

# JANUARY 2023



# NEWSLETTER

# HAPPY

# NEW

# YEAR!



## Hello team Rotary Congleton.

Welcome to your first edition of the Rotary Congleton newsletter of 2023.

Thank you for everything you are doing to spread the word of positive change that is happening in our club. News is spreading and I am delighted to say we are now officially at our July 2023 goal of 30 members already. This is testament to the service above self you are all demonstrating in our community – keep doing what you're doing – you are making a difference!

On the subject of new members, we held our first ever new members' forum in January and found the feedback hugely insightful that we are already putting into action.

I do believe we are in a great position to have such a fabulous balance of experienced and new members that creates a dynamic, vibrant culture, that I hope will make our club and our activities relevant and representative of our community, that inspires the next generation of Rotarians. Let's keep spreading the word that we are a voluntary service organisation that is welcoming to all. The next Rotary International President Gordon R. McNally, has announced that his theme for the next Rotary year is "Create hope in the World". What do you hope for in your Rotary?

Until next time – **"Do good, have fun"**

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# WE HOLD THE DISTRICT RECORD!

Our tally of 11 new members in 2022 won us first place in the District 'Recruitment Stakes'. Our photo with an interloper from the previous year in the shape of John Knight and Cath Brown who snuck in from early this year, makes an impressive show of force.

## AND THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID...

Our Assistant District Governor Irene Russell wanted to know the reasons for our success in recruiting 11 new members in 2022. We hold the record for District. This is what they said...

I joined Rotary to support my local community and become involved in local activities. I've had great fun meeting lots of new people and assisting at numerous events. I feel that I am able to make a difference in Congleton.

*Jo Lancaster*

Once aware of the Rotary club I liked what I saw in terms of the welcome, warmth, friendship and the wide range of worthwhile projects and work undertaken. The welcome from presidents, past and current and from the membership was particularly appreciated.

I am sure that with continued public awareness of the club's activities in the community the membership will continue to grow. I feel that continuing to become more inclusive may be the means to achieve this.

*Simon Fallis*

*I joined because of an article in the Congleton Chronicle and wanted to help out in the new community I found myself living in. I think the mixture of old and new members has been a healthy addition to the club. I think*

*also Stewart and Kevin have done a great job meeting potential new members who have added to the diversity of the club as a whole.*

David Brew

I joined the club as a returning member from a previous club having moved as I enjoyed friendship, helping others in life through the power of Rotary and most importantly paying back into the society which I took out in my earlier years by helping Rotary raising awareness in the community (through fundraising talks outdoor activities) of issues like mental health and well-being.

*Tish Bhatt*

We have always been aware of Rotary in Congleton, and around the world, and when possible have attended local events and offered to help. After helping with the Covid Vaccination Roll Out we were approached to become full members, and decided that it would be a good way of helping our community and becoming more involved with local issues. So we joined in December and have not been disappointed.

Congleton has a strong and willing team with some great characters and though we have limited time available we have been very warmly welcomed.

*Avril and Rob Waghorn*

**I'm happy to be returning to Rotary and to be part of a progressive club.**

*Janet Smith*

Following my retirement from the NHS, I wanted to continue to help people, particularly those in my local community. I was attracted to Rotary as it not only supports many projects locally but also has a strong focus on working with children and young people, a particular passion of mine, having worked in

In the short time I have been a member I have found everyone to be so friendly, welcoming and a lot of fun!

*Gill Pickford*

I will need to do something constructive with the spare time that I will have in the future. I was introduced to Rotary and I thought that this was a worthwhile cause to help not only the local community, but also the wider international one too.

*Tony Blackburn*



## Will Jennie go further?

Jennie Cook swam 137 lengths for Swimathon last year and aims to do better this time! Jennie is no newcomer to swimming. She is a previous channel swimmer and runs her Knypersley business, 'Swim Hub'. A trained instructor with 23 year's experience of teaching children with special needs, she now concentrates on teaching people to swim in small pre-booked groups in her 10m pool.

Keeping the heat at 34 degrees, the pool is ideal for infants and children with special needs as well as older people who do not want to be seen learning in the bigger pools at Leisure Centres. Groups are limited to 8 people and each session is supervised by 2 instructors and costs just £8.

Meanwhile, Jennie is in training for a solo swim and is enthusiastic about supporting the event.



## WAG'S WITH VISYON

Swimathon attracts up to 60 teams, each swimming for the charity of their choice, chosen for a variety of reasons – some intensely personal.

One such is the WAGs team. Not what you think, these WAGs (it stands for Women of Astbury Group) is local. The group's leader is Barbara Burney and the girls have decided to support this event because of the charities who will benefit.

Jude Rouse, one of the WAG's members is leading a Swimathon team to raise money for Visyon, the local charity helping young people to cope with their issues. She is swimming in memory of her son and wishes that she had known of Visyon and its work when her son was struggling. At the time there was no one to turn to for help with his complex needs.

The WAGs initially expected to raise £300, but now confidently, Jude expects them to beat their target.

Jude, supported by her husband Dave, and daughter Vicky are no strangers to swimming. Together with her husband and daughter, she swam the 2018 Great North Swim across Windermere whilst she has also entered the Swimathon with other teams before.

Two more WAG ladies (including our own Sandra) are swimming out of a total of 12 in the group. They will swim at 8pm on Friday 10th March.

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## ANOTHER CLASSIC SHOW THIS YEAR

*Sunday, July 23rd is a date for all petrolheads to have in their diaries! The Rotary Classic Car show is making a return to the Egerton Arms field. There will be some changes to make the event more family-friendly. Entry costs for classic cars - of any age - from the last century will be reduced to just £5 and the road-cruise element of the day has been removed from the programme to provide more public interest with all the cars on display during the afternoon. This year, hopefully, there are no deluges forecast on the day!*

*All monies raised will go to support The Old Saw Mill and their outstanding work in the community.*



## Sad day for the Club

Monday, January 23rd saw a massive turnout of family, friends, farmers – and not least Rotarians and their partners for the funeral of one of Rotary-Congleton's long standing and greatly respected senior members. David Worth, a lifelong Congleton man, will be remembered for his involvement with many organisations. Not least Rotary-Congleton where he served as a President and treasurer until recently. Twenty eight members and their partners turned out on a bitterly cold day to say their last 'goodbye.'

Rotarians were privileged to provide a guard of honour on David's last few yards – to his final resting place.



## A TREE PLANTING FIT FOR A QUEEN

**We are planning to plant a tree at Astbury Golf Club in memory of our late Queen. The tree and the plaque are on order.**

## Ukraine - a local update

Rotary-Congleton has been one of the most active clubs in procuring money distributed by District to help Ukrainians in our area. Quite separately, we also raised money locally to support the Moschun appeal by Rotary-Kyiv to provide modular housing.

Congleton is now supporting 175 Ukrainian visitors, resident the area. How they got here, the detailed management required and what is happening to them now is a remarkable story. Paul Nixon, one of the key organisers is coming to tell us about it on April 17th.

Incidentally, Paul and his wife Lucy also opened their home in Marton to two sisters who fled the conflict. Taya is a talented saxophonist student, her sister an IT specialist.

This promises to be an evening not to be missed! Bring your partners.



## Patients can now tune-in

Patients on the Aston Ward at Congleton Memorial Hospital had limited access to media entertainment. The problem started with Covid when the day-room became out-of-bounds to large groups. There was not enough socially-distanced space for all the patients.

Nicola Davies, the Hospital's housekeeper turned to Rotary-Congleton with an appeal for help. She had a list of equipment – radios with headphones for each bed and a CD player for groups. Nicola said that eventually, the Hospital Trust will install a television in the ward. Even so, some patients still like listening to the radio.

Jo Hodgkinson, Senior Sister, said that a stay in hospital can become boring. Having the radios will help the days go by.



Rod will be contacting all schools at the end of February to launch our 2023 Young Artist Competition. This year, the theme is 'Kings and Queens' and the closing date is June 25th. Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows have generously agreed to sponsor the competition for a further year. Rod is suggesting a change this year to limit the number of entries from each school to a maximum of 50.

# Diary Page

Mon <b>6</b> Feb '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Huddle Night
Sat <b>11</b> Feb '23	19:00 PM to 23:00 PM	Social - Valentines Dance
Footnote:		60's Night at Astbury Village Hall
Mon <b>20</b> Feb '23	18:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Speaker Night
Footnote:		District Foundation presentation
Sat <b>25</b> Feb '23	19:00 PM to 20:00 PM	Social Night
Footnote:		Pig Race Night at the New Life Church
Mon <b>6</b> Mar '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Huddle Night -Swimathon Planning
Fri <b>10</b> Mar '23	18:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Swimathon
Footnote:		Biddulph Leisure Centre
Sat <b>11</b> Mar '23	14:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Swimathon
Sun <b>12</b> Mar '23	06:00 AM to 13:00 PM	Swimathon
Mon <b>20</b> Mar '23	18:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Biddulph Charter Night
Mon <b>3</b> Apr '23	19:00 PM to 21:00 PM	Huddle Night
Mon <b>17</b> Apr '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Speaker Night
Footnote:		Paul Nixon on Ukraine update
Mon <b>15</b> May '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Huddle Night
Mon <b>22</b> May '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Social Night
Footnote:		Meal at a Pub
Mon <b>5</b> Jun '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	AGM & Club Assembly
Sat <b>17</b> Jun '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Jazz Night
Footnote:		New Life Church

**20th February:** Foundation is our own International Charity. Listen-in to how it works, what it does and why it's so important to all Rotarians

**25th February:** Pig Racing is here again! Place your bets and bring your own liquid refreshments.

**6th March:** Swimathon needs your support. Here's when you find out all about it

**Swimathon:** All leave cancelled for the whole weekend!!! Enjoy Bidulph-on-Sea if you fancy a swim!

**20th March:** Biddulph Charter should be a great night.

**17th April:** Paul Nixon is inspirational. He's going to tell us all about CAUSN and how it supports 175 Ukrainians with a little help from Rotary. This should be a great night.

**22nd May:** Anyone know a good pub?

**5th June:** The AGM. Where do we go from here?

**17th June:** A night of Big Band Jazz Classics. An absolute bargain night out.