***Meetings of Congleton Rotary Meeting- October 9th 2023***

***Apologies:*** Ian, Eddie Roberts, Avril, Rob, Tish, Stuart H, John G, Eric

***Welcome and induction****:* Janet Hollins and Penny Mercer were welcomed and inducted into the club.

***Thought for the day:*** Delivered by Kevin, titled “kindness”

***Birthdays:*** Members wished Kevin and Ian happy birthday for later this month.

***Visits/Welfare:*** John K and Brian had recently visited Eddie Roberts at home; Eddie is recovering from his recent surgery and whilst he is very tired, would love to hear from rotary members- text or email Eddie to ascertain when would be convenient to call him. Eddie would like to continue to be involved in the preparations for the bonfire where possible. John G is recovering from his recent surgery. All members wished both well.

***Treasurers report:*** Bob reported that “The last night of the Proms” had raised £800, members thanked Doug for organising.

***Appeals:***

* Astbury Mere Care Home request for purchase of a defibrillator has been put on hold as the Care Home are currently liaising with their head office regarding associated costs.
* Quinta School request for “parking buddies” was proposed by John K, seconded by Dennis and agreed by all.
* Morocco Earthquake: Rod discussed purchase of Family survival kits; purchase of 2 kits at £575 each was proposed by Dennis, seconded by Kevin and agreed by all.

***BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY:***

**1. Manning Requirements and Equipment**

1. Manning stalls to sell tickets in Town Centre 21st & 28th October; Stew has confirmed members to man these stalls. Stall on 4th November, there are enough volunteers to man the stall but is yet to be confirmed as we do not want to erect a gazebo; Stew to confirm at later date.
2. Setting up Friday and Saturday 3rd/4th November; **Dave to put together a rota of volunteers for these dates.** All members to provide own food during these days.
3. Manning for stalls selling goods in the Park:
* **Glo sticks:** Rachel to team lead and coordinate list of volunteers
* **Tombola:** Cath to team lead and coordinate the list of volunteers
* **Coffee:** Heather to team lead, with Janet S, Janet H and Tony
1. Manning the gates on the 4th November
* Park Gates: Stew team lead, with a number rotary members and other volunteers
* Mill Street: Dave team lead, with Gill and Simon
* ??: Jo team lead, with Richard
* St Stephens: Rod team lead with Mike Brown
* Buglawton: Eddie Rush team lead, with Joan and John R.
* **A member of the security team will be with members on each gate.**
1. Stewards in the Park, to look after the crowd: **Kevin to co-ordinate volunteers to patrol within the barriers**; 2 volunteers confirmed with hopefully a further 2 tbc.
2. Arrangements to build and light the bonfire**: Eddie Rush to coordinate building of bonfire, Ian to light the fire with support from Kevin.**
3. Manning in the bungalow for money collection: **Bob sorted collectors, who will collect money from the gates and stalls on the night.**
4. Identifying safes to safekeep bonfire monies: **would members who have safes and are willing to store the money overnight on the 4th please email Bob. All monies to be given to Bob on Sunday in readiness for banking on Monday.**
5. Taking down gazebos and other equipment: **would members please make every effort to stay behind once the bonfire has finished to take down gazebos, barriers etc before the end of the night. Stew to lead in this process, please let Stew know if you can stay on afterwards.**
6. Manning for litter picks on Sunday 5th: **7 members volunteered to do this. Brian to provide litter pickers and bags on that day.**
7. Vehicles from Town Council and keys for Bungalow and toilets**: We will have access to 2/3 vehicles to carry barriers to/fro. Brian will take responsibility for keys to Bungalow and toilets.**
8. Keys to Community Store: **Brian to liaise with Glenn Williams**
9. Lights and electric cables**:**
10. **Skip hire: Eddie Rush has sorted.**
11. Locks for children’s play area: **Eddie Rush to provide locks and chains**
12. Plastic ties and cutters: **Eddie Rush to provide for putting up/taking down banners etc.**
13. Portable lighting and spare batteries: **Ian to check and charge portable lighting. Team leads on gates to collect floodlights from Pavilion on 4th and return following use.**
14. Water hosepipe for caterers: **Located in Community Store**

**2. Procession**

1. Eric to lead procession
2. Rod contacted ATC and Scouts to join in**.**

**3. Guy Fawkes competition**

1. John G to contact nurseries re Guy competition
2. Eddie Rush to collect Guys on Friday 3rd
3. Judging to take place on Saturday 4th

**4.** Cheshire East requirements: **Brian dealing with all requirements from Cheshire East. CE have asked if any bollards removed can be put back in place.**

**5.** Posters: **posters given out to various members to be displayed in the town. Large banner to be put on Tesco roundabout, Eddie Rush to sort.**

**6.** Floats and card readers: **Stew to sort any training needed.**

**7.** Sponsors: **Only Burns Garage have agreed to sponsor this year.**

**8. Other:**

1. Walkie talkies distributed on the 4th
2. Brian to remind that Bungalow be cleared of clutter before the 3rd/4th
3. St Johns Ambulance sorted for First Aid cover
4. Eddie Rush and John K to wait for security to arrive evening of 3rd
5. Timings: 9.30 on 3/4/5th to set up, clear up.
6. Briefing in the Bungalow for all team leads at 4.30pm on the 4th.
7. Rod to speak to ATC Cadets and Scouts to collect donations from people watching on Hankinsons Field, Stew to organise collecting buckets.

**9. AOB:**

1. Tree of Life: Jo sorting and will feedback at next meeting.
2. Christmas concert posters are ready to be distributed.
3. Charter Evening: 96 possible attendees; Rod asked for members to confirm their attendance and reserve tickets asap.
4. Raffle: wine donated by David and won by Doug.

**Next meeting:** Monday 23rd October – Speaker evening with Anthony Berg from the Hearing Centre, partners/friends welcome.