

Founded December
1921



HUB

Rotary Club of Wolverhampton

Centre of club communications

Service above self



District 1210
RIBI No. 77
RI No. 19999

Registered Charity No. 220492

www.rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk



Mayor Andy Street

January 2020

Over 100 members from all local clubs attended Patshull Park to hear an excellent talk from Andy Street the first elected Mayor of Birmingham. Previously he had been MD of John Lewis for about 7 years. He took over just as on line shopping was starting to affect conventional shopping & spoke of his efforts to come to terms with this. When he left that job he said sales were roughly 50/50 in store & on line. He claimed to be surprised by his victory in the Mayoral election but was confident of future economic growth. He had praise, amongst others, for JLR and its I-54 factory and was pleased that batteries for electric vehicles would be manufactured here. He supports HS2.RS

Attached is a Photograph of the 43rd Meeting of the **PAST SECRETARIES** of the Rotary Club OF Wolverhampton who enjoyed drinks at Stableford and dinner at the Inn at Shipley. The Past Secretaries have continued to meet annually with wives since September 1976 with everyone signing a leather bound book adding the dates that we each served the Club as Secretary. As I am now the oldest living Past Secretary I can see from the book that Val and I have attended every occasion since 1980. Peter Williams



REMAP

Phil Watts came to talk to us about Rehabilitation Engineering Movement Advisory Panels. Aka Resourceful Engineers Making Anything Possible. He is part of the West Midlands arm of a 50 year old countrywide charity which aims to solve problems faced by people with disabilities. He mentioned a few : a coffee mug attachment added to a walking frame, a turntable to turn a wheelchair in a narrow space, a children's tricycle cut down to fit a child with dwarfism, a workbench adapted for a wheelchair user – some of the nearly 4 000 tasks set and brought to them sometimes by physiotherapists. They enjoy the challenges and provide their services without charge. Richard Green mentioned the Jaipur Limb LN4 hand in the discussion which took place. Ingenious and very useful.

See websites : www.remap.org.uk and www.makeability.org.uk .



Lisa Stallard

Was inducted as a member of the Club on 29th October. Lisa has worked in Tanzania and Nepal, has experience in operational and project management and now operates as co-founder of Wolverhampton Play Cafés for under 5s (and their parents) at four venues across the city. The aim is to reduce isolation and loneliness of caregivers and young children. We wish her well in that enterprise and welcome her to the Club. (Peter Wright made an immediate bid to coopt her into our group of quizzers!) SW



Roundelay by Alan Ayckbourn

A 16 year old girl intends to become star. A failed actress is setting up as an agent. An unfulfilled vicar. A retired judge mourning his dead wife. An MP with a penchant for schoolgirls. A queer chap with a great knowledge of CSI stories. The loony daughter of the judge. These characters are portrayed in five separate playlets, linked by their reappearances. Very competent playing with fascinating tours de force : an older call girl nearly succeeds in evoking the judge's dead wife, Ashley transforms from a convincing queer to a tough policeman, the 'star' performs a frenzied rap version of Three Little Girls From School and the loony judge's daughter brings the curtain down with a wonderful scream. Altogether a good night's entertainment provided by Tettenhall Amateur Players. Thanks are also clearly due to director Richard Green. SW

Club visit to RAF Cosford.

Roy Sutcliffe organised a visit to the Technical Training Centre at RAF Cosford on Tuesday 19th November, replacing the normal club meeting. We were taken by coach, which was thankfully heated, to a large hangar which wasn't. The top brass in the form of Station Commandant Tone Baker gave us a brief



introduction before we



saw the various sections of

the training of 1400 young men and women each year. Speaking for myself, I was so impressed with the range, detail and quality of the training on display. The trainees had the opportunity of hands on experience on many examples of modern aircraft. Although the planes were no longer fit to fly they had, in most cases, only just left combat service. All the trainees, when qualified, may expect to be doing the job of keeping planes flying in a conflict theatre, so it is serious stuff. PL

S&E Interim Sports Report

Darts, Snooker and Ten Pin Bowling competitions have all been entered this winter. The Darts competition came to an ignominious conclusion when we lost to Bilston by 5 games to 1 in the first round. Unanimously agreed that it was nothing to do with the team performance but it was the result of not being able to put together 3 darts which were the same as one another and they did have 2 ladies in their team!!! The Snooker competition has progressed more favourably beating Wednesfield by 5 games to 1 in the first round and travelling to Walsall for the second round where we won all our games (Our scorer DD tells me the combined score was 187 to 45 but he is on our side) (I have been told that our next encounter is against Bilston. There may have to be several practice sessions to ensure success and revenge for the Darts defeat.) The 10 Pin competition is due to start 1st January. Good fellowship with all our opponents and thanks to all who give their time to represent our Club. One note of sadness Dennis B tells me he can no longer play in the Snooker team and I thank him for all his support over the years

Rotathlon Events There have been 4 events this Rotary year so far : the par 3 Golf was well attended and won by Mike Colley, the Ten Pin Bowling was dogged by apologies and non apologies with the eventual Rotary attendance poor; this was won by Clive Baker. 6 of our ladies played, finally the 2 competitions of Dominos and Darts were held in November. It was well supported, a night of fellowship and good to see some our new members there. Bilston R. C. have expressed an interest in coming to some of our events and were represented by 2 of their members. Winner of the Dominos Stewart Ross, Darts Peter Hand. The Rotathlon points leader at half way point of the year is the President. Events to come : Slotcars in January, Snooker in February.PH



P.S. The photo is historic. It shows our first lady member Sylvia Morgan playing darts in the Rotathlon event. She reached the final. Witness that determination!



Tree of Remembrance 2019

The plinths were dusted off and assembled in the Wulfrun Centre between Pandora and Poundland. President Richard formally opened the site on 21st November. The Express and Star photographer took a very artful photograph which appeared in the E&S with a good write-up and the first messages for departed loved ones on 25th November. Behind the scenes quite a lot of work was done, particularly by Mike Colley, to get us up and running once again. Thanks to all concerned.

Dragon Boats 2019

It is six months exactly since the holding of the 2019 Dragon Boat Challenge and it is good to report that for the first time all aspects are complete well before Christmas. The final sponsorship amount has been received. It is pleasing that, from a record number of 27 boats, Sponsorship and Donations amounting to some **£23500** has been received, of which some **£11000** has found its way into the Club's Charitable Funds. Thanks to our chairman Mike Boyce for all the work he puts into this still very lucrative event, to Rod Jones for the original idea and the Club and Committee without whom it would not be possible. So far Dragon Boats has raised over **£400,000** for charitable purposes which includes over **£200,000** for club funds. It looks as though we will have to do it all again with your help. 17th May 2020.

All of which is nothing unless we can show we do some good from our efforts.....One particular venture which we were able to help with concerned our three time winner Joe Hawkes Home improvements. Joe advised us that rather than raising money for his usual charity he would be raising money towards a wheel chair costing £18000 for a nine year old girl with a similar condition to that of motor neurone disease. Our Community Service Committee agreed that all the money raised by Joe's boat should go to this worthwhile cause. Instead of the usual sponsorship he was able to raise £2600 and I understand that the wheel chair has been bought. Peter Hand



Schools Build a Plane Challenge

As our speaker Chris Hughes recounted (26.11.19) Boeing approached the Royal Aeronautical Society with a scheme to get 14-18 year old teams to build planes with kits provided by Boeing. This chimed with the drive to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) teaching and the project began in 2012 with teams from volunteer schools (2 per year), expert volunteers like Chris and inspectors, under the aegis of the Civil Aviation Authority. The youngsters do all the work and make gains beyond the exam-driven syllabus – of teamworking, time management, problem solving, and they love it. So far six planes have been made, been certified airworthy and flown at airshows. One of the first is GWFT named after Georgia Williams the air cadet who was murdered in 2013, who worked on it. This plane is now permanently at Cosford. The scheme is ongoing, no longer using Boeing kits and preserving the valuable resource of the volunteers. SW

Alan and Helena Walters

Are visiting the UK and enjoying the rain (not !) Alan moved to South Africa nearly 20 years ago He met another doctor and bought out with others his paramedic company Cape Medical Response. After a struggle the business began to grow and their reputation with it. 20 to 30 percent of the business is pro bono and they regularly go into townships. Alan's daughter Sarah moved back to the UK after a vicious break-in and her mother, his first wife Carol, followed her. He himself is 75, diabetic and had a quadruple heart by-pass last year. So he thinks it may be time to slow down a little : 'We intend to become swallows. I will keep my interest in 'my baby' (Cape Medical Response) but returning to live in the UK. Bridgnorth calls strongly'. SW



The Wolverhampton MS Therapy Centre Celebrates 35 Years



On Tuesday 3rd December 2019 a good crowd of more than 60 Rotarians, wives, guests and visitors assembled for a three course lunch at Linden House. The ambience was similar to the evening event for the 30th anniversary five years ago, with guest star Rachel Heyhoe-Flint. Peter Williams presented many of the milestones since the historic call for a public meeting in November 1984. Centre Manager Susan Husband took over to present recent changes. This is a Rotary success story. An early proponent of MS treatment by oxygen was President Walter Turner (1975-76) but the take-off above occurred during Peter's presidency (1984-85) with the active support of John Baker (1981-82) and Fraser Dukes (1983-84). This treatment was originally described as 'clutching at straws' but has been vigorously supported by such as Professor Philip James who visited the centre in 2016 and commented: 'The MS Therapy Centre in Wolverhampton is an astonishing facility. For over 30 years it has improved the quality of life for patients with this chronic illness.' Among the milestones were the acquisition of a bigger pressure chamber in 1993 from Middlesex Hospital, the canalside site and its more recent acquisition of the adjacent bungalow.

There have been many fundraising events (recently a fashion show and choir) and many sponsors – perhaps notably the Bradbury Trust Fund (Hong Kong). Currently ever more MS sufferers and others who can benefit by the treatments on offer are enjoying the hospitable ambience, attended to by Susan and her team of staff and volunteers. In his vote of thanks Past President Mel Eves recounted how he himself profited from the centre's treatment when he was suffering from a very debilitating post-viral syndrome five years ago. (He also mentioned Walter Turner in his wheelchair who brought him into Rotary and Fraser Dukes, here present, as 'Rotary Royalty'!) Altogether a good event. SW



Derek Morgan HLM

All present were pleased when President Richard awarded an Honorary Life Membership to Derek Morgan. Derek joined the Club in 1992. He had chaired the Sports and Entertainment, Club Administration and Tree committees and served on Governing Council for 15 years. He was President in 2003-4 and again until his stroke in 2017. He was crucially effective when as District Treasurer (2004-9) he got a grip of the £65 000 debt incurred when a Centenary Concert went wrong and steered District back to budgetary stability. Derek declared himself 'very happy' to receive the HLM.

Padre Eddie Wynn

Came to do the Christmas message on 17th December. How he came to being a military chaplain (of which there are about 250 in all the services). He was a CND marcher, a pacifist, a nurse, then meeting veterans who had seen war persuaded him to apply. He is a preacher, a herald, a shepherd, even a court jester – speaking truth to power, like his C.O. Tone Baker - who is a 'baptized atheist'. He has conducted a lot of funerals and seen a lot of injuries at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham which once received a very large number of injured soldiers from Afghanistan. His message for Christmas was to follow the line of Good King Wenceslas who saw a need, took advice (from his page), and acted. A good talk. SW



Carol Service and Lunch

On 15th December we sang quite well at St Chads Pattingham but not as well as the group of angels from the primary school!

Then we enjoyed a convivial lunch at Patshull Park Hotel, about 70 of us. A satisfactory lunch and well served, but not unmitigated – the stuffing was a bit odd and Mike Colley sat under a roof leak – raindrops keep falling on my head! After lunch we laughed a lot to local stand-up Dougie Parker. The photos show a young star and an old one. SW



Editor : Last items before this edition goes to print, hopefully in time for our first meeting in 2020. Richard Green has received a big thank you from Kevin Lawrence for our donation of £250 to Transform Burkina. RG also reports on our great effort this year, with partners at Bethel Christian Fellowship and thanks to Paul Lockley, to produce 147 Shoeboxes. Richard delivered them to the Preston warehouse of Rotary international Aid Trust. (In 2018 the RIBI grand total was 48 952 shoeboxes!) Geoff Lowndes wants us to drum up sponsors for Best Foot Forward on 4th July.