

W D R T

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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.



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OUR PRESIDENT SAYS....

Well, summer is almost over ("you may say what summer") and we move on into Autumn. Anyone who was away in the first week September had real Spanish weather and I was one them, spending the week on the Norfolk Broads.

Although the summer was not that good we were inspired by the Olympic games and although no spectators were present, the fun and excitement came through with the magic of TV. Our athletes did us proud again with a total of 65 gongs, just a couple short of Rio.

This was followed by the Paralympics which was also quite a spectacle with the team collecting a total of 124 medals; one of those, a Gold, won by our own Jonathan Coggan in the wheelchair rugby beating the USA 54 -49.

A great effort by all and our congratulations go out to them.

We are now having face to face meetings which has created a great atmosphere in the club. We also have a new venue in "The Eatery" and I must say we are being looked after very well.

The club is in good shape and we look forward to inducting new members shortly.

Thanks again to all committee members for their work in moving us on.

Well thats enough from me. So as winter approaches its time to sort the garden out, so get going.

It is nice to talk about other things than COVID, so take care and stay safe

Mick Fry
President

Rotary  South Woodham Ferrers Rotary Club

The club are pleased to announce the Eatery will be the new venue for its regular meetings on a Tuesday.



Committee Members

Membership service

John Robinson

Mick Fry
Derek Hutchinson
Don Wragg
Tony Graham
Kush Dave
Ken Walker
Cec Norton
Eric Johnson
Roger Restell
Terry Tilbrook

Community Service

David Peffer

David Shea
Roger Restell
John Acklaw
Peter Ferry
Kush Dave
Tony Graham
Terry Tilbrook
Ken Walker
Don Wragg
Graham Pretty

Youth

Geoff Thompson

Derek Hutchinson
Roger Gatford
Dino Kahn
Cec Norton
Malcolm Carter
Graham Pretty

International- Foundation

Terry Tilbrook

John Robinson
Kush Dave
John Acklaw
Eric Johnson
Raj Vora
Malcolm Sismey

A DONATION THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

“Another SWF Rotary donation to be proud of”, said Community Services Chairman David Peffer after Karen Lehner of Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled had written to thank the club for its support. The work of the RDA has been badly hit by the pandemic. It had to close during all the lockdowns but was opening up again in August and getting school children and adult riders back riding.

The benefit to children and adults with a variety of needs extends beyond the RDA simply offering them an enjoyable experience. Research shows that horse riding is both physically and psychologically therapeutic. Adjusting to the rhythmic movement of the horse involves the use of muscles and joints in ways that improve the disabled riders co-ordination physical function. Gains are made in social confidence and communication skill. The national RDA organisation did a survey of the impact of riding on disabled riders with following results;

68% showed improve communication, 77% showed greater confidence ,76% experienced physical improvement, 82% showed improved ability to build relationships.

Barrow Farm RDA is clearly a an organisation making a difference and worthy of Rotary’s continued support.

Vice President John says.....



Dear Rotarian's

Now we are permanently resident at The Eatery, I hope that we can finally get back to rotary as normal and I believe the club have made significant inroads to improving our position since the loss of twelve of our members some months ago. We are closing in on securing our first new members and I trust that you all agree that we are approaching recruitment in the correct way. Bringing guests along for a period of time, rather than, using an analogy, throwing mud at a wall and seeing what sticks! Hopefully, we can induct two or three members shortly.

We did our best to promote Rotary in the town centre on Saturday 25th and I certainly thought that we made an impact with our display and of course the Band headed by Roger and lead singer John (the man) Acklaw. What a talent they are. We are yet to see what impact this had, but if nothing else it was a good reminder to the town that SWF Rotary are still alive and well!

At a recent meeting SI chaired, Roger Gatford asked why Membership Services had agreed for the time being to only have one guest speaker each month. The main reason as our treasurer stated was to curb the financial cost given our lower numbers and the need to be mindful of the impact on our annual subs. We also felt that we would like a mix of speakers and not simply those that are charity based. It may be possible to obtain interesting speakers outside of charities at no cost and we can then donate to a charity of their choice. This way the cost comes from our charity account rather than the general account. So please think of those you know who would make an interesting speaker.

We have a joint meeting away to Kelvedon Club which is now full. These meetings are a good way to see how other clubs run and widens your rotary friendship.

I have arranged a guided tour of Ingatestone Hall on the 16th October and we have 15 attendees so far. The tour can accommodate up to 25, so if anyone wants to bring friends please let me know. The cost goes down the more we have. I will also arrange lunch in a nearby pub for those interested, so it should be a nice event.

If any members have any ideas on what you social events you would like Membership Services to organise, please let us know.

Regards John

Past Events



MEET THE PRESIDENT SUCCESS

Everyone agreed that this year's "Meet the President" event showed how strong the social side of the club remained after a difficult year. President Mick Fry thanked VP John Robinson for hosting the event in his splendid garden and thanked him and his Membership services team for organising a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon

for members and partners. "The Club went through a dark time last year but has come out of it stronger", said Mick. "Members stepped forward to take on jobs and this afternoon shows that we still have a club with a great atmosphere". Vice President John was especially thanked for work he has done to move the club forward.

A SOUTH Woodham man who was paralysed in a car accident has received a special wheelchair to enable him to pursue the sport he loves.

Jonathan Coggan, 18, took up wheelchair rugby while in hospital as he recovered from a serious road crash last April, which left him paralysed from the shoulders down, with just some movement in his arms and a little feeling in two fingers.

This week, the brave sports enthusiast, from Ormesley Chine, was presented with a £2,100 wheelchair by the town's Rotary Club, which used cash raised at public events like fireworks night and the Christmas sleigh to buy the chair.

"Jonathan's sister was in the musician of the year competition we held shortly after the accident and we were struck by the courage she showed in carrying on. After that we called the family and said if there is anything we can do then let us

By Katy Fisher

know," said Rotary spokesman Tony Graham.

At first Jonathan took up the four-wheeled sport as a "bit of fun" during his year-long stay at the spinal unit at Stoke Mandeville hospital, Cambridge.

But that interest escalated and Jonathan now trains twice a week in West Sussex and Middlesex, but until now has had to use a spare chair at training.

Jonathan, who eventually hopes to up his training to four times a week, said: "It's phenomenal to receive this, it's such a good chair. I didn't really know much about what the Rotary did before but it's great what they are doing."

"To me this means I can still be sporty and play sport to a high standard. Doing this has showed me there is still sport to be played whether or not there has been an accident."



ROTARY DIFFERENCE LEADS TO GOLD



Twenty years ago South Woodham Rotary Club bought a wheelchair rugby chair for a young South Woodham man. Jonathan Coggan had been injured in a serious motor accident which left him paralysed from the chest down. "My dad was driving me to college when a white van swerved across the road and smashed headlong into us. After the crash happened I remember my dad getting out of the car and I was thinking, 'Maybe I should get out too', but I couldn't." (essexlive.news, 13 Sep 2016).

Before the accident Jonathan had been an active young man with a passion for football. He was introduced to wheelchair rugby while undergoing rehabilitation in the Stoke Mandeville Spinal Unit. The donation of his first wheelchair enabled Jonathan to join the London Wheelchair Rugby Club. From there he became a leading member of the England Wheelchair Rugby Team taking part in international events across the world, culminating in winning a gold medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

His father, Nigel, still lives in South Woodham and hasn't forgotten how Rotary helped his son to start his career to Paralympic gold. Nigel contacted the Club's website to say

"So good to remember that South Woodham Rotary bought our son's first wheelchair rugby chair nearly 20 years ago and tomorrow 29th August 2021 Jonathan is in the Paralympic final playing for gold!"

As a club we can share in Nigel's pride in a small way. Rotary in South Woodham Ferrers really can make a difference.

Dates Coming up for your diary



Our International Partners

VIENNA IN 2022?

Manfred Spikowitsch, the new president of RC Saarbrucken St Johann is looking forward to arranging a reunion of his club with us and Meaux in Vienna during 2022 if the pandemic will allow. He was born in Vienna and promises to arrange an enjoyable trip.

Manfred sent warm wishes from his club following receipt of July's edition of Woodrot. In an email to our International Chairman he says that, like us, his club had to cancel face-to-face meetings and had to resort to Zoom meetings. They are resuming live meetings as most members are immunised. One Zoom meeting is held each month to enable the participation members with high health risks who do not attend the live meetings.

"Vienna would be an interesting venue for a reunion of the three clubs" says President Mick Fry. "Let's hope that the Pandemic doesn't stop us meeting our German and French friends for yet another year"



South Woodham Ferrers Inner Wheel Club

Are holding there annual Arts and Craft event at Champions hall On the 30th - £31st of October lets go along and support them

Members stories

.....just out of interest..

I read “The Leopard” by Guiseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa many moons ago and was surprised to learn that Italy, the cradle of the Roman Empire, had been a collection of Kingdoms, Duchies and City States and only became a united Country as recently as 1861. I gave no thought to other European Countries at the time. Recently however, amongst the glut of pandemic television watching, “The Great” touched on war between Russia and Sweden. Checking some facts, I discovered that Finland turns out to having been Sweden until 1809 when Sweden lost a war with Russia and a third of Sweden (Finland) was ceded to Russia as a Duchy under the Russian Emperor. It finally became an independent Country when in 1917, Lenin’s Parliament granted a declaration of Independence. Stalin of course tried to reverse this but that’s another story. Then there’s Norway!...Sweden until a war of Independence in 1914. Sweden lost – again – and that was its last war after which it sensibly decided to stop fighting anybody.

Geoff Thompson

Geoff’s article prompted your editors to look at the Rotary in Sweden. Rotary came to Sweden in early 1926 by the advent of the Stockholm Rotary Club whose charter letter was signed on February 20 1926. Sweden became the 43rd Rotary country and the Stockholm Rotary Club the 2,256th club in the world. Many Swedes are fluent in English and The Rotary Club of Stockholm International is an English speaking Rotary Club.

A THOUGHT:

FRIENDSHIP IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING

A professor of Evolutionay Psycolgoy at Sheffield University writes as follows:

“Friendship is the single most important thing affecting our psychological health and wellbeing. Most of the things we do with friends...all trigger the brain’s endoprhin system. Endorphins make us feel relaxed and contented, and trusting of the person we engage in these activities with.”

The professor’s list of these activities includes laughing, feasting and telling stories. So if you go home happy on a Tuesday evening it is not the alcohol making you feel that way but *Rotary Fellowship*.

News and views from around the club

RECRUITMENT DAY AT THE TOWN BANDSTAND



It Was also Global Citizens day so we can also add that to the clubs events

MEMORIAL

There was a good turnout of members in August for the Memorial to Past President Alan Hill. Alan had stayed in touch with the club despite moving away for family reasons. Past President Roy Bullen was also there. He too retained strong ties with the club since moving to Cheshire. Roy introduced Alan to the club and remembers him as a very self-effacing character. "When approached to be president he doubted his ability to carry the job, despite having served at a very high rank in the Police. An all round nice man" said Roy.

SLOW PROGRESS BUT FELLOWSHIP ON THE GOLF COURSE

Eight golfers had an afternoon's golf at the end of August organised by our Sports Officer, Derek. Two foursomes teed off on the Jubilee Course at Three Rivers Golf Club after a lunch of ham egg and chips. Four keen and competent golfers set off first to leave Vice President John, also keen and competent, to take care of the remaining three who we shall kindly call "keen novices" who tended to spend more time looking for lost balls than actually hitting them.

Being a true Rotarian John showed patience at the slow progress of his group. Arriving at the eighteenth hole as the shadows lengthened, they finished an hour behind the first group. No prizes were at stake, just the satisfaction of a good walk spoiled by a game of golf. And to adapt the Olympic motto, it wasn't the winning that mattered but the Rotary fellowship.

There is no such thing as a free.....

Our treasurer would like to remind members to try and pay up promptly for meals and other items as it makes his job easier to finalise and close and *please, please!* use the general account and not the charity account.

Spotlight on...



KUSH DAVE Junior Vice & True Rotarian

There are two reasons why Kush Dave is an ideal member of our Rotary Club. Firstly, he grew up in the Town and has lived here since childhood. Secondly he is committed to emulating his late father and making a contribution to the welfare of the community. Kush came to South Woodham Ferrers in 1963 when his father took over the village pharmacy and shop which is now “One Stop” in Hullbridge Road. His family lived in the flat over the shop and the young Kush went to the old Elmwood School before it moved to its present site in Guvs Farm Road.

From there he went to St Peters School in Burnham. Following a Business Studies course at Chelmsford College he “fell into insurance!”.

His father, Indu was a founder member of the club. Kush remembers that he was popular and respected in the community. “I definitely want to emulate my dad. I have a sense of pride in what he did, becoming part of the community”, said Kush. “Joining Rotary made sense because I want to give something back to South Woodham.”

Kush describes himself as “not shy of making friends, and independent in nature.” He had an outgoing personality from a young age, playing soccer for Woodham Radars and cricket for the “Whalebone” cricket team. Cricket is his passion. “It has always been in the blood”, he said. He recalls with some pleasure scoring a century for South Woodham Ferrers Cricket Club against Hornchurch. It is this history of being involved with the life of the town and growing up with a network of friends here that makes him an asset to the club.

Asked how he felt about being Junior Vice President and eventually President of the club, Kush said “I was a little bit worried at first. One thing I don’t like doing is letting people down”. However he is looking forward to taking on the roles because he sees the club moving in the right direction. He is positive about the club’s future: “The new members coming in combined with the experience and commitment of existing members means that there is a nice balance taking the club ahead”. Those are the words of a true Rotarian.

Drawing by C J

A man is not complete until he is married ...then he is finished!