

# ROTARY CONGLETON

## Newsletter

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## 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?

## Wellbeing Exhibition

Three members attended the Wellbeing Exhibition at Congleton Town Hall (Tuesday 29th March) and were delighted with the results of their efforts. The exhibition produced several meaningful conversations with people in the wellbeing business being interested in learning more about the work of the club – 'so much so that we might have picked up at least one prospective member' said John Gauld.



## Swimathon Update



Swimathon received a great reception at Biddulph and raised a total of over £8,500.

Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club not only helped organise Rotary-Congleton's Swimathon event at the Biddulph Leisure Centre in March, but between them, their teams also raised the most money!

Chairman of the club, Andy Plumley was presented with a cheque for £632.50 by Rotary President Stew-

art Price. Competition secretary, Jane Bates and members of the swimming teams were at the presentation. Jane commented that the team in lane 4 was the 'Awesome Lane Foursome!' This team swam the greatest distance of any, completing 264 lengths of the pool during their 55 minute session.

During the event, the swimmers from Biddulph took over the pool on Saturday March 5th, swimming in all lanes from 5 to 6pm. Under the rules of Swimathon, the money they raised, £1265 in total, is shared equally with Rotary. Rotary proceeds from the event are used to support work in the community.

Andy Plumley said that the club's share of the money would assist with coaching and training courses for Amateur Swimming Association qualifications, team-building activities with any surplus going towards much needed timing boards at the pool.

Remarkably, just three young swimmers from the club, Isabel, Lucy and Millie raised over £500 between them.

# President's Patter

Another busy month has passed with our regular business meeting as well as a speaker night. Eddie Roberts organised club members assisted by some of our volunteers from the covid vaccination centre to help with marshalling the ***Walk the Boundaries*** event. This event, run by the council, was part of the town's special charter celebrations and involved some 300 people walking the boundaries of the town. I presented a cheque to the Biddulph amateur swimming club for 50% of their efforts in raising over £1200 at our Swimathon event. This club raised more money than any other club or organisation and are keen to participate next year even if held at the Congleton new pool. Together with several other club members we attended the memorial service for one of our past club members – David Daniels. Recruitment is on the up with two new members inducted and a further new member joining us next month. Since joining the club I have felt very dissatisfied with the lack of initiative, support and help from district. However, Kevin and I have just had a Zoom meeting with our new ADG – Irene Russell together with representatives from Biddulph, Alsager, Knutsford, and Macclesfield. We both came away from this meeting encouraged for the future. In the past, there has been a lack of communication and cooperation between other clubs in our area, but in future Irene will now convene quarterly meetings of representatives from this cluster of clubs. I am looking forward to a busy summer with our usual events planned.

Stew.



## District News

There are lots of really exciting activities taking place in our district. The first amazing news to share is that our district has been successful in securing a grant from Rotary International of \$25,000.00 to send aid to Ukrainian refugees - a fantastic achievement!

Our district assembly is taking place at the Village Hotel in Warrington on 21st May 10am - 3pm (welcome coffee served from 9.30am). This will be a great opportunity to discover the vital work that is going on in our district and to learn the plans for the new Rotary year. If we can get enough interest, maybe we could organise a mini bus or even a coach? Please register your interest with Rod Goodier - this is a free event. To register for this free event, please go to Eventbrite via this link [Rotary NW England and Isle of Man District Assembly 2022 Tickets, Sat, May 21, 2022 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Don't forget the Volunteer Expo at the NEC 6th & 7th May, this will be a truly inspirational event and again it's free! It would be great to see our club represented. Tickets available at [Volunteer Expo Live - 6-7 May 2022 - Change Lives. Take Action.](#)

And finally, plans are almost finalised for the return of our district conference. Our Assistant District Governor has shared the amazing news that the Lancashire Cricket Ground has been booked for 21st October and hopefully our keynote speaker will be the truly enthralling Michael Angelo Caruso - you can be assured that you are in for a treat! [Sales Coaching | Michael Angelo Caruso | United States](#)

Again, this will be a free event and one not to be missed. Our friends at Rotary Biddulph are looking to book a coach and it would be great if we could all travel together - please indicate your interest to Rod Goodier.

# Beating the Bounds

Our members were out in force, performing marshaling duties (Sunday, April 10th) assisting Congleton Town Council with its 'Beating the Bounds' event. Walkers covered the 9.9-mile route of the original boundary of the town. The event was part of the Town's 750th Charter celebrations.



## It's not a drill !

James Groves, Watchman at Congleton Fire Station, told members of Rotary-Congleton, together with their partners and prospective members about the work of the Fire Brigade in tackling wildfires. The meeting was held at Astbury Golf Club on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April. Working with other local brigades, in a Force Operations Group, they have been responsible for extinguishing local moorland fires of varying severity in recent years. James explained the role of the brigades in assessing the scale of the outbreak and



formulating the most efficient strategy and tactics to protect property and deal with the fire. He said that the forces adopt a managed approach to each event working with a range of equipment from traditional beaters and water carrying backpacks through portable pumps to more advanced use of drones and helicopters. One of the biggest considerations is how to get sufficient water to remote locations and James described how the brigade uses long lengths of hose, mobile pumps and water dams to store water nearer to the fire.



James told the meeting that, sadly, too many wildlife fires are started by the misuse of mobile barbecues.

## We're growing

Unlike many similar clubs, the membership of our club is growing at the moment. This month we inducted two new members into membership, David Brew and Jo Lancaster.



David is a retired police sergeant from the Manchester force. He moved from Poynton to Congleton recently. Being new to the area, he bought a copy of the Congleton Chronicle to get to know the area and read an article about Rotary and its work in the community. He saw a membership opportunity and after arranging a meeting with President Stew and Ian, he has jumped in!

In truth, Rotary is not a completely new idea as David's brother is a Rotarian, living in Worcester. A keen gardener and fly fisherman, David has given up playing Lacrosse, which was a serious sport in his youth.



Jo Lancaster, similarly, has recently retired from work as a dietician for the NHS although, unlike David, Jo has lived in Congleton for 26 years. When she was working, she was far too busy to think of joining Rotary. Filling the gap left by working full-time means that she has now become very active with a variety of interests. As well as joining Rotary, she has taken up tennis and also helps junior school children with their reading at Marfields Academy. Jo said that she thought that she would miss work – but she doesn't!



# Classic Car Show - Update

Entrants to the Road Cruise will have seen a similar car in the Dolomites!

Event organiser, Rod, used a photo of a white MG in the Dolomites on the entry form for The Rotary-Congleton Classic Car Show and Road Cruise.

The event is being held on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at the Egerton Arms in Astbury as part of our celebration of 75 years of community service in the town. Rod hopes to attract 75 really interesting classics. Entries are still open - so if you know of anyone with a suitable car...

The owner of this MGC since 1984, Mike Houghton also photographed his car in the Dolomites in 2019. As well as touring most of the UK, his 'grand tours' have included Northern Spain and Portugal - Switzerland - Northern Italy - and various other European countries in between. This year as well as the prestigious Congleton Cruise, the car will be in Ireland for the Gordon Bennett Rally and in the Italian Tyrol area in September - with more than 20 other MGCs - at which time Mike will no doubt wish he had power steering!



For enthusiasts, Mike's car is completely original. He said that the engine is fully lightened and balanced with a fast road cam, tubular manifolds and various other mods - giving around 175 bhp (factory was 146 bhp). The 'Minilite' type wheels are for long distance touring, and are easy to clean!

DMS Autotech is sponsoring the Rotary-Congleton Classic Car Show and Road Cruise on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and bringing two cars from a collection of 18 classic Jaguars, as well as a gazebo and some special offers and 'freebies' for enthusiasts.



DMS, based in Lawton, specialises in the care and repair of all makes of vehicles, but joint owner, Rob Bird loves his Jaguars. He owns 18! The company is one of the only Bosch specialists for miles and motor dealers and the public make a beeline to DMS who specialise in every type of electrical fault diagnosis and repair including hybrid and plug-in models. Rob says that his partner, Dave Mills is the real technical wizard!

Rob is bringing a 1999 4 litre supercharged Jaguar XKR in red and a 1997 XK300 3.2 sport saloon in British Racing Green – as well as his firm's expertise - to the show.

Burns Garages will Sponsor the Classic Car Road Show

Robert Burns' family business has been in Congleton for longer than Rotary has been active in the town! So it is fitting that Robert, the 4<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of the founder of the business, 105 years ago, should sponsor Rotary's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Classic Car Show and Road Cruise on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Robert expects to turn up with a couple of the firm's demonstrators from the firm's recently acquired Subaru dealership.



The Burns business is proud of its reputation built on service – which Robert says is the foundation of maintaining a successful business in the town, testified by the ongoing expansion of the site in Canal Street. There's still time to register a classic car for the show. Full details and an entry form can be obtained from organiser, Rotarian Rod Goodier. His number is 07764 781 657



# May/June Diary

Date	Event	Place	Time
6th & 7th May	Volunteer Expo	NEC Birmingham	All day
9th May	Business Meeting	Astbury Golf Club	6.30pm for 7.00pm
12th May	District 1285 International Evening	Guildhall Stockport or Zoom	6.00pm - 9.00pm
21st May	District 1285 Assembly	Village Hotel, Warrington	10am - 3pm
23rd May	Social Night	Astbury Golf Club	6.30pm for 7.00pm
2nd June	Jubilee Celebrations	Congleton Park	See Stew Price
6th June	Club Assembly & AGM	Astbury Golf Club	6.30pm for 7.00pm
18th June	Big Band Night	New Life Church	7.00pm for 7.30pm
20th June	Social Night	Astbury Golf Club	6.30pm for 7.00pm

