

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?

Facebook tried to ban us!

Rotary's announcement of its popular Guy Fawkes competition was nearly scuppered by FaceBook, when the social media site blocked the Rotary press release and poster launching the competition. The block was selective and some local FaceBook pages including our own Rotary page did carry the story.



Apparently, the FaceBook algorithm initially picked up the word "firework" in small print and also thought that the charity event – which costs a fiver to enter and is only intended to cover its costs – was "gambling"! John Gauld, who organises the annual event for the club, pointed out to FaceBook that bonfire night was a UK tradition going back for more than 500 years and any fireworks associated with people's Guy Fawkes 'scarecrows' were dummies, probably made from cardboard and containing no explosives! A second appeal to Facebook brought the following comment... "Gambling Goes Against Our Rules"

We received your request and reviewed your listing again. We confirmed that it doesn't follow our Commerce Policies on gambling. We have Commerce Policies to help people buy and sell responsibly on Facebook. This listing is only visible to you. John Gauld said. 'Fairly obviously, the only gambler associated with our competition is Guy Fawkes himself. Back in 1605, he clearly failed! The club went ahead with the competition regardless and also celebrated Guy Fawkes with its popular Bonfire and Firework display in the Park on November 6th.'



Ride for Rotary
5th Edition

RIDI 3181 are conducting an International motorcycle ride/four wheel drive event called Ride for Rotary.

The last 4 editions of Ride for Rotary was a great success to which 90 participants from 15 different countries attended and had a wonderful experience. We have contributed close to \$100,000 to TRF from last 4 editions

This year we are planning to make it bigger and better by adding a luxury bus as well. Our aim is to promote International fellowship, exchange of Rotary views & the funds raised by this event will go to The Rotary Foundation.

Event will be from 15th to 30th January 2022.

A 12 days event commencing from Mangalore (India) that can either be a motorcycle ride, a four wheel drive or travel in the bus.

The ride will cover 4 Rotary Districts, many Rotary Clubs and the route map will be starting from Mangalore - Kundapura - Dandeli - Goa - Hampi - Shimoga - Hassan - Kushalnagar - Mysore Please visit our web-

Site: www.rideforrotary.com for more details

President's Patter

Not much to say this month as we get back to our normal meetings at the Golf Club. However, we have just had the most successful Bonfire Night raising record amounts of money for our charity account. This was due to all the hard work put in by Brian organising the event and we should thank him and his team for such a wonderful outcome. I personally would like to thank all club members for their efforts both on the night and for manning the stall in town selling tickets leading up to the Bonfire Night-Great team effort



Our next big fundraising event is Swimathon 22 which is well in hand and teams are already booking lanes. In the meantime, we can look forward to our President's Night, Christmas Concert and our Christmas party.

Coronavirus award

Rotarian Eddie Roberts and his partner Dee Pollitt received the Congleton Town Council Coronavirus Civic Award for their outstanding work, volunteering at the Town Hall vaccination centre. Eddie and Dee managed all the volunteers on site throughout all the sessions and turned up each and every day! The citation reads 'For an outstanding contribution during the pandemic 2020 – 2021'. Rotary-Congleton also picked up an award for stepping up and organising all the 90 volunteers – members of the Rotary club and townsfolk alike.. Congleton Cares had previously calculated that the value of the volunteering effort was over £52,000 to the community.



Bonfire and Fireworks

What a night!

Near record crowds enjoyed the Bonfire and Firework Display in Congleton Park on Saturday, November 6th.

Advanced sales meant that over 2,000 tickets were sold at discounted prices before the day. Nevertheless, the gates into the park were busy with many people buying their tickets on the night. For the first time, the club was able to accept credit card payments, thanks to a newly available mobile phone payment application. The club thinks that in total around 4,000 people bought tickets.

A torchlight procession of air cadets and scouts was led by Mayor of Congleton, Denis Murphy, the mayor's cadet, Tom Gilman and President Stew. Carrying flaming torches they paraded in front of the crowds before using their torches to light the fire. On top of the fire several Guy Fawkes, made by the children of Congleton's infants and nursery schools, went up in the flames..

It seemed that local people were glad to be able to get out and enjoy a public event after nearly two years of restrictions. Many families were able to attend and enjoyed a special display earlier in the evening with fireworks designed not to frighten younger children. There were 'bangs' but not so loud as those in the main programme.

A couple of short showers of rain failed to dampen the atmosphere in the park. The caterers all had lengthy queues and reported a record evening selling hot food, pizzas, hot drinks and ice cream. The Rotary stall sold out of light sabres half way through the evening.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Concert is back and is sure to be a sell-out. Rotary-Congleton's Christmas concert is taking place on December 11th after a year off due to the pandemic.

Tickets are now on sale for the event, which takes place on Saturday 11th December at 7.30 at the Daneside Theatre. The popular concert features music from Silk Brass and the Eaton Bank Choir. The evening always includes a popular selection of seasonal music and songs, and the audience is encouraged to sing along to several of the all-time favourites.

Tickets, priced £12 are available from the Congleton Information Centre at the Town hall

A festive poster for the Congleton Rotary Annual Christmas Concert. The background is a vibrant red with white and green snowflake and holly decorations. At the top right, the price '£12' is displayed in white. In the center, the Rotary International logo is prominent. Below it, the text reads 'The Congleton Rotary Annual Christmas Concert' in a mix of white and pink fonts. Further down, it specifies 'Silk Brass and Eaton Bank Choir At Daneside Theatre, Congleton Saturday 11 December 2021 7.30 pm'. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the text 'Proceeds after expenses will be donated locally. congletonrotary.co.uk'.

Swimathon is back!

Swimathon returns next year. It's not too soon to start getting a team together, says Rotary!

The popular Rotary Swimathon fell victim earlier this year to the pandemic and the closure of Congleton's Leisure Centre.

Now, thanks to a big welcome from Biddulph Leisure Centre, the event will return on March 4th, 5th and 6th, 2022



Rotarian, Eric Westwood is organising Swimathon 2022 for the Congleton Rotary club. He said, "We will be contacting all the teams that have entered and supported the event over many years, to engage with them and with new teams to ensure that they travel the extra couple of miles to Biddulph!"

TREE OF LIGHT

The Congleton Tree of Light has become recognised as the place to remember a loved one at Christmastime.

Last year, Rotary-Congleton was able to purchase a growing tree with help from the William Dean Trust, making the tree a permanent part of the Christmas period. The tree is located in the community garden on Lawton Street. The tree was switched on with a minimum of celebration as no more than 8 people were allowed to attend. This year there will be more of a public event. The switch-on is planned for Saturday, December 4th starting at 4.30 with the lights turned on at 5pm.

Despite the lockdown, the Congleton Tree of Light in the Community Garden has proved a popular place. Local folk are able to write a star in memory of a loved one and see the stars once they are placed around the Christmas Tree. The tree itself is dedicated to the memory of Rotarian Alan Parton, who brought the concept to the town.

Stars, priced £5 are now on sale at the Congleton Information Centre at the Town Hall. The Rotary Club will also sell stars from a gazebo in the town centre on Saturday 23rd, 30th, and November 6th. Stars can also be bought online and full details of how to buy a star and leave a message can be found on the [Welcome to Rotary Congleton \(congletonrotary.co.uk\)](http://Welcome to Rotary Congleton (congletonrotary.co.uk) website) website.



BIG BAND JAZZ NIGHT

It was third time lucky for Rotary-Congleton's big band jazz night at the New Life Church.

Two previous attempts at booking Kaleidoscope - with its extensive repertoire of big band jazz and swing - had been thwarted by Covid restrictions. The band, themselves, was pleased to be back. They had been unable to meet for practice sessions during the lockdown! That didn't stop them on Saturday night when they playing well-known jazz favourites including music by Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

Rotarian, Doug Parker who organised the evening introduced the band's musical director, Phil Shotton. Special guest vocalist, Corinne Andrews, was in fine voice singing a selection of all-time classics, including a thrilling rendition of 'Blueberry Hill'.



GUY FAWKES COMPETITION

Guy Fawkes Competition for Schools.

Every year, the Town bonfire in the Park features several Guy Fawkes on top of the giant heap. This year was no different and children who had spent so long making their Guys were delighted to see their efforts before the fire was lit. A burning decision was which Guy Fawkes, made by the nursery and junior schools around town, would win the competition.

In the event, they all went up in smoke!

First prize this year – and a cheque for £50 went to Daven School, although the judges did feel that it was a close-run thing. Creative young minds put a lot of work into all the entries. Friendly Faces had a sustainable Guy made entirely from green materials and Kids Planet made a 'Potato Zog'. New Life Nursery had a sackcloth man – but that also became ashes.

The judges praised all the entries and thanked the youngsters who had put such an effort into their work and made such a feature on top of the bonfire.





November/December Diary

| Date | Event | Place | Time |
|---------------|---|--|----------------------|
| 15th November | Social Night - visit to Massey Foods | Massey Foods Mill - Holmes Chapel | 6.45pm for 7.00pm |
| 22nd November | President's Night | Astbury Golf Club | 6.30pm for 7.00pm |
| 4th December | Tree of light switch on | Memorial gardens | 7.00pm |
| 6th December | Business meeting | Astbury Golf Club | 6.30pm for 7.00pm |
| 11th December | Christmas Concert | Daneside Theatre | see Rod Goodier |
| 20th December | Christmas Party | Astbury Golf Club | 6.30pm for 7.00pm |