**Rotary Congleton Huddle – 4/9/23**

Apologies: - Brian, Ian, Rod, Gill, Joanne, Stuart H, John G & John R

Meeting kicked off with a presentation of a cheque to The Old Sawmill and Visyon

Updates from Team Leaders were then given

**Visits –** Stew said that the visit to The Railway for bowling and a meal had gone very well and may be repeated.

David Brew had visited Vale Allotments to check out the facilities before a decision was made on a donation. 20 allotments exist for the community with 2 being for the disabled.

**Welfare –** Doug announced that Phil Robinson has had a stroke on 31/8/23. Doug and Hilary have visited since and found Phil to be mobile with some stiffness down his left side. Phil would welcome visitors, but could people call first and get directions.

**Appeals –** Stew presented Vale Allotments request on behalf of Rod. The charity needs to raise £37k and have currently had pledges for £32k. They are requesting £2k from Rotary. Rachel gave some background on the Allotments and why the cash was needed and why every penny would count in their bid to raise the full £37k.

Stew proposed a donation of £1k and was seconded by John K. 4 votes were cast in favour of this proposal.

Rachel proposed a donation of £2k and was seconded by Doug. 17 votes were cast in favour of this proposal This motion was carried.

Doug requested £1000 for Christmas gifts to 7 care homes and 4 schools – 260 gifts for people in this area. This request was unanimously carried.

**Treasurers Report –** Bob said the Rotary Account had just under £4k in it and the Charity account had £42k less provisions leaves £28k currently for future distribution.

Bob requested that people requiring floats for the Bonfire put in their requirements before 20/9/23 for the gates/tombola/glowstick stall etc.

Kev asked if a decision had been made about future subs, but this decision will be left until Brian is available to discuss.

**New Members Forum -** Eddie Roberts asked the Entertainment team to consider a 6 monthly get together for Rotary members at a pub for an evening of chat and fellowship.

**Ukraine video and Update –** Kev on behalf of John G told us that Swati had asked John to prepare a video on the work of CAUSN and Congleton Rotary to be shown at a Rotary event in Manchester. The group were then shown the video. Everyone agreed it was excellent and a great reminder that the was isn’t over and more support is needed. John G to put in a formal request for another donation from the Rotary.

**Projects**

**Bonfire –** Eddie Roberts told us that everything was going to plan so far. A meeting is in the diary to tie up loose ends and new fencing will be delivered in October. 3 new large banners have been ordered along with new purple/yellow wrist bands.

The Council have granted Rotary various stalls through the month of Oct/Nov, as per Rod’s email and Stew will circulate an email with details of manning required at each stall on each date. Members are urged to volunteer, if only for short slots.

Janet gave an update on behalf of Jo and herself on the Tree of Light. Jo will present at the next meeting. The newly named Bear Town Singers will take part and Janet said they will look into making refreshments available to the singers after the event, maybe in the Town Hall. The town may turn off the other Christmas lights on the night to ensure the Tree of Light stands out.

Eddie Rush has the old solid banner advertising the fireworks but needs the date of 4th printed to insert in it. Eddie Roberts to check with Brian.

**Environmental –** David Brew referred to his report and confirmed that the bird boxes were going up on 12/9/23 and help might be needed by other members on that date.

**Swimathon –** Rachel confirmed that Congleton Leisure Centre has been booked for the two-day event. Ongoing discussions with regard to refreshments still taking place. The team are currently considering who might draw the crowds for the opening.event.

**Young Photographer –** Cath Brown is taking over this event and looking at a theme of Buildings in harmony with nature.

**Youth Speaks –** Eric confirmed that this has been dropped due to lack of interest.

**Young Artist –** Eric confirmed that this will take place as normal in March 2024

**Diary of Events –** Stew to issue an email detailing the support required on each date.

Last Night of the Proms – Doug confirmed he had sold as many tickets as he wanted to and will need support setting out the chairs and tables/bunting at 2.30pm on 16/9/23. Volunteers to contact himself. Eddie Rush volunteered for the ladder work.

Doug confirmed there would be no Pig Race in 2024.

Doug asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of the Rotary flag that had previously hung by the Bowling Green in the park. No one knew.

**Next Meeting –** confirmed as 18/9/23. Sandra to confirm that Jillian Jones from Friends for Leisure is still okay to provide a presentation on their activities.

Stew advised on behalf of Rod that we were invited to a Business Fayre on 20/9/23 where we might be able to garner support for events like the Swimathon. Support needed to be on our stand on that day.

Stew advised that we had received an invite from Biddulph Rotary to attend a Ukulele evening on 20/9/23. Tickets available for £5.

**Raffle** - was drawn and Eddie Roberts won. Grateful thanks to John Redfern for donating the prize and another for a future meeting.