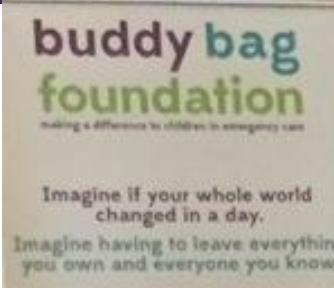




## The Longbow

On 15<sup>th</sup> May Mark Cooper brought a longbow he had made 25 years ago and talked to us about its history as a weapon. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was a crucial element in battles. Two sets of bowmen fought against each other at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 – Henry IVth got the better of the rebel Henry ‘Hotspur’ Percy. The former’s son, the future Henry Vth survived an arrow in the face and went on, as king, to win a mighty victory thanks to his archers at Agincourt in 1415. The French had crossbowmen (arbalétriers) but their firepower was pathetic compared with the vast array of English and Welsh archers loosing 20 arrows a minute. Mark makes bows ; the one in the picture is taller than himself (6ft2in), has a draw weight of 50-60 pounds and will fire an arrow 250 yards. It is recommended to visit his website at [Archerystore.co.uk](http://Archerystore.co.uk). For the history one could do worse than see Kenneh Branagh’s film of Henry Vth, read the novel Agincourt by Bernard Cornwell and visit the Battle-field 1403 Museum and farmshop on the ringroad east of Shrewsbury. (They have an exhibit of young Henry’s face with an arrow embedded in it and the surgeon’s account of how he saved Henry’s life.) SW



## Buddy Bags

John Wilson from Rugeley Rotary came to talk to us about Buddy Bags. They are bags of ‘goodies’ put together for children of various ages who come out of violent and abusive families and into emergency care – they always include among the several items a soft toy bear (plus toiletries, socks etc). The Buddy Bag Foundation (see Facebook) is based on the Australian Alannah and Madeline Foundation and was set up by entrepreneur Karen Williams two and a half years ago. 48 000 children are taken into care each year in the UK and BBF is striving to reach as many of them as possible. We can help by donating money, skills or time e.g. by participation in a Buddy Bag Brigade, an organised packing of knapsacks with items appropriate to age groups 0-2, 3-6 and 6-9. More information via their facebook. If you want to knit a bear President Paul has been sent knitting patterns. The many letters written by children prove how much they appreciate receiving a Buddy Bag . SW



## Inner Wheel

With great sadness, after 88 years, we have had to disband, as we were unable to find senior officers for next year. Because we have existed for so long, many of our ladies are of a “certain age” and we seem unable to encourage younger members. Some of our members have between 40 and 50 years of service I would like to thank all the supportive members who have kept us going for so long. Despite our impending closure, we have had a companionable year, with monthly speakers, a fascinating visit to Amazon in Rugeley, a coffee morning and a Charity Soup Lunch and hope to celebrate the summer months with a lunch party and later a tea party at the homes of members. We have been successful in money raising in a small way and every member was invited to vote for their Charity choices. We decided on “Smaller” organisations, as they would appreciate the residual amounts of money we had to share, equally between home and overseas charities. We sincerely hope to continue with a “Friendship Club” each month, when a member will take responsibility for making arrangements, whether for coffee, lunch or afternoon tea at various locations. We wish all other clubs every success and we are sorry to have to leave such a worthwhile organisation. Sincerely, **Wendy Sutcliffe**. President.

## Dragon Boats on Sunday 20th May



Organised by our club for the 18th time. To say that we chose the right day weather-wise is an understatement. It was just glorious and the crowds came! They watched 18 teams do battle for the winner's trophy, medals and shield, and basked in the sunshine at the same time. We had been disappointed to be let down by three entrants with just two weeks to go, and a further one team just didn't turn up on the day- or we would have had 22 teams but that doesn't take anything away from the fun and enjoyment of spectators and participants alike.

The car park on this occasion was controlled by Himley Park staff who we think did a really good job and saved us a great deal of work and responsibility, enabling us to concentrate on receiving donations from public as they parked their cars. This year's donations from the car park amounted to, when gift aid is added- £2,325. This is an absolutely amazing figure and my thanks go to everyone who endured the heat of the day and managed to collect so many donations. I think the delivery of occasional snacks and water by a cycling Clive Baker help very much so big thanks to him too. Mel Eves had a fantastic prize to raffle- an official Championship football signed by the entire Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Team and he did a fantastic job in selling £447 of tickets which, along with the revenue gained from the car park, is a great boost to our fund-raising target.

It'll be some time before we know how well financially the event has done but we have, with the car park donations and the raffle got off to a flying start. I have already received several notes of thanks from teams who took part saying how much they enjoyed the day and congratulating the Rotary Club for its efficient organisation of the event. These are very nice to receive but we all know that it's a huge team effort so I pass those thanks on to everyone who played their part on Saturday, in the set up, and of course on Sunday too. Whether it was collecting donations, keeping the site clear of litter, loading the boats, helping spectators, dealing with registrations – the event wouldn't happen without you. So on behalf of the committee and the Club- I thank you very much.

And special thanks go to the committee's super secretary Peter Hand who once again kept everything together and did so much in getting teams organised in advance of the day by looking after all the registration process- and much more. All of this while moving house too. Thank you Peter. So it's on now to Dragon Boat number 19 on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019. I'm looking forward to it already!! Thanks to everyone.. **Mike Boyce** P.S. Winners Sedgley Scorpions (above left). Runners-up Peter Posh.



## Pauls Pearls



When I wrote last months Pearls I was on the verge of having a couple of weeks in Ibiza clubbing (those were the days!!....no they weren't.) Before I managed to get on the plane I had the inestimable delights of the District Assembly which was held 100 yards from my front door—brilliant. It was very well attended, more than the organisers expected. DG Elect Ashley Gray introduced us to the incoming District Team and urged us to go to conference (three times!!)

Anyway after two weeks in the sun I returned the day after another successful Dragon Boat Challenge. Many thanks to Mike Boyce and his committee. I got into bed at 3.0 am and was in the chair for 1.0 pm for club assembly. That went off ok and after the meeting I had the pleasure of going to see PP David King to present him with an Honorary Life membership. This was a very emotional occasion but it was for me a great pleasure to give the award to not just



a good friend of 20 years but a great servant of our club and Rotary in Wolverhampton.

The next evening a posse of members and wives met at the Down Inn just outside Bridgnorth to celebrate the 75th Charter night of our daughter club Bridgnorth. It was a very

enjoyable, if slightly chaotic, evening and I thank all those who joined with Barbara and me.

On the 30th of May I ventured to darkest Bilston to play in our team in the District Crown Green Bowls competition. I partnered Geoff Lowndes and no matter what we did we failed to win. As Geoff said we were beaten by the secret Irishman Rick O'Shea. I know that's sour grapes!! Fortunately the rest of the team excelled and we won the match.

That brings me to the highlight of the month.

The second round of the District Croquet competition against arch enemy Tettenhall club. Not only was it against Tettenhall but we had to play on their courts at Wolverhampton Cricket ground. Having learnt from previous matches against them we turned up early and got in some practice. It obviously paid off because we won by a respectable margin. We were congratulated on our win through gritted teeth!! I love such rivalry, it gives it all a great edge. All we need now is to meet our other nemesis Cannock! That's the lot for now.

One of the rewards for sitting in the big blue chair is that the President and his first lady gets an invite to Cosford Air show as VIP's so by the time you read this we will have been treated like Lord and Lady Muck for the day...Brill.

### President's Address to Club Assembly (abridged)

Management Team : SVP Richard Horrell, Hon. Sec. Gerry Peters, Hon. Treasurer Stewart Ross, Assistant Sec. Geoff Lowndes, Asst. Treas. Robin Tyler Morris. Unfortunately we still have no JVP.

We live in difficult times for Rotary in the UK and Ireland. RI, RIBI and District are doing all they can to recruit new members but it is no longer aspirational to become a Rotarian and our model does not fit with the lifestyle of younger people. (I remember inducting 8 new members when I was first President in 2005/6. Unless we recruit

new members we will fade away. This may seem pessimistic but I prefer to adopt a position of pessimistic optimism. Kewal Krishan and his committee are actively exploring avenues to recruitment. The club has more than 50 members and ageing or not we are one of the most active clubs in District 1210.

Our fundraising is the envy of many. I am indebted to Geoff Lowndes and his Best Foot Forward Committee. And to Mike Boyce for once again captaining the Dragon Boat crew. And to Mike Colley for taking on the Tree of Remembrance. They will certainly face difficulties and I am sure surmount them.

I am pleased that Foundation and International will again be ably led by PDG Richard Green and SVP Richard Horrell. And that Youth and Community Service will be in the capable hands of Brian Bailey and his experienced group.

I am very happy that Clive Baker will continue to steer Sports and Entertainments, covering social gatherings, weekends and Rotathlon events. Peter Hand will continue as Sports Officer—nobody tries harder to win and hates losing more (especially against Cannock or Tettenhall).

Overarching all is the Governing Council and its subsidiary Club Administration Committee, to be chaired by RH . Six 'ordinary members' have agreed to Join GC : PDG Richard Green, PP Brian Woolley, PP Mike Boyce, Norman Holmes, Peter Wright and Brian Bailey. CAC includes Almoner Brian Oates, Compliance guru Richard Green, Duties/Speakers/Equipment Officer Roy Sutcliffe and Attendance Officer GL. Liaising with it will be Mike Boyce (Website), Mike Colley (Facebook) and Stuart Williams (Hub). Our future structure will be studied by a small sub-group reporting first to GC then to the members.

I think we may have to embrace change but let's wait and see what is proposed. I have not said much about visions, schemes or missions. Frankly I don't have any. I will be happy to chalk up another successful year and my mission is therefore to hand over to Richard the vibrant and interesting club that we have always been. Thank you. **Paul Lockley** (Editor : Abridged by me. I hope not too brutally!)

### Sir Bruce Forsyth CBE and Peter Williams

Peter as Chairman of Wolverhampton Round Table engaged Brucie to head a charity gala at The Grand in 1970 (see slightly squashed picture overleaf). The object then was to acquire a bus for handicapped children. Over the next 45 years Peter and Val went to many shows and they became friends with the great man.

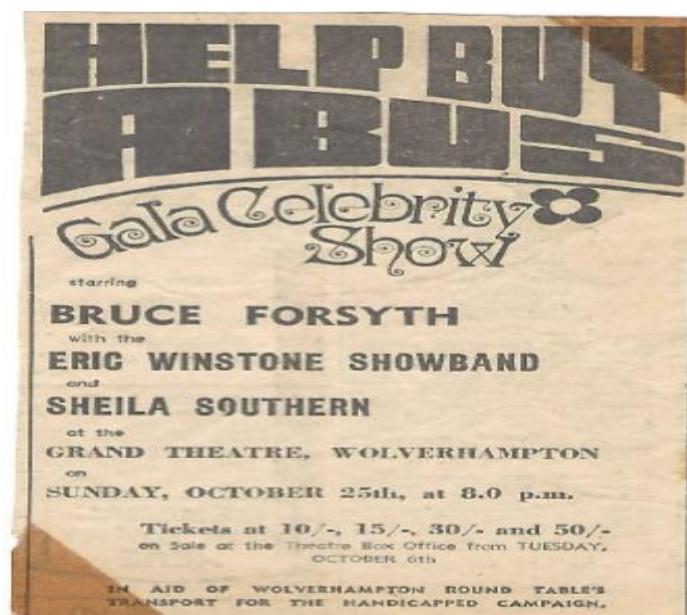
### Rotary Junior Technology Tournament

Seven of us, after a presentation by John Sayer, underwent an induction with him and Peter Langdon to prepare us to be mentors to 96 children in 24 teams at Uplands School on 9th July. (Richard Green who will be leading us was still in Bangalore.) The teams will construct bridges for squirrels from materials provided. We cannot wait to start mentoring (and hope that no one asks us to construct a bridge!)



## Stokesay Court

Glove merchant John Derby Allcroft made his pile and determined to build a mansion. Stokesay Court was duly built in 1892, at about the same time as Wightwick, though they are very different – stately stone and oak panelling against Tudor revival and Arts and Crafts. Twenty-three years ago Caroline Magnus inherited it from her Aunt Jewell and Uncle, Philip and moved in, though her friends said she was ‘bonkers’ to take it on. It was a setback that the executors forced a sale of the contents (to fund building repairs), though Sothebys did well (and Jerry Hobbs bought a medal cabinet.) He was a member of our party of 20 given a guided tour of the house by Caroline. After 10 years of gradual restoration the setback was followed by a miracle when the creators of the film Atonement decided to film at Stokesay and she was able to make the best of their 7 weeks of redecoration followed by 5 weeks of filming and 3 weeks of tidying up. Caroline shepherded us through this very attractive house and made a feature of the creative efforts of the Atonement set designers. The baronial hall, sitting room and others are impressive despite the priceless furniture and paintings that were sold. There is more to do as Caroline ‘goes with the flow’. The front of the house, despite the glorious rhododendrons, is less attractive than the back (in the photo). We all received a nice tea in the dining room warmed by a fire and a leaflet for Stokesay’s next event, the Ludlow Rotary Dog Day. (The film Atonement based on Ian McEwan’s novel and starring Keira Knightly came out in 2007).SW



## Club Diary

### N.B. N.B. N.B.

19th June at 12.30 Club Photo PLEASE TURN UP

24th June Handover Lunch at SS Golf Club PLEASE BOOK

25th June Governing Council

29th June District Handover Dinner at Walsall F.C.

2nd July Bradford Annan golf at Oxley Park GC

7th July Best Foot Forward

23rd July Governing Council

24th July Visit of DG Ashley Gray

9th August Canal Boat Trip

Hub will be published and distributed by e-mail on the second Tuesday of each month wherever possible. The editor accepts no responsibility for comments contained within Hub, seeking to include everything submitted by members where space permits. Please submit articles by e-mail to: stujen108@talktalk.net

## Meetings & Speakers

Tues 12th June Stuart Williams : Cyprus

Tues 19th June Foundation giving, discussion

Tues 26th June Valedictory Meeting

Tuesday 3rd July Presidential Induction

Tuesday 10th July Civic Day with the Mayor

Tuesday 17th July TBA

Duties	Meeting Steward	Speakers Host	Money Steward
12th June	M.Colley	N.Holmes	B.Bailey
19th June	F.Dukes	n/a	P.Wright
26th June	C.Cundy	(Valedictory)	C.Baker
3rd July	D.Dawes	(Induction)	M.Boyce
10th July	M.Eves	The Mayor	D.Cheadle
17th July	B.Follows	TBA	M.Colley
24 July	R.Fielding	Ashley Gray	C.Cundy

Members are reminded that any member unable to fulfil any duty must swap with someone else, or otherwise find a substitute, and notify the change to the Duty Officer and Secretary.

Apologies for non-attendance at Rotary lunch must be made no later than 4 pm on Monday, to ruth@hollingsworthandco.co.uk or by telephone to 01952 581014 (ask for Rotary Apologies) and copy to geofflowndes@hotmail.com (or telephone)