

# W D R T

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

Dear fellow Rotarians

It has been a strange start to my year as president of the club for the second time, the first being in 1994/95. I am good at choosing years when I have other going on 1994/95, I was going through a divorce, this time the start has been affected by two unexpected hospitalisations and my 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday. So, apologies and thanks to Kush and last years President Mick who have had to stand in to run a few meetings in my absence.

So far, we have had some excellent speakers thanks to Ken and now Eric, a great visit to Layer Marney Tower for the 'Meet the President' function thanks to Kush, a trip to the Ross Revenge on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and what looks like to be a fun evening planned for our Christmas Party. Vocation and Youth headed by Geoff are making fantastic headway with Rota Kids and the Photographic competition and Community Services headed by David continue to support good local causes. So, let us keep it going.

We have also had two comprehensive presentations by Dave Osbourne our Compliance and safety Officer. I have asked David to take charge of a very dry subject matter and he has dealt with it diligently and professionally. So please bear with us on this, since what Rotary International and RIBI require is vastly different to how it was some years ago. It is difficult to view a Rotary website or go to a district meeting without hearing about Diversity and Inclusion etc. Once this is onboarded, apart from updates we can put this behind us.

I am encouraging Membership Services to think hard about other events and what we can include to keep meetings interesting, but if any member has ideas on what they would like to see please speak to me or Kush. At the next Council Meeting, I will suggest that we set aside a meeting to simply take views from members as to what they would like or see or be changed. Paul mentioned to me recently that he thought a 'Casino Evening' might be a promising idea and I arranged one of these a few years ago which was an enormous success, so I leave that for someone to pick up if it is thought worthwhile.

Membership is always on my mind and I am conscious of the fact that we have not seen any new guests attending so far this year, so please keep an open mind regarding those that you meet during your day-to-day activity as to whether they could make a good Rotarian. We need to continue to grow if the club is to survive long term.

Lastly thank you to John and Roger who take time to put Woodrot together and thanks also to all members who put in their time voluntarily in running this great Rotary Club.

John

# Officers & Committee Members

## Membership Services

### Kush Dave

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

## Youth and Vocation

### Geoff Thompson

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

## President

### John Robinson

## Vice President

Kush Dave

## Junior Vice

Steve Evans

## Secretary

Derek Hutchinson

## Treasurer

Don Wragg

## P R O

Tony Graham

## Almoner

Mick Fry

## Speaker sec

Eric Johnson

## Safeguard & Compliance

Dave Osborne

## Community Services

### David Pepper

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

## International / Foundation

### Terry Tilbrook

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



## Vice President Kush says.....

Where is the time going? I can't believe that I am already into the second quarter in my Vice Presidentship! My committee have been very supportive and we are continually endeavoring to find new members. In the meantime, we have reintroduced or are in the process of reintroducing, a couple of items from yesteryear.

The Candle of Friendship has returned with our most recent Paul Harris fellow, Roger Restell, donating a beautiful candle holder. David Shea has volunteered to host the first gathering. We are also in the throes of publishing a Member's Handbook for the current terms of office and we feel that this is useful not only to new members but for the current members as well.

Christmas is approaching with momentum and the SWF Rotary party is arranged at Channels Golf Club with a 47 strong turn out, which includes Inner Wheel members as well. This proposes to be a good "knees up", assuming that most of our knees can take it!

All in all, we are continually looking to arrange more events as well for this/next year with the support of our President, John Robinson. Onwards and upwards!





## Meet the President

### At Layer Marney Towers

A lovely afternoon was had by all starting with a guided tour of the towers by the owner who was very knowledgeable and entertaining followed by afternoon tea or scones and tea.





## Rotary funds two Nebulisers for SWF

**“These are much needed items” said David Pepper, Community Services Chairman.**

The Club has funded the supply and maintenance of two mains operated nebulisers at Crouch Vale Medical Centre. The nebulisers were provided by Asthma Relief, a charity established in 1997 to give help to people suffering from respiratory problems such as asthma, emphysema and chronic pulmonary obstruction. Asthma Relief is currently donating (free of charge) more than 1,500 nebulisers every year to people of all ages throughout the UK.

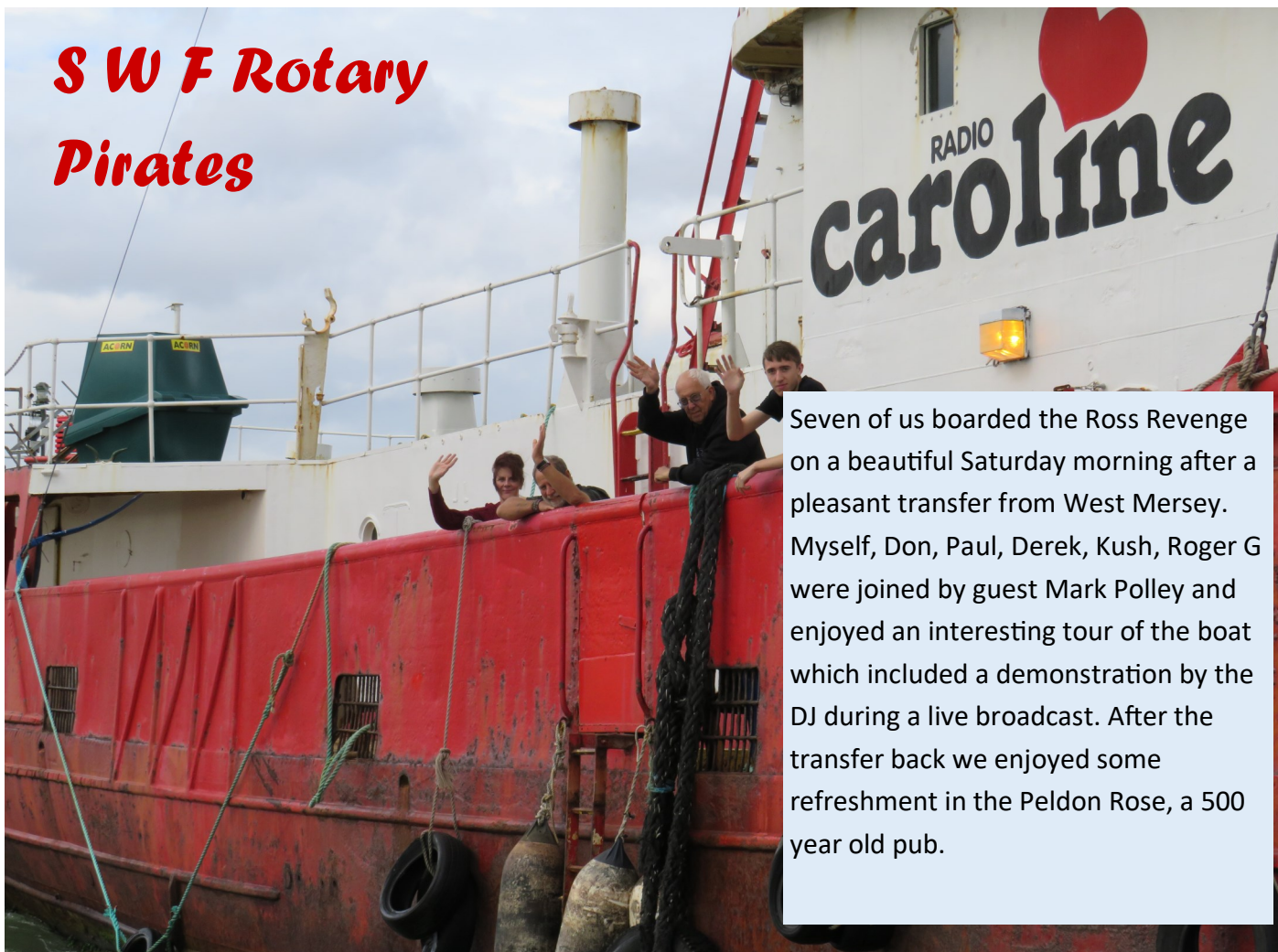
A nebuliser helps those suffering from breathing difficulties. It may, for example, enable a child with severe breathing difficulties to go on a family or school outing or an older person to get out of the house and engage more. Due to the cost, nebulisers are not always freely available to people with breathing related illnesses. There is an insufficient number of machines in our area and the Club is very pleased to fund two more, using money donated by the generosity of the people of SWF and environs.

**“We may well wish to donate more should the need arise”.**

### Donation from July to October

sthma Relief	01-Jul	Bktfr	380.00
Priory School Fund	01-Jul	Bktfr	200.00
Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled	01-Jul	1082	1000.00
Rainbow Trust	01-Jul	1083	1000.00
Friends of Elmwood School	01-Jul	1084	600.00
Single Homes Project	01-Jul	1085	100.00
TSM (Swimarathon)	01-Jul	1086	175.00
St Helena's Hospice (Graham Pretty)	13-Jul	Bktfr	230.00
Terry Tilbrook (Ukraine Food Appeal)	13-Jul	Bktfr	118.20
Don Wragg (Layer Marney Donation)	25 Jul	Bktfr	30.00
Farleigh Hospice	26-Jul	1088	400.00
	10-		
First Aid & Trauma	Aug	1089	200.00
Sarcoma UK	06-Sep	1090	300.00
Felsted Aid For Deprived Children	09-Sep	Bktfr	250.00
Essex Air Ambulance	10-Sep	1091	250.00
Shelterbox (Pakistan Flood Appeal)	11-Oct	Bktfr	500.00
Moshchun Project Ukraine	11-Oct	Bktfr	523.00
Mr B Carline (Ukraine Family Support)	12-Oct	Bktfr	50.00

## S W F Rotary Pirates



Seven of us boarded the Ross Revenge on a beautiful Saturday morning after a pleasant transfer from West Mersey. Myself, Don, Paul, Derek, Kush, Roger G were joined by guest Mark Polley and enjoyed an interesting tour of the boat which included a demonstration by the DJ during a live broadcast. After the transfer back we enjoyed some refreshment in the Peldon Rose, a 500 year old pub.



## ICFR MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Roger and Christine Restell who were awarded the title of *Members of the Year 2022* at this years ICFR Autumn Fellowship Rally. The award is made annually to an individual or couple who are considered to have made the greatest contribution to ICFR during the year. Roger is on the executive committee of the Fellowship and he and Christine are Merchandise Officers for the organisation, maintaining a catalogue of clothing and other items for ICFR members to purchase.

Roger and Christine are pictured holding the Sutcliffe Memorial Tray which commemorates the couple who set up ICFR 1967. Their names will be engraved on it and they will hold it for a year.





## Vocation and Youth

“Youth activities are many and varied and require a surprising amount of monitoring to keep alive. “ Says Geoff Thompson, Vocation and Youth chairman.

“At the moment we are on the verge of some serious expansion of involvement with our local Schools which we hope will lead to such opening Interact and Rotaract Clubs but achieving stability in what we are doing now takes much longer than one might wish.”

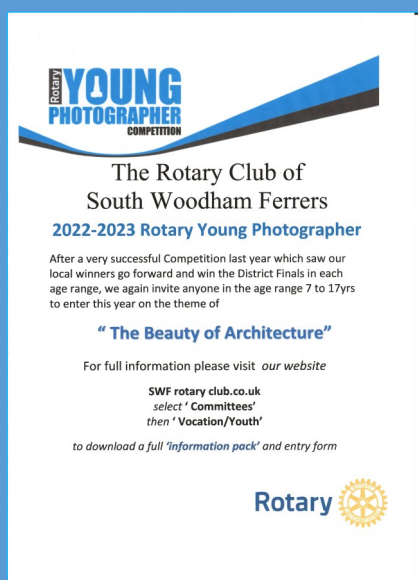


“We have a lot of potential now with the very real prospect of two Clubs.”

**Elmwood** has chosen as its International Charity focus, support of the Ukraine and will be channelling it through the Rotary GBandI Ukraine Crisis Taskforce.

“A Second **RotaKids** club at **Trinity St. Mary** is now heading towards its launch Keeping it in the family, 29 children have signed up to be involved in the club We may have a date soon but acquisition of twenty nine T-Shirts, badges and a gong.....and a bell, has to come first”.

## Photography and Art Competitions



Going ahead with on line entry thanks to Don's expertise in web knowledge

## GOOD TIME IN SAARBRUKEN



Mick Fry reports that he, with Dino and Anna Khan, had an excellent time at the Reunion hosted by The Rotary Club of Saarbrücken St Johannes at the beginning of October. "It was a very good weekend," said Mick. "We were very well looked after as guests of Rotarians families on the Friday evening and the organised tour of the local sites during Saturday was first class".

The Saturday tour included visits to the gardens of an old Abbey in the morning and an exhibition of prehistoric creatures in the afternoon. Mick thought the gardens were beautiful and described the exhibition as "fantastic". The day rounded off with dinner at a restaurant in France. "This was different from the usual Gala Banquet and was very relaxed and sociable", said Mick. "In all it was a very good weekend which would have been enjoyed by any of our club members had they been able to attend."

It is South Woodham's turn to host the next Reunion with our German and French friends. The International Committee is already considering plans to give them a warm welcome in the Autumn of 2023.

## A HOT GOLF DAY

Six members teed off at The Three Rivers Golf Club on 11th August at the Club's annual golf event. "It was a very hot day but very enjoyable" said organiser and Sports Secretary, Derek Hutchinson. Not everyone finished the course due to the heat. No record was made of the highest scorer or the number of golf balls lost. Which shows that for our Club it is the fellowship that counts, not the winning.



### Community & Well Being Garden Update October 2022

Rotary  
South Woodham Ferrers



October in the Community Garden has been busy. We have cleared some of the raised beds to make way for winter onions. We have made a new compost heap to recycle our waste. RHS kindly put on a bulb planting workshop that ten people attended this week





# ROTARY'S MR SOUTH WOODHAM

It would be no exaggeration to call Steve Evans "Mr South Woodham". He has lived in the town for most of his life and has owned the former petrol station in Old Wickford Road for forty years. Steve went to Elmwood Primary School and from there to Moulsham High in Chelmsford. His childhood memories are of roaming free in the countryside and lanes beside the river before the modern town was built. "We used to swim in the river and play in the mud", he recalled. He also remembers he and his friends collecting empty drink bottles to claim refunds at 3d a time from the local shop.

Steve came to South Woodham at 4 years of age when his father built two houses that can still be seen in Albert Road. As a teenager he had little time for school. "The only things I liked were Metal Work and Maths and I skipped school a lot." On leaving school he started in Fords Tractor Plant with the prospect of an apprenticeship. "But I really wanted to be a chippie and follow in my dad's footsteps in the building trade".

It was for this reason that he jumped at an invitation from an uncle to go with him to work on the construction of a power station in Germany. "I learnt enough German to be able to give instructions to the crane driver and other members of the team as their foreman". Steve has good memories of his time in Germany as a young man earning more than ten times the wage he earned in England. Eventually he had to return home for family reasons and take over the garage from his father. "I originally planned to build houses on the site but once I started working there I found I enjoyed it so much that I kept it on".

Steve has moved five times in South Woodham as well as living in Latchington and once owning a farm in North Fambridge. The enterprising nature that earned childhood pocket money collecting refundable bottles stayed with help when it came to buying property. "I always bought houses when prices were going up quickly", he said. Quick thinking enabled him to buy the farm when a West Ham footballer offered to buy his house if he would complete within two weeks.

Growing up in South Woodham and owning the garage has made Steve well known in the Town where, as he puts it, "Everybody knows everybody". Steve says, "I'm proud to be a Rotarian because I want to give something back. Membership and the friendship in our club has given me confidence and the sense of wanting to help anybody in trouble."

Steve says that he is at a stage in life where he and Sandra are still fit and able to do things and go to places that they never had time for while working. They have a bucket list of countries they want to experience. "This means that I can't do everything I would want to because there will be times when I will have so much else going on. But there will come a time when I can do a lot more".

Nevertheless there is no doubting Steve's commitment. He has established himself as a valuable contributor to the Club's fellowship and one who is always ready to step forward when there is a job to be done.