

FEBRUARY 2023

Rotary
Congleton

75
ANNIVERSARY

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S PATTTER

Hello team Rotary Congleton.
What another amazing month of doing good and having fun it has been 😊

I was inspired by the "Rise Against Hunger" meal pack we attended at Sandbach high school. Thanks to our team, complete with rather fetching hair nets and other volunteers from clubs in our cluster, we packed 30,000 meals that by now could have arrived in developing countries to impact the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Please copy this link to find out more:

<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org>



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And then on the same day we had the Valentines dance and in the words of the Four Seasons "Oh what a night". Huge thanks to the entertainments team for a fabulous evening of fellowship.

At the time of writing this month's patter, it is the eve of our race night, our organiser of this event and various others is Doug Parker, who for many years has supported our work with these great events – Thank you Doug.

Our brilliant teams are making a big impact in our local community from environmental to youth projects and much activity is planned for the months ahead – keep up your fantastic efforts.

In March we have our annual Swimathon event to look forward to. The team have worked so hard on this project and have filled almost all of the available slots – a fabulous result. This is such a fun event, do make the most of the opportunity to connect with the teams and their supporters.

Finally, I do hope you all enjoyed the new format huddle meeting. Thank you to those of you who have called me to say how informative and beneficial you found it. The evening was a direct result of the feedback received at the new members huddle, so please keep feeding back your ideas so we can continue to move our club forwards. Until next time – "Do good, have fun".

Kev

💖💖💖💖 Valentines Dance 💖💖💖💖

It had to be seen to be believed. The '60's reincarnated - led by compere Stew Price in fancy dress and several Rotarians, partners and guests joining in the dressing-up spirit. Psychedelic patterns, mini dresses, several CND badges and music of the decade, performed throughout the evening by local group, 'Nostalgia' made for a night possibly never to be forgotten! Kevin added to the nostalgia by reflecting on his earlier life with the group.

Games were organised by Eddie Roberts, assisted by David Brew. Chinese Bingo, followed by sliding pound coins on the parquet floor, curling fashion to get the closest to a bottle of whisky raised far more than the bottle cost in the first place. A young visitor, Lisa, from CEC won the fancy dress, even though no-one could understand why only she remained standing after Eddie's bewildering 'odds and evens' game.

So Rotary is back after a long period of lockdown with a brand new social programme being instigated by Stew. Having fun, and doing good. At least having fun, eating pie and peas, drinking beer and doing daft things in the Astbury Village Hall! A great night.



Mayor of Congleton Cllr. Margaret Gartside and President Kevin opened the New Life Nursery Sensory Room on Sunday, 12th February. The Sensory Room provides a peaceful haven where children with additional needs such as autism can explore and experience soothing lights and sounds and different surfaces. It is a calming area where a child can regulate its emotions.

Chair of the Trustees of New Life Church, Stephen Hodgkinson thanked the Mayor for her encouragement and support to follow the dream of developing the room and to the Congleton Town Trust for their financial support. Rotary had also helped with the development of the room in several ways, including returning all moneys raised through the nursery's sponsored Bikeathon cycle ride and, more recently a further grant of £500 to assist with completion of the room.

Alison Timbey, nursery manager, said that there was a growing need for sensory spaces. The room would be used by all children but would be particularly beneficial to children with complex needs as well as others with speech and language development needs. She enthusiastically supports the policy of inclusion, where children with special educational needs (SEND) are integrated with their peer groups into local schools. All children should be able to access provision, it helps them to see their role models and also to be accepted by them, she continued. As many as 20 percent of their pre school children have complex special educational needs, she said.

Mr Hodgkinson said that the New Life Church's role extended to helping all families experiencing difficulty. The Church helps all needy groups including assisting older people to find employment and also with support through their food bank. All of their activity is designed, ultimately, to help children's development in the family, he continued.

Reflecting the growing need to provide for SEND children in society, the club has also supported other similar schemes in the area. Kevin said that the club is focused on helping young people through its support of similar schemes as well as through its active youth programme offered to all primary and secondary schools in its area.

New Life Nursery gets its new Sensory Room - Thanks in no small part to Rotary



Rotary gets serious about the environment. A fund has been set up to provide the group with tools and equipment to enable them to do more good in the community. Eddie Rush has generously agreed to supply all the kit at trade prices and also to permit the use of his workshop to manufacture bird boxes. Woodworkers, please note that there may be a skill shortage! Read all about it

Leader of the environmental team, David Brew is passionate about the state of the planet, David said that the club could do nothing about the 8 million tonnes of plastic going into the oceans every day, and the millions of birds lost in recent years. Still, it can help educate and influence the young folk of Congleton for the longer-term benefit of the town. For example, the club will work with young pupils in schools to help them participate in the annual Congleton in Bloom event. The environment group will work alongside Rotary's existing commitment to young people through its youth programme.



Patti Pinto from Congleton in Bloom gave Simon, Jo and David a lesson in pruning recently

GOING GREENER

Daven School

Pruning the fruit trees has been completed. The overgrown poly tunnel area has been cleared and slabs laid to provide a safe path for the children. Raised boxes have been placed and now await compost, ready for planting in April.

The outside raised growing bed has been covered with weed suppressant fabric and is ready for planting. Rotary intends to supply the school with some pots, compost and runner bean seeds etc., to start the planting. The poly tunnel is now ready for the school to take over.

The team has agreed to assist the school in a hedge planting project at the front of the school. This is a 'Trees 4 Congleton' project but we are keen to assist other groups.

More Rotarians will be asked for assistance...

Memorial tree

The tree has been planted at Astbury Golf Club and the memorial sign has been made and delivered. A ceremony will take place shortly.

Woodcocks Well now even better,

The overgrown bed to the front of the Woodcocks Well school and the raised growing bed on the other side of the road has been cleared. The front bed will be planted with existing potted fuschias and lavenders in spring.

The team intends to supply the school's raised bed with some pots, compost and runner bean seeds for indoor sowing in April and planting out in May.

Scholar Greener?

The team was asked to clear a very overgrown area to the side of the Scholar Green school to make the area manageable for existing staff. The team cleared the site of brambles and pruned the fruit trees, raked the area and left two areas as wildlife refuges.

Watch the Birdies

An on site meeting has taken place with RSPB advisors regarding bird feeders and nest boxes in Congleton Park – intended to bring more wild birds into the area.

A proposal has been submitted for supplying, fitting and maintaining 20 nest boxes and 6 bird feeders. Eddie Rush has agreed to supply and cut the wood to the RSPB specification with Rotary members involved in assembly of the boxes.



Right: Team Leader, David Brew shows the way at Daven School...

Ukraine again



A local charity set up to help Ukrainian refugees has just received a further grant of £4,500 offered by District and delivered by Ian Robinson our international officer.

Paul Nixon from CAUSN (Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network) received the cheque from Ian. The money comes from Rotary Foundation, our international charity that funds much of Rotary's work around the globe.

CAUSN now supports around 175 Ukrainians in hosted families in the area. As their initial hosted period comes to its end, many now want a more permanent arrangement and are looking to move into rented accommodation on their own. The problems for CAUSN have not gone away, they have changed in their complexity; finding the right landlords, arranging guarantors and furnishing the properties with all the basic needs!

Paul Nixon, CAUSN's director said that one of the biggest problems is the language barrier. Without a command of English our Ukrainians could not communicate, receive education or get work.

Last year, Rotary funds initially supported language education, but one-to-one sessions are both the most expensive – and most successful! This next grant will provide more language training and also assist with families' needs as they move into more settled accommodation and become self-supporting.

Don't miss Paul's talk to the club on April 17th and, fingers crossed, a stunning solo from his own Ukrainian house guest, talented saxophonist student, Taya



Two More New Members Join

President, Kevin inducted Cath Brown and Joan Yassi at the club's huddle early in February.

Cath Brown is no stranger to Congleton, and over many years, has played a part in several of the clubs and societies around town, including the Congleton Entertainers and the Congleton Operatic Society. In 1983, together with husband Mike, they demolished a bungalow and built their own house! In 2001, with others, she formed Vet Tech Solutions and only retired – as Company Secretary and Finance Director – in 2015.

Husband, Mike, is a past member and Cath has played an active role in many of the club's events.

Joan Yassi, a software engineer from nearby Stoke on Trent, has joined to make a positive contribution and to offer his much-needed technical experience to the club. Joan's eyes lit up when he learned of the extent of Rotary's international role in supporting people in other countries with a number of active programmes. He said that he sees joining Rotary as an amazing opportunity to support Rotary's international reach – the aspect which initially inspired his interest in the club.



Best Foot Forward!

Intrepid walkers sally forth on the inaugural Rotary walk. Accompanied by Baxter, Dave Brew's dog, they planned a 5-mile warm-up in blustery sunshine, on Friday, February 17th. The walk ended with coffee and snacks around noon at Stocks in the park. Janet and friend Ken, played catch-up and followed on, some minutes behind the main group and missed having their pictures taken... **Do Good, Have Fun – and Keep Fit!**

Turkish and Syrian Earthquake Disaster Appeal

The mind-blowing extent of the Turkish and Syrian earthquake disasters mobilised Rotary to establish the most efficient way to support the various appeals.

As ever, the quickest way to provide help is with cash rather than goods, and we voted online to send £2,000 to help build the preferred Rotary disaster fund to provide the fastest help.

THE PIG RACES

Despite a difficult start with the 'wooden pig welfare' people up in arms, the Pig Races went off without incident!



Oinks and squeals of delight and rashes of concentration greeted teams of six, racing their (wooden) pigs at the annual Rotary Pig Race on Saturday night at the New Life Church.

Betting on who was going to bring home the bacon, brought success for some, but with a stake of just £1.00, few clear favourites and a one in six chance, the Tote was the overall winner, raising £290. The raffle raised nearly £200 and the event as a whole, probably around £900.

The winner of each heat received a medal, presented by organiser, Doug Parker.

Half-time produced a great pie and peas supper - (not pork pie, in deference to the sensitive porkers) and a raffle with a table full of prizes and a hamper won by Rod and a table full of other prizes.

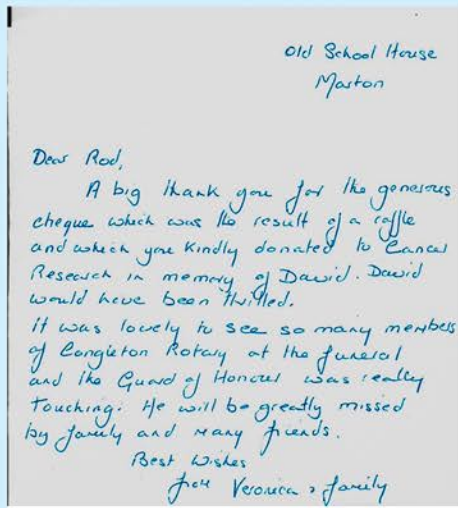
A good night was had by a capacity audience. No live pigs were harmed and the mess in the hall - largely paper waste from the table covers - was easily cleared up after the event, everything went for recycling and the hall was returned for Sunday morning services.

A Strong Rotary Foundation



Patrick Tyrrell, our District Rotary Foundation Co-ordinator, came to talk about Rotary Foundation – Rotary's own global charity funded largely by subscriptions, donations and bequests from Rotarians. Patrick explained how the Foundation garners its funds and uses them – often with match-funding - to support Rotary's campaigns through District and Global funding.

He congratulated Congleton on achieving the second-highest per-capita contribution level in District. Rotary's 1.2m members worldwide had helped build a fund of \$1.2bn to fund scholarships (with many recipients going on to work in organisations such as the United Nations), 'End Polio Now' and grants.



A 'Thank You' from Veronica Worth and Family

Madison gets a result

Five-year-old Madison has Autism and Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), as well as a number of other undiagnosed medical needs. Madison was given a life-changing buggy thanks to a grant of £691 from Rotary-Congleton and the charity, Children Today. Madison had outgrown her standard buggy, but because she is prone to running off and has limited danger awareness due to her condition, her parents felt they needed a specialist buggy for Madison's safety.

Her mum, Lauren Gartside, says:

"The buggy we were using for Madison was much too small for her and it was a struggle to push as it wasn't suitable for an older child.

"It had got to the point that I couldn't go out with Madison on my own, because she could easily unclip herself in the old buggy. After several incidents of her getting out and running off, I was in constant fear that she could escape. It just wasn't safe."

Since receiving a specialist buggy, designed for older children, the family has described how it has given them a whole new lease of life and peace of mind.

Lauren continues:

"I can't describe how much of a difference this new buggy has had. It's made our lives so much easier and we can go to more places that simply weren't an option before. We've even had a successful trip to the zoo!"



Above: Patrick Tyrrell addresses a packed meeting at Astbury Golf Club on Monday 27th February, throwing light on some of the mysteries that make the Rotary Foundation



Diary Page

Mon 6 Mar '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Huddle Night -Swimathon Planning
Fri 10 Mar '23	18:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Swimatholn
Footnote:		Biddulph Leisure Centre
Sat 11 Mar '23	14:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Swimathon
Sun 12 Mar '23	06:00 AM to 13:00 PM	Swimathon
Mon 20 Mar '23	18:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Biddulph Charter Night
Mon 3 Apr '23	19:00 PM to 21:00 PM	Huddle Night
Mon 17 Apr '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Speaker Night
Footnote:		Paul Nixon on Ukraine update
Mon 15 May '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Huddle Night
Mon 22 May '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Social Night
Footnote:		Meal at a Pub
Mon 5 Jun '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	AGM & Club Assembly
Sat 17 Jun '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Jazz Night
Footnote:		New Life Church
Mon 19 Jun '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Speaker Night
Footnote:		John Twigg - Advanced Driving
Mon 3 Jul '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	President's Handover

It's nearly Swimathon time. Everyone will be getting their roles confirmed on Monday, 6th. So 'Huddle up' and pay attention!

Biddulph Charter. Posh frocks night. Need to book with Stew, quickly, now before you are too late.

Monday, 17th April: Paul Nixon has established a 'Gold Standard' for his Ukrainian safety net, helping 175 refugees find a home in Congleton. He tells all and brings his house guest, Taya, to inspire us with her saxophone. Not to be missed.

Pause for thought. This month, the 4-Way Test is in Russian. They use the same test as we do...



...МЫ ДУМАЕМ, ГОВОРИМ ИЛИ ДЕЛАЕМ

1. Это Правда?
2. Это Справедливо для всех?
3. Улучшит ли это доброжелательность и дружбу?
4. Будет ли это на пользу всем?