

MAY 2023



NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S PATTERN



Hello team Rotary Congleton. This is my last President's Patter of our Rotary year 2022/3.

I look back on our year with a huge sense of pride in our teams' achievements.

This feeling of pride was further reinforced at this year's District Assembly when we were asked to present on what makes Rotary-Congleton such a force for good.

So much of the guidance from District we are already doing or is already in the plan for the year ahead.

I am so grateful to you all for embracing courageous conversations and challenging the "we've always done it this way" thinking. We no longer assume what our community wants, we now go to our community and ask. A brilliant example of this is our new environmental team who have made such an impact in a small amount of time.

Our community both locally and internationally needs Rotary more now than in a long time, and I see this need growing in the future.

My hope going forwards is that we keep on having the courageous conversations, keep embracing change, and keep Rotary relevant so that it remains, to keep putting service above self for many more generations to come.

Thank you for supporting me and inspiring me through your kindness.

"Do good, have fun."

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A DAY FIT FOR A KING ROTARY HELPS OUT AT CONGLETON'S CORONATION PICNIC IN THE PARK

A DAY FOR VOLUNTEERING

Rotary provided marshals to assist the town council staff in controlling traffic and providing a visible presence in the park. The event, held under cloudy skies, passed without incident and visitors enjoyed an afternoon of musical entertainment and a variety of sideshows including a dog show, children's arts and crafts and food stalls.

The club had a prominent presence, close to the bandstand and focused its activities around the recently launched environmental initiative: The Pledge. Over 100 local residents signed The Pledge including the Mayor of Congleton Cllr. Margaret Gartside and local MP. Fiona Bruce. The Pledge involves signatories in promising to consider 10 simple steps, which taken daily, will help to reduce unnecessary use of plastics, and cut down pollution.

The team also provided cups of hot chocolate and coffee throughout the afternoon – all for the price of a voluntary donation.



Rotary's Cherry trees will flower to commemorate the Coronation



To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, we sponsored two identical flowering cherry trees, now both planted as central features in flower beds in Congleton Park. The trees will grow and flower each springtime and act to commemorate Coronation Day on 6th March 2023.

David Brew, leader of the environmental group, celebrated the planting with Mayor Cllr. Margaret Gartside. Other members were present as was newly elected Councillor and environmentalist, Glen Williams (extreme right).



Local MP, Fiona Bruce signed The Pledge and won a non-political cuddle from Rod as a bonus for our photographer!

DOUG NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT



KALEIDOSCOPE
BIG BAND AT THE NEW LIFE CHURCH

A VARIED PROGRAMME OF CLASSIC, SWING, BALLAD, SALSA, LATIN AND FUNKY TUNES...FROM COUNT BASIE AND DUKE ELLINGTON THROUGH TO WEATHER REPORT AND THE BIG PHAT BAND.

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE AT 7.30 pm
TICKETS FROM CONGLETON INFORMATION OFFICE PRICE £12.50

Bring your own Food and Drink
Proceeds support Rotary work in the community

Rotary
Congleton

The Kaleidoscope band will play all the great big-band jazz classics, accompanied for some numbers by Marilyn Royle.

It's a great night with music to remember and songs to sing along with and get your feet tapping. Put your hands in your pockets and bring your friends as well. They will not be disappointed!
New Life Church starts at 7.30pm on Saturday, June 17th. Bring your own food and drink.
Tickets from Doug Parker or the Congleton Information Centre at the Town Hall. Tickets are a bargain and only cost £12.50.



A Treat in Store for Homeless Tits and Robins!

Rotary Bird Boxes are destined for Congleton Park.

Destined to be supplied and fitted high in the woodland in Congleton Park, these bird boxes were being assembled by our doubtly team of Rotarians. The bird boxes are designed for tits and robins.

The boxes – manufactured to RSPB specification - are intended to attract more wild birds into our urban environment. Simon Fallis said that whilst it might appear to be a little late, the garden birds may have several broods during a season – and are not limited to one nesting place. Once inhabited, the birds will return to the boxes year after year. He explained that the bird boxes are part of Rotary's growing commitment to supporting the environment.

Caption: Above. Members of Congleton Rotary club demonstrated their bird box building skills. Eddie Rush (left) provided the workshop and pre-cut panels whilst the team, led by David Brew and Simon Fallis (wearing Rotary caps) assembled the boxes.

ROTARY-CONGLETON CLASSIC CAR SHOW



SUNDAY, 23RD JULY, 2023
EGERTON ARMS, ASTBURY, CW12 4RQ FROM 10AM

THE EGERTON ARMS WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL DURING THE DAY

HELP TO MAKE THE CLASSIC CAR SHOW A DAY TO REMEMBER!

Classic Car lovers will be out in force at the Egerton Arms on Sunday, 23rd July.

Entry is free for members of the public and the gates open at 10am. We hope to have all the cars lined up before the public start to arrive. It's a great day, full of nostalgia for the great days of motoring!

If you know anyone with a beastie from the last century there's plenty of time to get them to register with Rod. For the rest of us, there are plenty of marshaling roles to be done, throughout the day.

Rachel needs items for the tombola stall. The better the selection of goods, the more people we can attract to play.

185 Ukrainian Refugees – a Local Triumph!



Paul Nixon told a Rotary-Congleton meeting about the work of CAUSN – the Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network – assisting 185 Ukrainian refugees in the Congleton area. CAUSN, under Paul Nixon's leadership had established a comprehensive and detailed plan to support the refugees. This included finding hosting families and matching them carefully to the visitors and also in some cases finding vacant properties for families. His team had to overcome a multitude of problems including getting visas, organising clothing, doctors, dentists, school uniforms, schools and benefits packages. CAUSN established a clothing boutique and furniture warehousing and was even able to supply laptops.

Mr Nixon described the central problem of ensuring that the refugees had a basic knowledge of English. Providing English lessons not only made schooling possible, but allowed adults to find work and so ensured that these proud European people were able to support themselves, rather than relying on benefits. In several cases, this resulted in refugees being able to move from living with hosts to independent living in their own rented properties.

An increasing problem for the group is in finding houses and landlords who are prepared to take

the visitors with support from CAUSN avoiding many of the usual background checks.

Rotary guests at the meeting were Feliks and Artem Tytarenko, a father and son who had benefited from the support given by a dedicated team of CAUSN helpers, four of whom were also present at the meeting. Mr Tytarenko, who works for the Ukrainian government and regularly travels back to his homeland, spoke from his heart of the support and friendship that English people had provided his nation, making the point that the support had saved the lives of many of his countryfolk and made front line troops content in the knowledge that their families were safe.

Rotary-Congleton had been able to secure two grants from the Rotary Foundation to assist CAUSN and Mr Nixon heaped praise on the club for supporting around 40% of its fundraising activity over the last year.



Rotary-Congleton president Kevin Thompson presented Paul Nixon with a further cheque from the club for £2,200 to enable more one-to-one English training for Ukrainian refugees. This has proved to be the best and most cost-effective way of ensuring that the visitors are equipped to support themselves, rather than relying on benefits and being a burden on the state.



Ukrainian student's solo Saxophone stuns

Tasiia Holovko entertained Rotarians and their friends with a stunning solo performance on her saxophone.

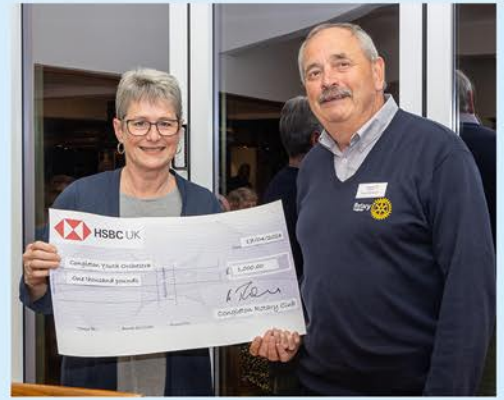
'Taya' and her sister are refugee guests of Paul Nixon and his wife Lucy, who live in Marton. She is a third-year student at Kyiv University, but through the Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network's connections has also been able to pursue her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

Several Rotarians had heard her perform at the Clonter Opera's 'Concert for Ukraine' earlier in the year, when together with other Ukrainian musicians, she had helped to raise money for the Ukrainian refugees in Congleton and also to send money to the Rotary campaign to build modular homes for homeless families in Moschun, north of Kyiv.



Rotary guest spoke from the heart

Feliks Tytarenko, a Ukrainian refugee living in Congleton, works for the Ukrainian government and regularly travels back to his homeland. His home was attacked by the Russians on February 27th last year. He spoke from his heart at a recent Rotary meeting. He told of the support and friendship that English people had provided his family and his nation, making the point that this support had saved the lives of many of his countryfolk and made front line troops content in the knowledge that their families were safe and being protected and looked after.



Congleton Youth Orchestra plays on

Ian Robinson presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Congleton Youth Orchestra's Treasurer, Mrs Elaine Mallett.

Rotary-Congleton sponsored the Orchestra's Spring Concert. The CYO was originally established with Rotary's assistance and has continued to receive help and encouragement from the club over the ensuing years.



Left to Right: Stewart Price, John Gauld and Eddie Rush

AWARDS FOR ROTARIANS

Rotary-Congleton president Kevin Thompson presented Rotary Foundation awards to three Rotarians for their work supporting the Club. The Rotary Foundation is Rotary's International body promoting the organisation's educational, humanitarian and cultural programmes globally.

The highest award that Rotary can bestow – the coveted Paul Harris Fellowship, given in the name of Rotary's Founder – was awarded to past-president Stewart Price. His enthusiasm and dedication was maintained throughout his presidency, extended to two-years due to Covid. He steered the club through the pandemic, not only ensuring its survival, when many local clubs were being forced to close, but also succeeding in sustaining a fundraising programme, earning money for community support during the lockdown!

John Gauld, the Congleton club's marketing and communications officer received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the President of Rotary International for marketing work raising awareness in Rotary and helping to grow membership through the promotion of its activities.

Eddie Rush received a Certificate of Appreciation for his unstinting support of the club through his generous and longstanding involvement and background work in preparing the groundwork for many of the club's public events.

Diary Page

Mon 22 May '23	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Social Night
Footnote: BBQ with Biddulph Rotary		
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
Fri 7 Jul '23	18:00 PM to 23:00 PM	ASTONBURY
Footnote: Glebe Farm - Beer festival with live music		
Sat 8 Jul '23	18:00 PM to 23:00 PM	ASTONBURY
Footnote: Glebe Farm - Club BBQ/Picnic with live bands.		
Mon 17 Jul '23	18:00 PM to 21:00 PM	Speaker Night
Footnote: North West Air Ambulance		
Fri 21 Jul '23	14:00 PM to 23:00 PM	Gaworth
Footnote: Picnic followed by "The Wild Boys"		
Sun 23 Jul '23	10:00 AM to 18:00 PM	Classic Car Show
Footnote: Egerton Arms Astbury		

**All that Jazz on June 17th!
A bargain concert of Big-Band
music with tickets at just £12.50.**

**How to signal at Roundabouts?
John Twigg will give you all the
hints and tell you how far it takes
to stop!**

**July 3rd: That's all for Kev this year
and curiosity as to where Brian will
lead us.**

**Astonbury: Two days of social
activity at Glebe Farm. Take your
pick of a Beer Festival on Friday,
or if you are still standing, a
Barbeque on Saturday with a live
band.**

**WE owe them some money from
Swimathon, but the Air Ambulance
has a wonderful story to tell.**

**Together we
see a world
where people
unite and take
action to
create lasting
change**