

Rotary District 1240 Bulletin

August 2023—District Governor David Willis

“CREATE HOPE in the WORLD”

From District Governor David Willis



Dear District 1240 Rotarians,

With one month of the year already gone and quite a few visits completed I find myself in awe of the amazing and varied projects clubs are carrying out to create hope in people's lives.

It has been a real pleasure to get to know so many of you on my visits and hear your stories of how your clubs make a difference in the community. Getting around our district has been an interesting challenge and I have started to wonder that if Rotarians took on the task of replacing our road network it might get done more efficiently and far quicker. When Rotarians take on a cause we get stuck in and make great things happen, after all we are people of action.

I do hope that our recent inclement weather has not put too much of a damper on your events so far this Summer and you have achieved what you set out to do.

It was great to be able to go along to The Foulness Bike Ride on the 23rd July and I really enjoyed giving out medals at the finish line along with the lovely volunteers from the Spotlight RadioTherapy appeal from Southend. Congratulations to all of the Rotarians involved with organising the day and also to our very own Past District Governor Jed Brooks for taking part. I was fortunate to also be invited along to an amazing evening of Jazz at Ingatestone Hall where despite the wind and the need for several of us to hang onto the gazebo a great evening of Jazz was enjoyed by all.

The next day we were entertained at the Colchester Charity Festival in Colchester Castle Park by several choirs and orchestras on the bandstand all brought together by the Colchester Rotary Clubs.

Our District Conference in Stratford Upon Avon is now in the final stages of planning with all of our speakers booked and the Rotary showcase stands filled ready to inspire you. There are still some rooms left, so if you do want to join us for the weekend to celebrate all things Rotary and perhaps take the opportunity to grab a ticket for the RSC across the road then please do book soon to avoid disappointment. This is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new friends across two districts in the fabulous surroundings of Stratford Upon Avon and Sandra and I are looking forward to partying with you all on Saturday night. To book go to: Rotary Joint District Conference 2023 - Rotary D1240 and D1260 Joint District Conference 2023 (rotaryjdc12401260.org.uk) I am looking at organising a Spring Clean up day and will be sending out a date for that very soon. I do hope that we can get as many clubs out on that day to show what Rotarians can do to make our environment a better place for ourselves and future generations

BASILDON

We are so proud of our Interact Club at the Gable Hall School. Over the last year they have raised nearly £1,000 by holding film days and cake sales. Today they donated £275.00 to Mary's Meals, but other recipients have been Shelter Box and The Salvation Army. Next to benefit will be the Epilepsy Society. Well done Amelia, Maggie, Lucy and the team for an outstanding year. A special thank you to Gemma and Jeanette of Gable Hall for organising today's meeting. On the 18th July 2023, the President of the Basildon Rotary Committee attended Gable Hall School to present the Interact Committee with their titles and chains.

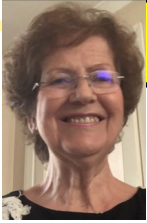
Amelia C was awarded President of the Interact Committee, Maggie was awarded Treasurer of the Interact Committee and Lucy was presented with Secretary of the Interact Committee. After the presentation of honours all of the students who attend the Interact Committee from Year 7 and Year 9 were provided with lunch catered for my the Basildon Rotary Committee. Gloria from Mary's Meals also attended the event to receive a cheque for £275 which was raised by our Interact Committee. Gloria spoke to the students about the Mary's Meals organisation and informed the students that they aim to help feed children in deprived areas of the world so they are able to access education for a chance to learn and thrive.

Gloria's speech highlighted to the students and staff how fortunate our students are to be able to attend school and to have easy access to education.

We would like to say a special thank you to Peter and Carol who have spent the year supporting our young students. Additionally, we would like to thank Mike and Victoria and Gloria for helping support the event today.

Lastly, a fabulous well done to the Interact students!





Margaret Webb

BISHOPS STORTFORD

In spite of the disappointing wet and windy weather in July, we managed to have a busy and interesting month.

We aim to have a social get together every month and, in July, this took the shape of a river trip. Canalability is a charity dedicated to providing the facilities for disabled people and people with special needs to enjoy boating on the river on its specially adapted canal boats. The charity also welcomes other non-disabled parties to use the boats, the income thus raised going to their funds. On July 13th, a party of 20 club members and family set off in two of the boats for a day trip on the River Lea, which involved traversing a couple of locks and enjoying an excellent lunch provided by club member Alan Beere's catering company. These are not narrow boats, by nature of their intended use, with wheelchair users needing the space to move around. So getting through the locks was a skilled business, with very little space for manoeuvring. In spite of the dull skies, culminating in heavy rain just as we were disembarking at the end of the day, everyone had a splendid time.



Our speaker on 17th July was Nicola Taylor, who grew up in Bishop's Stortford but now lives with her family in South London. After an earlier career as a beauty therapist, she is now a Funeral Celebrant and it was this role about which she spoke to us. She gave us a fascinating insight into why some choose to have a celebrant, rather than a service in a church. Funerals can be held anywhere, and there is no set format. Nicola talks to the deceased's family and writes a script incorporating their wishes and ideas, so it is a very personal farewell.

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the evening meeting on 31st July. Every time the month has a 5th Monday, we have an extra meeting in the evening rather than lunchtime, at which we try to have a speaker of special interest, who can thus have more time to speak to us than would be available at a lunch meeting. It is also a time at which we welcome partners and friends, and also encourage any potential members to join us.

BISHOPS STORTFORD (Continued)

On 31st July, 50 members, partners and friends were enthralled and humbled to hear the talk by Tim Havers and his long-standing friends, Andy Graham and Jason Neilus, about their six trips to Ukraine carrying humanitarian aid, mainly medical supplies, but with one trip dedicated to educational goods, so desperately needed, which brought such joy to the recipients. They cover their own personal costs for every trip, with a hospital with whom they have forged a link providing their medical cargo.



For their first trip they drove all the way to their destination, which proved too time consuming and exhausting for a small team. The solution was to fly from Stansted and pick up a car at the other end. They showed us the kit they wear and bags of aid they carry on the arduous and dangerous route they follow across Ukraine, through an active conflict area, in an old and underpowered vehicle. Previous training and experience fitted them for the role, which they felt compelled to do. A seventh trip is planned before winter - always unbelievably harsh in Ukraine, especially for those on the front line.

Three wonderful men, who left their own families at home to undertake their invaluable mission. We shall not forget their inspirational presentation and are contributing to the financial support they undoubtedly deserve.



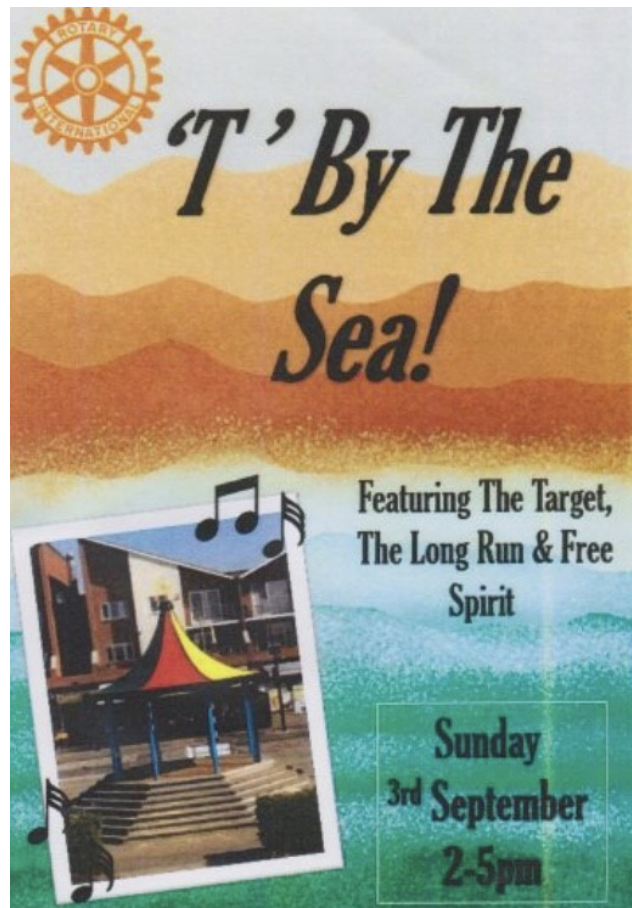
CANVEY ISLAND

'T' BY THE SEA

We are holding our annual " T " By The Sea on 3rd September 2pm-5pm, weather permitting.

The event is staged on the Band Stand at Canvey seafront and attracts a large crowd around the Band Stand area, the sea wall and nearby cafes/restaurants.

Many spectators bring along chairs and picnics to enjoy while watching the bands, whilst others prefer to dance.



CANVEY ISLAND (Continued)

At our Club meeting on Tuesday 8th August members and guests were given a talk by one of our newest members Luke Halsey. Luke joined the Club after previously being a member of our now disbanded Satellite Club.

Luke is actually the youngest person to join the Club since being Chartered over 40 years ago, and he is proving to be a very enthusiastic and dedicated member.

Luke is an Emergency Care Assistant who works for a number of private companies, covering events etc. and is a Health Care Assistant at Basildon Hospital, and he gave a very interesting and informative talk which included new legislation covering the number of health care personnel required at events proportionate to the number attending, following the Manchester bombing which sadly did not have sufficient cover.

He also went on to tell about some of incidents and events he has attended, which included the Coronation of King Charles.



CHELMSFORD MILD MAY

Chelmsford Mildmay Rotarians Fund Raise in the Rain

Torrential rain did not stop Chelmsford Mildmay members enjoying a cream tea on 30 July and raising £845 for charity.



Organiser John Bucknell and his intrepid helpers ensured that the tables were well protected by waterproof awnings so that not a drop of rain spoiled a happy and sociable occasion for the 64 people sitting down in his garden.

John thanked his guests, helpers and the Cream Tea Society and Sainsbury's for their support, commenting that the amount of money raised for charity far surpassed expectations, especially when the English summer weather presented such a challenge





Martin Sell

CLACTON JUBILEE

Food Parcels

With help from Tesco, members of the Rotary Club of Clacton Jubilee delivered 100 food parcels to Clacton Coastal Academy to be distributed to deserving pupils and families over the summer break. The picture shows Club members and teaching staff at the school receiving the donation.



The Club were also active at Clacton County High School when they gave financial support to the end of term production of Evita. The picture shows President Dan Austin presenting the cheque to the leading cast member.



CLACTON-ON-SEA

At the 2023/24 handover of Club Presidents at Clacton on Sea Rotary Club, Hollis Drake was surprised to learn that he was to receive an award. William Stevens asked members to cast their minds back to early 2022.

Membership and morale within the Club was at a very low point and we were facing the real possibility of closure. Within Club Council, no one felt able to take on the role of President – except one, at the age of 93. Having been a Rotarian for over 50 years, Hollis was absolutely determined that the Club would not close and volunteered to take on the role of President for 2022/23.

William went on to say:

"Hollis, the Club wishes to express its gratitude to you for all that you have done for Rotary, and this Club in particular, during this last Presidential year.

This award has never been made previously in this Club and it is my very great pleasure to tell you that you have been awarded a Sapphire Paul Harris Fellowship.

Your leadership throughout the year has been outstanding and the posts of President for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are now filled."

Assistant District Governor Sue Pipe presented the award.

In his reply, Hollis thanked Club Members for nominating him for the award but stressed the importance of recruiting new members to the Club to ensure that it was able to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2028 and continued beyond.



CLACTON-ON-SEA (Continued)

"Men's Health Screening

The Rotary Club of Clacton-on-Sea sponsored CHAPS prostate screening & NHS health checks for men on Friday 21st July at the Colvin Memorial Temple.

Prostate cancer is now men's commonest UK cancer causing up to 50,000 new cases and 12,000 deaths every year. Despite this the UK has no national Screening Program! Many men are unaware of the risk their prostate gland poses and UK mortality is worse than nearly all our European neighbours.

Members of the Rotary Club & Colvin Memorial Temple helped to set up the hall in advance of the event and Rotarians welcomed and co-ordinated the flow of personnel attending.

The appointment register was full at 128, some two weeks before the event. There was a waiting list and individuals were reminded of their appointments for the health checks regularly before the event, but sadly 11 did not turn-up on the day. The blood test results have already been circulated to individuals and I am aware that there are a number who have been advised to seek help through the NHS system due to abnormal results. So clearly it has done some good. It's just a shame that prostate cancer screening is not routinely funded by the NHS.

The Rotary Club has been sponsoring prostate cancer screening for many years in Clacton and on each occasion around 20% of those tested are categorised as Slightly Raised and Abnormal. Those Slightly Raised are invited back for further testing the next year and Abnormal cases are advised to seek immediate medical support through the NHS.



COLCHESTER

On Sunday 16th July The Rotary Club of Colchester ran a community event to raise the profile of over a dozen charities in Castle Park, Colchester. We had 5 different community ensembles performing in the afternoon ranging from shanty singers "The Hoolies" to youngsters from the Colne Valley Youth Orchestra with past president Nigel Hildreth entertaining the crowds with his singing. Other groups were 1st Class Brass and also Colne Endeavour Band. The entertainment was concluded by "FunkyVoices".

The public were not only entertained but also informed as they talked to charity stall holders and also with Rotarians who were well represented both within the city and in the district.





Ian McMeekan

COLCHESTER

R.I.P. DICK BARTON PHF

Brian Barton was known always as “Dick”, for reasons radio listeners from the late 1940’s would understand.

A local lad, he was an Old Colcestrian in both senses.

Dick was a man of many parts. His National Service was in the Black Watch, and he then went into teaching, finishing as Head of Stanway Primary School. A devoted Lexdonian, he was for a long while involved in the local study group, and around the time of his retirement, he qualified as Blue Badge Tourist Guide, which suited his interests in our town

In 1999, Dick joined Rotary Club of Colchester, and was very quickly involved in many of our activities. He proved to be a very active Chairman of Youth Service, and was long involved in the Dictionaries4Life we donate to a number of schools. He would give time and energy to so many of the Club’s activities, and would happily “shake a tin” with the best.

More than all this, Dick was very good company, at lunch or out and about. Many members felt he would have been a first class Club President, but he regularly declined.

Sad to state, he withdrew from membership in 2021, and became an Honorary Member. He will be sadly missed, and the Club sends deepest sympathy to Dick’s dear wife Shirley and all family.

SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT...

The (almost) annual Rotary Handwriting Competition took place at St. John’s Green Primary School in early July.

Over 30 entries, from Foundation to Year 6, with some very good entries. The various Year winners received calligraphy pens, and all entrants got a Colchester Rotary Centenary Pen.

The text was the two-verse poem by Siegfried Sassoon, “Everyone Sang” – one verse for KS1, both verses for KS2.

COLCHESTER CAMULOS

Presidential Handover

On a wet and miserable 4th July evening, around 50 or so (including DG David Willis) braved the rain to explore Yarra Farm and our re-wilding project and help Colin Brodie celebrate the start of his year as President of the Club.

A big "Thank You" to Sue Middleton & her family for their wonderful hospitality. A great BBQ Colin. The goats seemed to enjoy it to.



Rotary Disaster Recovery Grant

We are delighted to announce we have received a further Rotary International Disaster Recovery Grant that will allow us to source bicycles for Ukrainian Evacuee families based in the Colchester area. Last year we supplied around 50 bikes and when we asked the self-help group what else they needed the overwhelming answer was "more bikes please!". We have already sourced 20 good quality bikes and on 23rd July we will be handing this first batch over to local Ukrainian evacuee families. Meanwhile our search continues for further good quality adult bikes.



“Back to School”

Earlier in the year, the Rotary Club of Colchester Centurion received an open invitation to accompany the Bowden family on a visit to the Lingadzi Academy in Lilongwe, Malawi. The academy was founded and established by ‘Building Malawi’, a small UK based charity whose prime focus and purpose is to build libraries and schools in Malawi to provide quality and sustainable educational resources to local youth.



Charity No: 11455965 www.buildingmalawi.com

Located to the south of Africa, Malawi is a landlocked country surrounding lake Malawi, previously Lake Nyasa, which forms a large part of its eastern border. With a population of 19.5 million, most of the people are Chichewa speaking, although English is used for business and education. The capital, Lilongwe, is on a plateau around 1,000 metres above sea level, making it markedly cooler than other parts of the country.

After weeks of preparation including vaccinations, visa applications, new passports, air tickets etc. two of the club’s members, Robin Webb and Phil Hitchins set off on their ‘back to school’ trip, ready to discover the progress being made at the academy, meet some of the students and staff, and hear about their future plans.

As a club, we have supported 3 main projects at the Lingadzi Academy with the generous help of District 1240 Grants, and there is a fourth project pending, which Foundation is also supporting.

To date, we have enabled the academy to:

1. Install the Jumbo Water Tower (2020-2021) to provide the school and site with their own water supply (connected to their own bore hole) to enable toilet and washing facilities, and irrigation for the school’s environmental projects and studies.
2. Acquire desks and chairs (manufactured locally in Lilongwe) for up to 160 students (2021-2022) so the students have the right environment in which to learn and study.

COLCHESTER CENTURION (Continued)

3. Acquire computer desks and chairs for the school's computer suite (2022-2023) to provide a dedicated space to enhance IT literacy, knowledge, and skills.

4. (In progress) – Connect the site to the National Grid (powered by hydro) so the school can charge laptops, undertake science experiments, and have electric lights to enable extended hours and provide added security for students and staff.

Building Malawi is entirely self-funding and relies on the generosity of people and the likes of Rotary to raise sufficient capital to develop and provide the libraries and schools so desperately needed. Their main fund-raising event is held annually in July, where the Bowden family, with neighbours, open their Colchester gardens for a mini “Blues and Rock in the Garden” festival. This year's event attracted 560 individuals who enjoyed a great afternoon and evening's entertainment, greatly enhanced by some favourable sunshine and warm weather. As keen supporters of the charity, members of the Rotary Club of Colchester Centurion, set up, organised, and run the bar at the event with the help of families, friends, associated members and GoodGym, all helping to raise the awareness of Rotary working in the community and supporting the Building Malawi charity.

It was great to know that following all the effort of running the bar at the music festival, Robin and Phil's visit to Malawi was equally a great success. Along with Des, Caroline and Tom Bowden, their outstanding memories are the progressive developments at the academy and how friendly, open, and approachable the people were. Malawians clearly take great pride in the peaceful nature of their country, which is in such stark contrast to many of the neighbouring countries where civil war is not uncommon.



Des and Caroline, Pilirani Kapolo (chair of the board of directors for the Lingadzi Leadership Academy Secondary School), Tom, Phil Hitchins and Robin Webb

Finally, the group met fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Bwaila in Lilongwe, where two UNHCR representatives from Kenya gave a presentation about the refugee situation in Malawi. Two refugees from Rwanda and Burundi were present and along with our UK contingent, there was a visiting Rotarian from Uganda, so a truly international gathering. Robin and Phil also met up with Chance, a former Rotary Peace Student, who studied in Colchester and spent time with the Colchester Centurion club.

All-in-all, a back-to-school experience which proves the life changing values of education.

HADLEIGH CASTLE

Ukraine Painting Classes a Great Success

Thanks to a generous grant from Rotary Foundation Hadleigh Castle Rotary were able to offer guests from Ukraine living locally a painting course. Under the guidance of club member and tutor Maryse Iles the team of novice artists attended six weekly sessions held at The Megacentre in Rayleigh.

For each of the first five weeks participants painted a picture which featured a different flower which has special significance to or is common in Ukraine. Each of the flowers was then transferred to a larger canvas with the colours of the Ukrainian flag as a background.

At the end of the last session the attendees proudly showed their final finished canvases.

Julie Sawford Charity Director of The Megacentre said “feedback I have received from the attendees has been so good. I know that all enjoyed the opportunity to relax and be creative and produce some amazing results”



HALSTEAD

Membership drive at the Halstead Fayre, 5th August

On Saturday we had 8 enquiries about joining our Club, the individuals provided their contact details.

At a Council meeting , it was agreed that I would connect with each individual and ask them if they would be interested to come along to a planned event soon to understand more about our local activities.

The message sent was as detailed below:

'Thank you for taking the time to come to our stall on Saturday and chat about our Rotary activities in the community.

Check out our Facebook page as it has details of our activities.

Halstead Rotary - Facebook As we are a global organisation, we released a video during the pandemic that demonstrates several activities we support.

Is Rotary for you? - You Tube We are also planning to hold an information session soon; would you be interested in coming along? Again, thank you for showing an interest in the Club and I look forward to hearing from you.'

It is very exciting to have so many people interested especially as it was not the most ideal day to play human fruit machine or chat under an umbrella as the rain was persistent.



HORNCHURCH & UPMINSTER

Big Band Night

Once again our Big Band Night was held on 20th May at the New Windmill Hall Upminster and our secretary, Rotarian Terry Monk, introduced The Ken Turner Big Band. What a fantastic evening! We were amazed at the number of people who got up and danced. Who can resist the music and songs from years past, including the unforgettable big band era? Why is it that, even with a mixture of age groups attending, the songs from so long ago are easily remembered and sung along to? Pennsylvania 6-5000, Little Brown Jug, My Way, New York New York! We had a break from the big band music at half way and joined in to sing Jerusalem following which and in celebration of King Charles we sang the National Anthem.

This is a regular fun evening for our Club and friends with proceeds going to local charities.



Last month's bulletin I posted an obituary for Brian Taffs. This week we were informed by Jan Taffs that donations, made at the end Brian's memorial service held at the Hornchurch Methodist, amounted to £1,450. This sum was forwarded to Saint Francis Hospice together with a cheque from our club for £525.00 which was raised from the proceeds of the Big Band Night. How fitting ! Brian's Rotary activities raised many thousands of pounds for the hospice and he loved his music.

LEIGH-ON-SEA

Defibrillators

Leigh and Thorpe Bay Rotary Clubs plus the Carli Lansley Foundation are delighted to report the installation of their 15th defibrillator to the local community. This one will serve the busy Belfairs Parade of shops on Eastwood Road North.

Rotarian Peter Millard said 'we would like to thank Fayyaz Haji, owner of Belfairs Pharmacy for his cooperation in the request to install this life saving piece of equipment in a popular and busy shopping area.'

On hand to perform the unveiling were Southend Mayor, Stephen Habermel and Southend West MP Anna Firth.

The Mayor congratulated the two Rotary Clubs and Karl Lansley for continuing to donate the equipment to the local community.

Locations are at 8 points on the seafront plus Leigh and Kent Elms libraries, Shoebury Garrison Heritage Centre, Southend in Sight in Hamlet Court Road, Thames Drive and Thorpe Bay Broadway. All are for 24 hour availability.



The photo shows Southend Mayor, Stephen Habermel, Anna Firth MP, Leigh and Thorpe Bay Rotary Presidents, Janice Price and Pam Watson Jones, Karl Lansley Pharmacist Fayyaz Haji and Rotarian Peter Millard, Leigh Club

RAYLEIGH MILL

Presidential Handover and Awards

Monday July 17th saw the changeover to the new regime at the Rotary Club of Rayleigh Mill and the outgoing President recognising some of the members for their outstanding work during his year in office. President for the 2022/3 Rotary Year, Alan Clark, handed over the reins to incoming President, John Fairweather.

Alan, freshly back from a relaxing holiday in France, summed up his year and the successes during his time in office, particularly the success of our popular and ever-expanding Santa Sleigh visits, our golf tournaments, our success in being able to recruit some enthusiastic new members and, of course, the phenomenal success of Jackie Wellman's ReCycle unwanted bicycle collection which has now exceeded well over 1000 bicycles.

Alan then had the pleasant duty of awarding the traditional awards of Rotarian of the Year and the Derek Chardin Friendship Salver.

This year the Rotarian of the Year award went jointly to Jackie Wellman and Bob Taylor for their unstinting efforts in collecting the amazing number of bicycles, over two container loads, to ship to Africa where they make a huge difference to the people who receive them in areas where there is no other form of transport.

Alan awarded the Friendship Salver to Alan Bowers for his work in fostering fellowship in the club and in the local schools and community through the Purple Crocus planting scheme.



**Awarding the Friendship Salver to
Alan Bowers**

RAYLEIGH MILL (continued)

In this country Paul Harris Fellowships are granted on merit for outstanding work within Rotary. There are additional levels of this award for sustained levels of outstanding work. On this occasion Alan was delighted to award Jackie Wellman a Paul Harris Fellowship with two sapphires for her tremendous achievements with her bike collection and awarded John Cuthbertson a Paul Harris Fellowship with a sapphire for his contributions to Rotary Foundation, his hard work in inaugurating

the Rayleigh 10k Run, organising it over the last 4 years and, when the club was no longer able to sustain the run, it's successful handover to a running club. The award was also made in recognition of his stepping up to the role of Club Treasurer following the untimely death of the previous Treasurer, John Culwick.



Into the New Era.....



Alan then officially handed over the Presidency to John Fairweather who outlined his hopes, his aims and the challenges that the club faces in the coming year and introduced his Senior Vice-President, Ian Reading, who will succeed John in 2024/5.

Alan congratulating John Fairweather.

Looks like a light bulb moment!

President John Fairweather introducing his Senior Vice—President, Ian Reading.



RAYLEIGH MILL (continued)

The indefatigable Jackie Wellman continues with her quest.

Despite collecting well over 1000 unwanted and unused bicycles, Jackie Wellman and her trusty helper Bob Taylor have been out on the road again twice recently to collect even more bikes.

Jackie's enthusiasm knows no bounds. The bikes are life changing for the people who receive them in Africa. They provide work for the people who assemble and maintain them, they provide a means of transport where there is no other means and, most importantly, they reduce the time that young girls spend collecting water which enables them to spend much more time in education.

Jackie thanks all the people who donate bikes and will continue to collect bikes as long as there are surplus bikes in the area and people willing to contribute to this amazing project.



Jackie delivers her bikes to the ReCycle Centre in Colchester.

Bicycles, bicycles and more bicycles!

RAYLEIGH MILL (continued)

Another successful Paul Wellman Trophy Golf Competition

As luck would have it the members and friends who contested this Rayleigh Mill Rotary event managed to dodge the showers on what was forecast to be some quite changeable weather conditions

The competition took place the Three Rivers Golf Club Jubilee Course on Thursday 27th July when the members and friends enjoyed a not-too-serious day of golf for the Paul Wellman Trophy. The trophy is presented annually in memory of one of our past members by his wife Jackie Wellman.

The day started off with the traditional bacon rolls and coffee and the eager participants were out on the course for a 10:30 tee-off. 6 teams of three then then skirmished their way round a course that was in good condition and in warm but cloudy weather.

Results were varied with some participants more satisfied with their play than others.....and some achieving a win because no-one else had bothered to contest it!! The competition was followed by a hearty meal and the prize-giving.

This year the Paul Wellman Trophy was won by Carl Watson who came in with a score of 41 points. Alan Clark was runner-up.



The winner of the lady's prize went to Jackie Wellman and the competitions for the longest drive and nearest the pin went to Carl Watson and Bruce Broadbent, respectively. Rob Kitchin took the prize for the best visitor with Bruce again runner-up and John Cuthbertson got the consolation prize.



SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT

New Life Wood

After the talk at the District forum by Peter, the founder of New Life Wood, Shenfield and District members wanted to visit the premises to see for themselves the work they did. It was a warm, sunny day on the 10th August when four members of the Club visited the workshop. They were given a short talk on what they do and what had been achieved since they began the project and were shown round the workspaces.

They were also introduced to some of the members who had benefitted from the services offered by the charity. The Club were able to give a donation to New Life Wood and they had two happy customers purchasing some very well made goods from their 'store'.

Well worth a visit.



Whilst members of Shenfield and District Rotary visited Wat Tyler Country Park on Thursday, 10th August they were also able to visit BOSP. Unfortunately, none of the children were 'at home' and ironically were at Thriftwood School in Brentwood on an 'away day'. However, President Peter Dowse was able to present a cheque to BOSP towards buying some much needed new equipment. They were delighted with the unexpected donation

SHENFIELD AND DISTRICT (Continued)

Sad News and Good News.

Shenfield and District Rotary Club were sorry to see the retirement of Simmim Moodley, the Food Technology Teacher at St Martin's School in Hutton.

They are hoping to resurrect the Interact Club at the school and keep the Young Chef Competition going. Simmi has held the Young Chef Competition at the school for many years and has regularly provided winners to the Regional/Cluster Group stage. We are hoping the new teacher will continue with this competition. So good news and sad news. As President Peter gave Simmi a heartfelt 'Thank you' in



the form of a Rotary Certificate of Appreciation. She thanked the club and said she would join a Rotary Club where she is moving to in District 1260 so maybe a win-win situation.



Rotary 
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 gloriabn@live.co.uk/07798687046

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

President's Message.

Following my year as Vice President, I was pleased to accept the office of President on 1st July, for our 2023/24 year, in an active Rotary Club which has punched far above its weight and intends to continue doing so.



The Club intends to continue to make meaningful donations, as we have in the past year, to charities and other worthy causes. In this aim our year ahead will involve running again our major fund raising and community focused events, such as the Christmas Sleigh and the Swimathon. And, to mention a few other activities on our agenda, we will set up our Trees of Joy, providing books and toys for children who have little to look forward to at Xmas; help at the Town Xmas Fayre and provide service to the community generally along similar lines as previously, for example Benches for community use; planting in the Town Square; planting in Compass Gardens and supporting RotaKids Clubs established recently of which we are very proud.

Looking further afield, as part of a worldwide organisation, we have responded to disaster situations which seem to occur, far too frequently and will do so again as the necessity arises. And, I am fortunate in my Presidential Year, to be able to welcome members and partners from the Rotary Clubs of Meaux (France) and Saarbrücken (Germany), with whom we are twinned, for their triennial visit to our Club.

We will have many social events shared with partners in addition to fulfilling our motto of Service above Self. *Kush Dave*, President.

SWF FoodBank receive supplies from the Rotary Club.

The Club delivered to the SWF FoodBank a further tranche of provisions, purchased with funds set aside by the Club. For the year to 31st March 2023 our FoodBank needed to fulfil 10% of all the vouchers issued in the Chelmsford area. Each voucher relates to a single person; a couple; average family or a large family and in most circumstances it is a family member collecting. The supplies are intended as an emergency donation, not a long term fix, but are collated to last for at least three days. SWF fed 461 adults and 495 children - over 2850 days of help with supplies over the year thanks to the generosity of our Community. The need for help, sadly continues and the Rotary Club will give support where it can.

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Our visit to Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School

A number of Rotarians were pleased to accept an invitation from TSM to see in action the Forest Schools Project which the Club helped to fund. At present the project operates for the earlier years in the school but it will be extended to all children from the next academic year. Its purpose is to try to help alleviate the detrimental effects the Covid pandemic had on pupils. Sessions are designed to promote self-esteem, creativity, confidence, resilience and independence but also team building skills. Observing the children, it's good fun too.

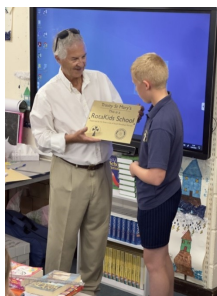


(Left) Our President, Kush Dave gets close to the action while Youth & Vocational Vice Chair Roger Gatford observes from a distance, talking to Sarah Broom who visits schools, helping to run the project.

Right, we are shown a piece of a meteorite dug up that very morning!



Geoff Thompson, Chair of our Youth & Vocational Committee then presented to Sebastian, President of the Rotakids Club a certificate from ShelterBox, applauding their recent, magnificent, fund raising achievement and a Plaque, since affixed at the entrance to the school, naming TSM as a RotaKids School. He and Roger were able to encourage a very responsive group to seek to fill gaps in their number occasioned by those



leaving TSM for William de Ferrers Secondary School and to talk about the possibility of establishing an Interact Club at the Secondary School.



SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (Continued)

Finding out more about Cystic Fibrosis.

Our Club received a visit from Kevina Goodchild on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. She gave a very informative presentation about the inherited condition, caused by a faulty gene, and about the only UK-wide charity dedicated to fighting for a life unlimited by it. With more than 10,500 people living with CF in the UK it was encouraging to learn that understanding and treatment are improving all the time helped by the Charity's cutting-edge research

President Kush Dave had already nominated the Trust as the principal recipient of Club monies to be raised at our Swimarathon on 15th-17th March 2024. Our Associate member Trevor Ayres and Rtn Cec Norton presented personal donations which were gratefully received.



Trevor, Kevina and President Kush (above left) and with Rtn Eric Johnson (our speaker secretary) and Thomas and Sophie parents of a child with CF(right).

Rotary Young Photographer Competition Award.

The Chair of our Youth & Vocational Committee, Geoff Thompson (right) and Vice Chair, Roger Gatford presented Daniel, of Rettendon Primary School, with a Certificate of Merit (Intermediate Category) for his excellent entry in the 2022/3 Rotary Young Photographer Competition. Well done Daniel.

We hope that the young pupils in the school will wish to take part in future competitions and events run by our Rotary Club and consider establishing a RotaKids Club in the school, which we would wholeheartedly sponsor to follow the success of two RotaKids Clubs already established in SWF.



SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS (Continued)

We hear further about the work of Mary's Meals.

Members of the Club were joined by guests; partners and Rotarians from other clubs for a lively and entertaining evening. Greetings, which were reciprocated, were given by or on behalf of the Presidents of the clubs and a variety of banter took place, sufficient to keep our Secretary fully occupied.

The evening concluded with a presentation updating us on the incredible work carried out by Mary's Meals. This charity sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education. Supported by her husband John, Geraldine Beaurain introduced herself as an ambassador for Mary's Meals, and told us of the work now carried out in some 18 countries, which started from the words of one African boy who said, when asked about his ambitions, "I would like enough to eat and to go to school". One meal a day, at their place of education, now requires providing nearly 2,500,000 meals daily to meet the demand and this is by no means exhaustive. All food is sourced locally, and the local community do the cooking.

Left with the memory of a moving video on the charity's work, including the women of one village walking three miles down the mountain on a dirt track to collect the food to feed their children which they then happily carried in 26 kg bags on their heads (up to three each), back up the mountain, our President Kush Dave was pleased to present Geraldine with a donation to their work on behalf of our Club.



WICKFORD

Hyde Hall Live wins again!

The summer kicked off in grand style this year with the fantastic Hyde Hall Live event, which has run for a number of years now. The collaboration between RHS Hyde Hall and Rotary Club of Wickford brought about three evenings of brilliant live music, much to the joy of the hundreds of fans who came along to the three events in late June.

The first evening saw the fantastic Motown Live entertain us to a sell out audience. An evening of Motown classics such as “Ain’t too proud to beg” “Baby I need your lovin” and many more thrilled the capacity audience for a brilliant night of live music, and got people on their feet dancing in the evening air.

On the Saturday night the Capital S band captivated the audience with renditions of Swing and Jazz classics such as “Pennies from Heaven” “Hold on to What we’ve got”, “Livin on a prayer” “I Wanna be like you” and many more.

And on Sunday The JukeBox Jets again thrilled the audience with 1950’s rock n roll classics such as “Let’s Twist Again” “Rock around the Clock” “That’s alright” and many more. Thanks to the ex-Sergeant Major who read out the raffle ticket numbers when the PA died! Monies raised for Charity donations including to St Luke’s Hospice in Basildon is looking good this year although the final total has yet to be established. Roll on next year!



WICKFORD (Continued)

An Unusual Handover

The annual handover this year was a little unusual to say the least as our President Pauline is continuing in the role for a second year. However, tradition has it that we use the event to celebrate the past and look forward to the future.



At a social gathering over dinner at the Magic Mushroom the members were reminded of the achievements of the Club over the past year, including donating just over £21,000 to various charities including the Pakistan earthquake appeal, St Luke's Hospice, the humanitarian disaster in Turkey and Syria, the Trussell Trust and Salvation Army foodbanks, Macmillan Nurses and the Macular Society and Rotary's own Foundation, as well as to a number of local charities and initiatives such as New Life Wood and Wickford in Bloom.

President Pauline also acknowledged the commitment and contributions made by two long serving members in Alan Prem and Richard Candler, who have contributed to the Rotary Club for more than 30 years and 25 years respectively.



Pauline was presented with a yearbook to commemorate her year in office in photographs, which drew much admiration.

The transition from President Pauline to President Pauline went very quickly (she didn't even take off her chain of office!) and received greetings from Wickford Inner Wheel President Jenny Smith, who wished her well for the forthcoming year. The evening carried on with the induction of new member Nick Mills into the Club. Nick has been a supporter of the Club for many years and finally took the plunge to make his association with the Club official. Pauline took great delight in inducting Nick, who also happens to be her husband!



WICKFORD (Continued)

Garden Games for Foundation

Foundation Chair Peter often comes up with some brilliant ideas about how to raise some money to put into the coffers and this summer is no exception!

This year Peter's ruse, in conjunction with Sports Chair George was to offer Garden Games to the members and friends with the aim of parting them from their money to contribute to Foundation.

And so it was that on a sunny afternoon in July we all got together in his garden to acquaint ourselves with the rules of croquet, darts, Connect4, pétanque and giant Jenga.

After a couple of hours of debate over the rules of each game, we then agreed that we had all won at everything, and so to celebrate we joined together for fish and chips and a glass of wine!

Donations to the event raised in excess of £250 to Foundation.



WITHAM

Our President and Members of the Rotary Club Witham extend an invitation to Rotary District 1240 Members to join us for a social evening meal and coffee at our weekly Venue, the Oaks Pavilion, Rivenhall Oaks Golf Club on Tuesday evening, 29th August 2023 7:00pm for 7:30pm.

The Oaks Pavilion is very comfortable and air conditioned, with excellent access and easy car parking. The meal choices that evening are:

*Scampi and Chips or Chicken and Bacon Salad. With coffee or tea afterwards
The meal cost per head is £15*

Optionally, If they wish to take part, we are hosting a group Adventure 12 hole crazy golf event before the evening meal, starting from around 5:30pm at the very interesting, challenging and unique "Bear Creek" facility at Rivenhall Oaks at a cost per head of £7.50. Putters and balls are provided. distance from the onsite 15 bay Driving Range. Left or right handed driving irons can be borrowed from golf reception and 25 balls will cost £2.80, 100 balls £7.50. If they want, a group can share a bay, driver and golf balls.

We trust that the weather Gods will be looking promising for the 29th August and we would be delighted if you can join us for that evening.

If you would like to come to our evening meal and or optionally to the Crazy Golf, or have any questions please contact Rotarian Paul Conway (email paulandmo.conway@gmail.com , 07930 583802) or President Keith Harman (keith.harman60@btinternet.com , 07808 232732). Numbers are limited so if interested contact us sooner than later.

Venue address: Rivenhall Oaks,
Evans Way (off Forest Road),
Witham, Essex, CM8 2PS





WALK A MILE FOR POLIO

Terry Dean, District End Polio Now co-ordinator tells how to “Walk a Mile to End Polio”.

Thanks to Rotary’s efforts, 20 million people have been saved from paralysis and are able to walk today. This fundraising activity reminds us of the life-changing difference eradicating polio is having.

Walk a Mile to End Polio is simple. Walk alone or in groups, just get your trainers or walking boots on, head outside and walk a mile.

This is great way to engage with a cross-section of the community, or just your club to raise awareness of our efforts to eradicate polio. This could be a country walk, a seaside walk, or just a walk in your town to a pub or café where you can spend time together with a drink. Then walk back!

This year, World Polio Day is on Tuesday 24th October, so events could also take place on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October for maximum participation and public visibility.

You might like to organise a larger walk or walk with your community. It could be at a Park Run or with another group. It just needs your club to plan it, and publicise it.

If you have links with a school you might interest them in a walk around the school field for Polio.

How to donate: Your club treasurer can donate the monies raised to the End Polio category of donations to RF UK in the usual way, or you could download the sponsorship form from www.rotarygbi.org/walkamile. You may make cheques payable to RFUK and post to: Rotary Foundation of the UK, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, B49 6PB. with the completed form or contact the office (rfuk@rotarygbi.org) to obtain bank details and a reference to arrange for a Bank transfer. For further information on donating please visit <https://www.rotarygbi.org/donate/>

Further information and queries: Contact Terry Dean District 1240 End Polio Now co-ordinator tandp.dean@gmail.com



The main points of Rotary’s bid to eradicate polio.

MARY'S MEALS UPDATE

MARYS MEALS = Direct Debits Tripled

This summer, Mary's Meals Direct Debits Tripled campaign means that the kindness of new regular givers will go three times as far. Anyone who sets up a regular gift to Mary's Meals by 29 September will have their first three donations tripled by a group of generous donors, up to £150,000.

And that's not all! For anyone who decides to increase their existing regular gift, the additional amount will be tripled for the next three payments.

There's never been a more important time to set up a Direct Debit to Mary's Meals. The certainty of a regular gift gives us the confidence to plan for the future – safe in the knowledge that, together, we are keeping our promise to the 2.4 million children receiving our school meals while we also strive to reach the next hungry child waiting.

If you wish someone to talk to your Club about Mary's Meals, please contact Gloria Nichols (Essex Branch, Mary's Meals) on gloriabn@live.co.uk who can put you in touch with a speaker.

The Essex Branch are currently collecting unwanted Foreign Coins for Mary's Meals and will have a stand at the October Conference in Stratford upon Avon.

DISTRICT DIARY 2023/24

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

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



Publication criteria for submissions to the 1240 District Bulletin -

1. Please send your articles as a Word document, NOT as a pdf, or a PowerPoint presentation, 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).
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)