jug Trophy. It was his second win in the competition as he also triumphed in 2018.

Current Senior Vice President, Rotarian, Ajay Desai is photographed on the right, presenting the Trophy to Brian who was President of the Club in 2021-22. Congratulations again, Brian!



SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT

‘Forget Me Not’ Dementia Club

President Peter and Secretary, Sue Stevens, had great pleasure in presenting a cheque for £100 to the ‘Forget Me Not’ Dementia Club at St. John’s Hall, Mountnessing. The money will be going to craft activities for their clients.



Piano Recital - St Peter's Church, Hutton - 30 September 8 pm. in aid of the Friends of Shenfield Library

As a Club, Shenfield and District Rotary support Shenfield Library and have become ‘Friends’. Your support for the Piano Recital would be welcomed.

FRIENDS OF SHENFIELD LIBRARY
PRESENT

PIANO RECITAL

BY JAMIE COCHRANE



SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023, 8PM
DOORS OPEN AT 7.30PM

ST PETER'S CHURCH, CLAUGHTON WAY,
HUTTON, CM13 1JS

Programme to include works by Beethoven and Chopin

Tickets: £8 (U18's: £5)
via QR code or
<https://bit.ly/piano-recital-jamie>
also on the door



SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT (CONT'D)

Home use Blood Pressure Monitors

It has come to our notice that a number of patients in the Renal Unit at Broomfield Hospital need to test their blood pressure at home on a regular basis but are lacking the monitors to do this. Many people in the Unit can buy their own but unfortunately, some are unable to do so for various reasons. We are, therefore, putting out a request for Rotary members to donate to the Unit any spare or unused monitors which they no longer have a use for.



We would be able to collect them at any of the District meetings or you can phone Gloria Nichols to arrange your donation. (07798 687046). Many thanks for reading this request.

Action Medical Research for Children

Four members from Shenfield and District Rotary set their alarms for 5.15 am on Sunday, 3rd September 2023 to ensure that they were ready at Writtle College to steward the annual charity cycle event in aid of Action Medical Research for Children. Over 700 cyclists took part. This is our fourth year supporting the event and the charity.

The charity fund groundbreaking research to help find answers that can lead to cures, treatments and medical breakthroughs for some of the toughest fights children face.

Across the UK there are thousands of children who are living with rare and devastating diseases that have no cure. To donate: www.action.org.uk/rare



SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT (CONT'D)



SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT

CHARITY QUIZ EVENING

SATURDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2023

7.00 P.M. FOR 7.30 P.M.

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
CLAUGHTON WAY, HUTTON,
CM13 1JS**

£10 p.h. Up to 8 to a table

SUPPORTED CHARITIES:

NEW LIFE WOOD AND OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES

Ploughman's Supper

Please bring your own drinks.

Raffle.



Contact: 07798687046 or gloriabn@live.co.uk

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Rtn Dr Geoff Kittle, Rotary District Compliance Officer joined a recent meeting.

With the guidance of our Rotary District Compliance Officer, an additional number of our members- principally those serving on our Youth and Vocation Committee- obtained DBS Certificates issued by the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as CRB checks). The Service is a type of background check which confirms an applicant's suitability for working with children and/or vulnerable adults. It's important to the Club that our Community is reassured about our members background when we are active in running events locally.

Left to right in photo, our Treasurer, Don Wragg; Dr. Geoff Kittle; our President, Kush Dave and Secretary, Derek Hutchinson.



Compliance Review 2023.

We gave over one meeting in early September to a Compliance Review for 2023 -24, led by our Compliance Officer Rtn Dave Osborne.

Dave focussed on GB&I Policies & Guidelines and in particular, all things legal. The policies, regulations and best practices in Data Protection; Equality & Diversity; Health & Safety; Safeguarding to name but a few are daunting. We are glad that Dave took over this role last year and is able to assimilate pages and pages of policies and guidelines to guide our Club.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20TH SEPTEMBER 2023 MEMBERSHIP MTG. 6.30 p.m. Writtle College

25TH OCTOBER 2023 SUPPORT MEETING 7.00 p.m. Writtle College

18TH NOVEMBER 2023 DISTRICT FORUM 9.00 a.m. Writtle College



Gordon Morrison

STORT VALLEY

Join the Great Big Walk for Herts 2023 Saturday 30 September, 10am start

Join Helping Herts, the official charity of Stort Valley Rotary Club for an unforgettable sponsored walk in the Hertfordshire country side to raise money for 12 children's charities in Herts. All the funds raised will go directly to the charities involved.

Each charity will be walking a leg of the Hertfordshire Way on the same day, totalling a whopping 180 miles. You can choose to sign up to one of routes depending on where you'd like to explore or if there is a particular charity you would like to walk with. Each section of the walk is between 9 and 15 miles long.

The Great Big Walk for Herts is being organised by Helping Herts who bring together remarkable local charities, united by a common goal: to improve the lives of our children and young people. By supporting Helping Herts you can become a catalyst for transformation and a beacon of hope for countless young lives across the county.

Gordon Morrison, president of Stort Valley Rotary and co-founder of Helping Herts, said: "It's going to be a great day out with all the charities out walking different sections of the Hertfordshire Way in one day. All the funds raised from the event will help many children and their families throughout Hertfordshire. Please join us on the walk or donate if you can."

For more information and to register your interest visit: <https://www.helpingherts.com/events/>

If you can't make the day, why not set up your own Walk for Herts? Pick a route, walk with friends and set up your own fundraiser on our website: <https://www.helpingherts.com>



INTERNATIONAL

District 1240 International – Rotary Action Group Against Slavery

Many of you will remember the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery. Our own Harry Payne was for many years secretary of this action group. He and Mark Little from District 1080 (Suffolk & Norfolk) were also involved in supporting Bakhita House which continues to provide a refuge for women escaping human trafficking and modern slavery. I understand from Harry that several of our clubs were involved in supporting this project at its creation.

Simon John from Thetford planned to cycle 1,400 kilometres from the Marian Shrines of Walsingham to Lourdes, France to help Anti-Slavery International's work to end slavery. His ride began on 26th June 2023 and Simon planned to arrive in Lourdes on 14th July 2023.



Sadly whilst cycling in France Simon was knocked off his cycle on 4th July 2023.

Recently Harry received this update on a fundraising effort supporting both the Bakhita House and Anti-Slavery International and he has asked me to share this with you and possibly support.

Initially Simon reported that his injuries were only minor, and he pressed on. Unfortunately, Simon developed a blood clot in his leg, which became a severe pulmonary embolism in the lungs and so regrettably, Simon has been unable to complete his planned trip. He had however completed 60% of the ride.

At the start of this ride, Simon said that he believed that everyone deserved to live a life free of exploitation. He felt that it wasn't easy to stop exploitation and secure freedom for a person during modern slavery, but Anti-Slavery International do just that.

Both Caritas Bakhita House and Rotary International Anti-Slavery are fighting modern slavery. Should you wish to know more, or sponsor Simon's pilgrimage ride links are below - at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/simon-john-1685616829573> and at <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhita-house.php>

ENVIRONMENT



Support the
Environment



IN PARTNERSHIP
WILDERNESS
FOUNDATION UK

**WE HAVE A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE WILDERNESS
FOUNDATION COME ALONG AND JOIN US BRING FAMILY AND
FRIENDS TO THIS WONDERFUL FACILITY, LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT
THEY DO AND HELP US MAKE OUR DISTRICT A BETTER, SAFER,
HEALTHIER PLACE**

Saturday 14th 11am - 2-pm October 2023
Unit 2 Whitbread's Business Centre, Whitbread's Farm Lane, Little
Waltham, Chelmsford CM3 3FE

Please cut & paste the link below into your browser to register.

[HTTPS://WWW.COGNITOFRMS.COM/ROTARYDISTRICT1240/WILDERNESSROTARYDAYOCTOBER14TH2023](https://www.cognitofrms.com/rotarydistrict1240/wildernessrotarydayoctober14th2023)





Publication criteria for submissions to the 1240 District Bulletin -

1. Please send your articles as a Word document, NOT as a pdf, Publisher, a PowerPoint presentation, or a jpeg. Do not embed photos in your written article.
2. Please include a title for the article.
3. Include a good quality photograph(s), (jpegs please), with captions and/or full names.
4. If you're submitting for the first time, please include a head shot of the author to accompany the article (or a photo that could be cropped).—(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).
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)