

# ROTARY CONGLETON

## Newsletter

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### President's Patter

***Folks the end is in sight and we might be coming out of Lockdown soon.***

We can now start looking forward to our normal meetings at the Golf Club sometime this summer, but we must ensure that all members are happy before we start mixing again.

Not much to report this month. We are still heavily involved in the vaccination centre at the Town Hall with no end in sight. I want to re-emphasise the fantastic work that Eddie and Dee are doing. They are both down there all and every day on vaccinations days co-ordinating the efforts of all the volunteers – We really appreciate all your hard work.



***This is what our club is all about  
Helping the local community***

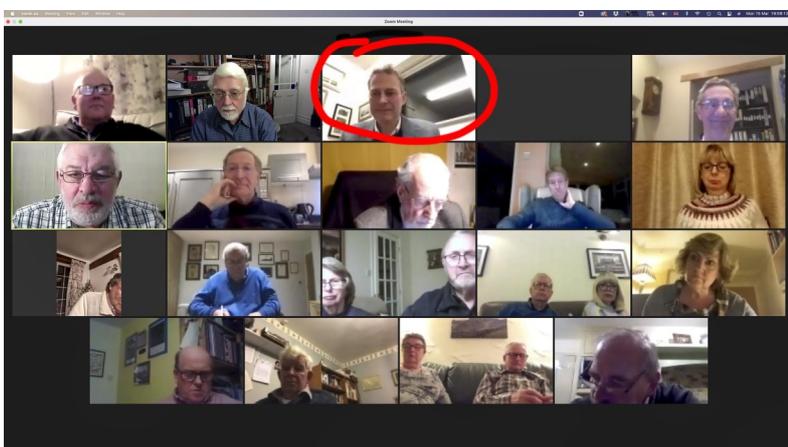
Several things are in the pipeline for this summer including our Bikeathon, providing marshallers for the classic cars at the opening of the link road and for the just-so festival at Rode Heath. We have several speaker events booked, a visit to an Animal feed factory in Holmes Chapel and a club BBQ planned. We are also looking at a visit to the Amazon distribution centre in Manchester later on this year.

Although Zoom has kept us in contact thanks to Kevin's efforts let's look forward to a great summer when we can all meet again.

Stew

# MARCH

## ROUND-UP



### **The Future of motoring?**

Robert Burns from Burns Ford Dealership in Canal Street was the speaker at Rotary's online meeting on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. He spoke about the long history of the company's business selling and repairing cars in the town. A fascinating discussion followed on the developing trends in the motor industry with the advent of different types of propulsion – hybrids, plug-ins, pure electric and hydrogen – and the merits and disadvantages of each.

### **More on Covid Volunteering**

With 90 volunteers from the community to swell the ranks, Stew has been able to thin down our own obligations at the Town Hall. We have bright, new lightweight hi-vis vests with new graphics to replace the somewhat dated tabards and special versions for the volunteers. We have also been able to erect a pop-up banner inside the town hall. After they've had their job, members of the public have a few minutes to sit down and take stock while they recover. As a result of the hi-vis vests and the banners, they can now be in no doubt as to our highly visible role!

*I joined Rotary to  
make a difference.  
I stayed because I am.*



Rotary  
Congleton



# BIKEATHON



**ENTER NOW WITH YOUR  
EXERCISE BIKE OR ROAD BIKE**

**FOR FULL DETAILS SEE**

**[www.congletonrotary-bikeathon.co.uk/](http://www.congletonrotary-bikeathon.co.uk/)**

**FRIDAY 25TH - MONDAY 28TH JUNE  
CONGLETON CYCLES FOR CHARITY**

**On April 7<sup>th</sup> we are launching our major new bike-riding fundraiser for individuals and teams on social media**

Called 'Bikeathon' it is hoped that teams drawn from clubs and from family members will join in and ride their bikes – or even their exercise bikes – for charity. The event takes place during the weekend from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The idea is both to raise money and for everyone involved to get fit along the way!

Eric is running the event. He said 'In normal times we run a Swimathon in February. This year that has not been possible, but the Bikeathon follows exactly the same principle. In fact, we are hoping that the same teams that have supported Swimathon over the years will join in and take part.'

Stew has created a special event website at:

[www.congletonrotary-bikeathon.co.uk](http://www.congletonrotary-bikeathon.co.uk)

Take a look. All the details are there. It will go live on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

We are asking cyclists of any ability to register their interests on the Bikeathon website and to seek sponsorship. Just like Swimathon, fifty percent of the money raised through the event will be returned to a charity nominated by the participants. We keep the rest!

Most exercise bikes have computers that record time and distance. For road cyclists, Bikeathon is neither an organised race nor a rally, there is no set route to follow. Teams ride wherever they want and set their own targets, which might be either time or distance-related. Sponsorship can even be a one-off donation. Getting sponsorship is easy using either an online form or a paper form that can be downloaded and printed from the website.

This year, we are sticking our toes in the pedal clips. If Bikeathon is a success, who knows? It might just become an annual event.

**Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> – Rustic Rotarians Rise Again!**

We need to put a team together to ride for Rotary! Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> will be BIKEATHON DAY in the Town Centre and a great opportunity to make some money.

We will have our gazebo in the Town Centre – probably in Bridge Street – and we will be riding exercise bikes to draw attention to Bikeathon. So it's time to hunt out the Lycras, start practising and do some gentle exercise in a build-up to the big day. The intention is to ride in relays – as short or as long a spell as you like, but a 15 minute stint might be a starting point – and enough – for the beginners!

So. Please think about what you'll be doing and put Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> June in the diary and join in what we hope will be a massive team effort...

The hope is that the good people of Congleton, who will be out in numbers as it is a Makers Market day in town, will find some loose change to swell our coffers.

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Rotary makes a difference across the globe

### Philippine WASH project delivers toilets, hygiene education to villages

#### Rotary gets the job done where others failed

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo erupted after 600 years of inactivity and destroyed homes and farms, displacing many indigenous Aeta living in the highlands of central Luzon, Philippines. While Aeta can refer to several different related ethnic groups, the Aeta here are descendants of Mag-Antsi, who following the eruption, were resettled by the government. Since then, many have returned to their ancestral lands to rebuild and re-establish their communities.

The roughly 43 families in Flora and 79 in nearby Kawayan make a living farming. While Aeta in other areas have been granted title to their ancestral land by the government, these Aeta have seen their lands shrink and their source of livelihood suffer as people from the lowlands staked competing claims during their resettlement years.

Like more than 10 million households in the Philippines, they lack sanitation facilities. The Philippines government has made progress in extending water to its 109 million inhabitants, but long-term plans to expand sanitation are running behind, especially in rural regions. This reduced access to personal hygiene exposes communities to diseases like diarrhoea and cholera, and can lead to decreased school attendance, malnutrition, poor oral health, and fear of violence in women who must practice personal hygiene outdoors, according to a report by UNICEF.

1,000

Number of children who die each day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases.

892 million

Number of people who continue to practice open defecation.

Source: [United Nations](#)

To combat these problems, the Rotary Club of Intramuros-Manila developed a water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) project that installed 25 toilets in the Aeta communities of Flora and Kawayan and three in Babo. Rotary members made visits to the community to learn about and understand current hygiene practices, willingness to

Before a single brick was shipped, Rotary developed friendships and gained buy-in from the community. Rotary was able to leverage an existing profile of Flora and Kawayan to guide the project, including information on race, history, socio-economic con-

“On our first visit, one of the leaders said that nongovernment organizations and politicians had visited them often, promising to build toilets,” recalls Floren Naguit, project manager and member of the Intramuros Rotary Club. “But none had ever been built.” Until now.

Work began in Flora in early 2018 during the dry season, December through April, when roads are most passable. Together with their international partner, the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay, Australia, the club organized three-person work crews and local volunteers to haul materials by Jeep and carabao-pulled carts up mountain roads and across 26 rivers.

Septic tanks were installed, foundations set, walls and roofs built, tiles laid, toilet bowls inserted, solar lamps added, and use and care signs hung. Construction in Kawayan began after Flora was completed, with the total project dedicated in early 2020.

The project paid local teachers, hired by the government, a small stipend to lead three small workshops for clusters of two to three families, and include education on safe hygiene in their lesson plans to encourage behaviour change.

“Behavior change is hard,” says Mark Balla, vice chair of the Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group, “You’re asking people to do something different from what they were comfortable doing before.” But without it, people can slip back into past habits and toilets can fall into neglect or disrepair.

Perhaps most importantly, Balla stresses the need for patience.

“You are going to get imperfect results. There are no perfect projects,” he said. “We need to understand that we are striving for continual improvement.”

Knowing that monitoring and measurement are critical, the Rotarians performed follow up surveys with the Aeta, asking questions about toilet use and handwashing behavior.

Although visits were suspended in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and then from September to December when the rainy season makes roads impassable, they are scheduled to resume in 2021.

# UPCOMING EVENT

On the 12th April we will be having our quiz night, this will be a night for all the family and the questions won't be too difficult—we promise! The great part of this night is that it will also be supporting the Rotary Foundation which is Rotary's own charity that makes a huge difference to people's lives. During the past 100 years, The Rotary Foundation has spent \$3 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects around the world! - We hope you can join us and support this incredible cause.



Monday 12th April 7.00pm

Rotary Congleton Charity Quiz Night on Zoom

£5.00 entry fee per team (a team constitutes an individual or a family in the same household)

A fun evening for all Rotary members, family and friends  
10% of the entry fee to be given as a prize to the winning team.

The balance to be donated to the Rotary Foundation which is Rotary's own charity.

Please confirm your entry to Rod Goodier on email to [rodgoodier@btinternet.com](mailto:rodgoodier@btinternet.com)

Entry fee to be paid by BACS to :

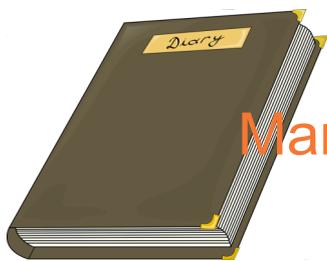
Account Name: ROTARY CLUB OF CONGLETON GENERAL ACCOUNT  
TREASURER

SORT CODE: 40-18-09

ACCOUNT No.: 80713228

**Rotary**  
Congleton





## March/April Diary

Date	Event	Place	Time
12th April	Quiz night	Zoom	6.30pm for 7.00pm
26th April	Eyes down - it's Bingo night!	Zoom	6.30pm for 7.00pm
7th & 8th May	Volunteer Expo	online	<a href="#">Volunteer Expo Online - 7-8 May 2021 - Change Lives. Take Action.</a>
10th May	Business meeting	Zoom	6.30pm for 7.00pm
18th May	Virtual District Assembly part 1	Online	<a href="#">VIRTUAL District Assembly - Rotary District 1285 (rotary-ribi.org)</a>
19th May	Virtual District Assembly part 2	online	<a href="#">VIRTUAL District Assembly - Rotary District 1285 (rotary-ribi.org)</a>
24th May	Speaker Evening - Patrick Tyrrell - The Rotary Foundation	Zoom	7.00pm - 9.00pm
7th June	Business meeting	Zoom	7.00pm - 9.00pm



## The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?




Rotary  
PEOPLE OF ACTION

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SUPERHERO TO HELP!**

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