

# WOODROT

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

## 40<sup>th</sup>



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### OUR PRESIDENTS THOUGHTS

Myself, Kush, Roger R, Ken and wives plus Derek attended the 1240 District Conference on the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> April. All of us felt that it was a very worthwhile use of our time and included some excellent and funny speakers. There was an environmental theme as this is a particular interest to our district governor. I felt if some of our newer members or even prospective members been present, there could have been no better introduction to what Rotary is all about nationally and internationally. We will endeavour to get one of the speakers along to the club, a young teacher in Essex who is planning to row the Atlantic with three friends in December 2024. He was very engaging.

The Rotary year is moving along fast and it will not be long before we will be holding our Gala Dinner on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, at which time I will hand over the baton to Kush. The Raleigh Golf Club looked after us very well last year for our 40<sup>th</sup> Charter Celebration and I hope the same will be the case this year. It will be a slightly lower key event in the smaller room on the ground floor with a disco instead of a band. One advantage if the weather is good however, is that we should have access to the outside which may be nice with the long daylight hours. So, if you have not booked in yet, please check your diaries and save the date.

The King's Coronation is also fast approaching and Rotary will have two stalls at the event on Sunday at the village hall, so David needs a lot of help from the club. It should be a fun day out too so please offer your support.

All from me for now.

Best Wishes

John

# Officers & Committee Members

## Membership Services

### Kush Dave

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

## Youth and Vocation

### Geoff Thompson

Paul Duffy	Roger Restell
Roger Gatford	Dino Kahn
Derek Hutchinson	Cec Norton

## President

**John Robinson**

## Vice President

Kush Dave

## Junior Vice

Steve Evans

## Secretary

Derek Hutchinson

## Treasurer

Don Wragg

## P R O

David Peffer

## Almoner

Mick Fry

## Speaker sec

Eric Johnson

## Safeguard & Compliance

Dave Osborne

## Sergeant at arms

Cecil Norton

## Community Services

### David Peffer

David Shea	Roger Restell
John Acklaw	Peter Ferry
Kush Dave	Terry Tilbrook
Ken Walker	Lisa Kelly
Don Wragg	Tory Melhuish

## International / Foundation

### Terry Tilbrook

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



## Vice President Kush says.....

Since the last time I put to paper, Turkey and Syria have been punished by an earthquake that resulted in horrendous consequences not only in the cost of lives but severe damage to property. SWF Rotary acted very rapidly, following the quick thinking of Terry Tilbrook and supplied these countries with 10 shelter boxes. Well done to Terry and all volunteers that helped raise the money for the boxes immediately

Gratitude also goes out to the four chaps that went to Gambia to ensure that their contribution so many years ago in establishing the school and helping the local children was continuing to develop and flourish. The photos really

said it all in terms of how proud not only the Rotarians were but also the local community in the work achieved thanks to SWF Rotary.

Finally, the Swimarathon was again a great success and a significant sum of money raised again, in particular, to aid the local Charities and the President's nominated charity, that being, The Brain Tumour Charity. Again, well done to David Peffer and his Community Services Committee and all the volunteers in helping to achieve this success.

Kush



## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR TONY

The Town Council has awarded its Distinguished Community Service Award posthumously to Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow Tony Graham. The award is in recognition of Tony's years of service to the Town, not only as a Rotarian but also as Chair of Governors of William de Ferrers School, guiding it for many years from its foundation to its establishment as an Academy.

The club is proud that the Council chose our friend Tony for the award from the several candidates nominated. Town Mayor Donna Eley presented the award to Maureen Graham who was supported by daughter Sue and son-in-law Nick.

## Two more new associate members



TREVOR  
AYRES

A past member and Past President of our club who has been supportive in several ways especially where youth is involved and we welcome him back as an Associate Member.



MIKE  
SMITH

"Through the generosity of Mike, Meadowcroft Nursery has supported the work of the Club over many years. There is no better example of their support to Rotary's principle of community service than the establishment of the Community Garden on the site of the Nursery. We are pleased that he has agreed to be an Associate Member of our Club."

## YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU

A call is out for members to give time to the Club's involvement with the Town's "Big Lunch" Coronation Celebration on 7th May. Pitches have been booked for our "Smash the Crockery" stall and an Information Stand to publicise the Club's activities to potential new members. The Information Stand will also be at The Friends of William de Ferrers School Summer Fayre. Both events offer great opportunities for us to show our faces to the townsfolk.



# 2023 swimarathon



This year's event was formally opened by The Town Mayor Cllr Donna Ely seen here with President John



BBC Essex responded to our request to Swimming Pool during a popular Sun-Acklaw were able to talk over the air ally. That had nothing to do with BBC's near future!



advertise the Swimarathon by visiting the day programme. Don Wragg and John about the event and about Rotary gener-decision to scrap the programme in the

## 1240 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Five Rotarians and four wives attended the 2023 conference at the Stifford Hall hotel on Saturday the 15th April. It was a very inspirational conference focusing on the need to change if Rotary is to survive.

It certainly wasn't boring, the main speaker had us all in stitches and some of his slides were so close to being unPC a CSO would have had a field day.

As for recruitment, when asked what does Rotary do we shouldn't be saying, we have a meal once a week or we bring the sleigh round at Christmas but that we help to change peoples lives.

We had a talk from a young teacher who was going to row the Atlantic with three other men to raise money and to be an inspiration to youngsters who he says since the pandemic have lost their get up and go. Also a talk about protecting the Oceans and regenerating coral and sea grass. A talk by a bee keeper and the state of the art Radiotherapy computerised equipment. We heard from HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex and the Mayor of Thurrock both indicating an admiration for Rotary. We were especially welcomed by DG Jed Brooks who thank us personally for turning up to support him. We had excellent fellowship, and all came away feeling we had a good time and also learnt something.



## BACK TO THE GAMBIA



“Going back and seeing the the school and the children was a moving experience for us all” said Mick Fry. Mick had returned to Gambia with Terry Tilbrook, David Shea and former club member Geof Clark to visit the Grace Baptist School in Bafu, Gambia. The school had been built with funds raised by the efforts of a group of club members over a period of five years. Led by Terry, the group had kept a careful watch on the progress of the build through regular visits to Gambia. This was a final visit after several years to see how the school was working.

The group visited children in three classes and met their teachers. “When the children were told what our club had done for them, we got a tremendous response of their appreciation”, said Terry. “They clapped us all and were full of joy at having a proper school to go to”, added Mick. The group were impressed by the school’s young teachers, some of whom they found to be very interesting.

The visit was also an opportunity to see five children whose education was being sponsored by David, Terry, and Geof. These are disadvantaged youngsters whose parents or carers could not otherwise afford to send them school. It was heartwarming to find that they were ambitious to do well and achieve qualifications leading to successful careers after school. The relative who was caring for twins sponsored by Terry told him that without his support he could not have paid the school fees himself, so without Terry’s help they would have had no education at all.

There is no doubt that the Gambia School Project was a major achievement. South Woodham Ferrers Rotary Club can be proud of its members whose hard work and dedication is making a significant difference to the lives of children today and for years to come.





## YOUTH AND VOCATIONAL

### PHOTO COMPETITION SUCCESS

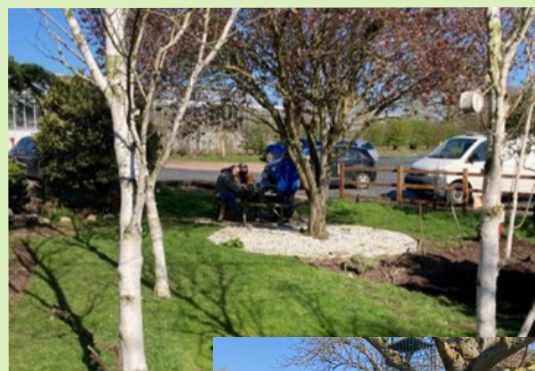


The second photograph competition organised by our Youth Committee has been a resounding success. The theme this year was "*The Beauty of Architecture*". Entries were forthcoming in three age categories and all were put on display in the Library. The standard of entries was excellent and the judge had his work cut out to identify the winners and congratulated everyone on their efforts.

One of the young winners, Emily aged 11 from William de Ferrers School, went on to win the District competition. Her photo of "A Regal House" will compete in the National Final of Rotary Young Photographer.

## THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Busy time at the garden with 11 people attending this week. If you wish to help please turn up. The address is Meadowcroft Garden Centre SS11 7QU. Buses run from Asda. for more information call David on 07947 389229. The Rotary Club would like to thank all who turn up to help. Also to Meadowcroft to make this happen for the community.





# Community service



## CLUB BACKING FOR FOOD BANK

*Our Community Services Chairman writes:*

Rotary continues to help the SWF Food Bank which is open on Wednesday mornings at the New Life Church in Clements Green Road. Club members have helped out with the distribution of collections for the Food Bank organised by Rotarian Lisa Kelly through the Asda store.

Gary Crocker, a retired policeman and volunteer at the Food Bank, recently told the Club about the throughput required to meet the increasing needs of those who find themselves in difficulty for many different reasons. Our Community Services Committee subsequently received approval for the purchase of supplies to a value of £500.

The view was taken that by spreading our purchasing every few weeks and in consultation with helpers at the Food Bank, we would better be able to focus on the items in demand at that particular time. This would also use the Club's donation to the best effect in support of people in our town. The first tranche was delivered in late March and with Lisa's help I will purchase more periodically, to a total of four lots.

*David Peffer.*

## TOM BOWDIDGE CANCER FOUNDATION



Club members were moved by the an account of work of this charity given by Lindsay Hurrell, seen here receiving a donation from President John. So much so that the Community Services Committee has asked Chairman David Peffer to find out if there is more that the Club can do do support the charity in a meaningful way; for example with a specific project that might be supported by a District Foundation grant.

As David put it, the enquiry is "just dipping the toe in the water" at this stage but it is just possible that the charity has a local project in the pipe line which the Club could back.

## RADARS SHIRTS TO GAMBIA

It is just possible that a top Gambian soccer star playing in a future World Cup Final Tournament will remember that his first "proper" football shirt displayed the Rotary rondel. Members visiting the Grace Baptist school took with them sponsored shirts worn by the Woodham Radars team at a Rotary Football Competition. On the advice of Baba, the group's contact in Gambia, the shirts were presented to a local boys' football club called "The Hawks."

"They were over the moon", said Mick Fry. "The manager couldn't believe it and the boys were so excited they wanted to strip off and try them on immediately". Eleven happy Hawks will be flying high in their new team strip!





## **BRINGING A LIFE TIME OF LEARNING TO SERVICE BEFORE SELF**

Dave Osborne and his wife, Susan, have had a home in South Woodham Ferrers for 40 years. Dave grew up in Chadwell Heath where his father was an officer in the Metropolitan Police. He had an active childhood in the Cubs and Scouts, encouraged by his father who was a leader in the Sea Scouts. He was a keen dinghy sailor and enjoyed the outdoors. Family holidays involved camping and Dave particularly recalls the adventure of a camping holiday in Europe where they went from country to country finally ending up in Austria. The achievement of a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and a visit to Buckingham Palace to receive the Queen's Scout Award from her majesty were early clues that young Dave was someone with bright prospects.

Dave joined the Ford Motor Company from school as a Technician Apprentice. As the years went by he gained experience and qualifications that led to increasing levels of responsibility within the organisation. His work demanded extensive travel within Britain, Europe, North and South America and India. During his time with Ford he relocated his family twice to Cologne in Germany. When he returned to the UK he participated in a joint degree programme between Ford and the University of East London, graduating in 1993 with an honours degree in Engineering.

His rise in the company's management ranks continued, becoming Lead Engineer coordinating a new engine production facility in Russia. By 2014 he was in a management role with Ford Land Division based in Cologne, having responsibility for building and construction projects throughout the Ford estate. "In June 2019 with more than 40 years service I retired from all this world travelling having enjoyed every minute of it", he said.

Introduced to Rotary by Kush Dave he was attracted by the idea of service to the community. Like many people he had not been aware of how wide Rotary International's reach was until he did extensive research on line for his role as Club Compliance Officer, "I had never appreciated how large Rotary International was globally", he said. "I had no impression of how large and organised it was." He detected similarities between the management style of American-based RI with the culture of Ford. "Reading RI documents entirely reminded me of my career with Ford".

He sees that Rotary fellowship is important "but we need to combine fellowship activity with more community activity and more fund raising events". He recognises that service to the community and fund raising are the keys to the Club's success. It was very clear from the meticulous and professional way he approached the task of Compliance Officer that the occupational skills developed in his working years are a significant resource available to the benefit of the Club's progress.

The Object of Rotary "recognises the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society". Dave Osborne's skills and vocational background surely make him an ideal Rotarian in pursuit of those objects.