

Founded
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HUB

Centre of Club Communications
Rotary Club of Wolverhampton

Registered Charity No: 220492

www.rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 1210
RIBI No. 77

March 2018



Elias Mattu

1958-2018

Our friend Elias has died and is mourned by his family, wife Asha and grown-up children Anthony, Ishmael and Jessica. He came to the UK with his Christian family from northern India at the age of nine and was proud of his new country and city. All the messages from former colleagues, councillors and MPs speak of his dignity, courage and dedication. He was the 159th mayor of Wolverhampton and a councillor for Graiseley Ward for 18 years – he was also a member of our Rotary Club. He spoke highly of Rotary's contribution as well as supporting a number of charities – Interfaith, Sickle Cell Care Centre, Street Pastors, Central Youth Theatre and Acorns. He had been passionate about sport especially power lifting, which he also coached. He attended all possible civic events until almost the end – President Paul remembers him in a wheelchair at the last Remembrance Sunday. We remember him very fondly and send our condolences to his family.



Crocus Watch Richard Walton in consultation with Fraser Dukes determined to observe the growth of the crocus corms we planted in Bantock Park prompted by the crocuses in their own gardens. Of the 2016 planting in Bantock Park there was not a sign. Not a blade or a shoot, much less a flower. But the 2017 planting were showing nicely, though due to the lack of sun they weren't open, some had been mashed by the dog walkers and there was a large patch of bare soil to the right and around the statue of the bull. Richard reports 'Today it is sunny but too cold for them to open and with the forecast the way it is I doubt I will get a better picture. So here it is, just in case.' Thanks Richard. (I wonder what the present icy conditions have done to these fragile plants?)

MS Centre Flood "We were taken by surprise" At lunchtime on Monday 13th December water was ankle deep in a very short time building up in the car park and it was impossible to stop the flow of water into the Centre. Both the Fire Brigade and Seven Trent were called but it was too late to stop the flooding mainly into the Tank Room. The area was awash seeping down under the Chamber damaging the wooden flooring and carpet over a wide area. Susan contacted Alliance our insurers and they sent in a team from Polygon to deal with the problem and Diveline responded to carry out the work required on the Chamber. We were told that we would be unable to use the equipment to provide oxygen until the whole area had dried out to avoid contamination. The Centre continued to function however with members of staff and volunteers supplying tea and coffee for everyone with Physio, Yoga and Reflexology all still available. Our Insurers sent in the Assessors to look at the work and cost of putting things right which would include a new carpet throughout. We must thank and congratulate Susan and her team for the way they have handled things and our patients for their understanding and consideration under the circumstances. We were back providing Oxygen Therapy on Monday 15th January with patients saying how much they had missed it. Everything by now will be back to normal and our thanks to all concerned. Chairman PETER.

Classic Motor Cars



On Saturday 10th February 30 of us visited CMC tucked away in Stanmore Industrial Estate, Bridgnorth. In the course of a good two hour tour we were surprised at the superb vehicles on their 60 000 square feet of property. Many Jaguars, from Mark 2's to E-types, but also Bentleys, Aston Martins, a Bugatti, a PininFarina (photo with ladies) redesigned Jaguar and others. Many are vintage cars in storage for their owners, others are in the process of restoration – the 1937 Bugatti (photo) is being entirely rebuilt. (It cost £1.2 million and will be worth £8-10 million when completed, but the job will typically

take 18 months.) Another item is a glamorous 1950s Chevrolet which has had a prang and been entrusted to CMC for repair. The company employs around 60 staff many of them experts in bodywork, engines, electrics, trim and some apprentices. Their reputation is such that they receive commissions from many parts of the world – left hand drives outnumber right hand drives by 2 to 1. A Texas billionaire shipped over a battered E-type for restoration. His wife asked for space for her luggage, so they constructed a trailer from the back half of another old E-type! (CMC has no time to undertake its own restoration projects.) This is an outfit of world renown, hidden away. I recommend a visit to their website : www.classic-motor-cars.co.uk



Pauls Pearls

What a strange month it has been. A couple of weeks ago we were all hunting for the first signs of the thousands of crocuses planted last year in the Purple for Polio campaign. No sooner had they shown their purple heads than they were covered by several inches of snow. They were not the only casualties of the bad weather. Barbara and I were due to attend the 75th Charter night of our daughter club, Bridgnorth, on Saturday 3rd March. As late as the Saturday morning that they were forced to cancel the event. I suppose there is a silver lining to the snow clouds in that there were only a few of us able to go because of a clash with the Old Wulfrunians dinner and the Wolves kick off at 5.30pm (also cancelled). A rescheduled 75th in the near

future may allow a few more of us to support Bridgnorth. Last Tuesday was the visit by Margaret Rowe, partner in FBC Manby Bowdler, to let us into the secrets of creating Powers of Attorney. Her talk was very informative and when she had finished a lively Q&A session ensued. Our company was graced by the presence of Wendy Sutcliff, Carol Lowndes and Phyllis Oates. I saw they were taking careful notes I presume in preparation for taking control of their respective husband's affairs!! I hope that the flyers I am sending you, to highlight the next week's meetings, are being well received. They are meant to encourage you to support the speakers by putting the date in your diary. There has been a small increase in attendance and I would like to see this improve further. Let us see what next month brings –hopefully some spring weather!

Inner Wheel

February was our Business meeting and much discussion took place regarding the viability of the Inner Wheel Club for the following year. Everyone had the opportunity to contribute and then vote. Sadly, we have had to inform District that we must disband from July 2018, due to the inability to find Senior Officers and the falling attendance. BUT...we are 88 years old!, and so we will be holding an afternoon tea with entertainment to celebrate this achievement on 13th March and we hope to continue next year as a Friendship Club, meeting monthly. Wendy Sutcliffe, President.

A Christmas Card Thankyou Dear all, I just wanted to thank everyone in the club who contributed their £5 towards the Club's Christmas Card. After the cost of production was taken off, the total amount received was £165 which will, after the relevant gift aid is added, become just about £200 which will all go to the Rotary End Polio Now Campaign. With the matched funding that is still in place from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this £200 will become £600 which will immunise 3,000 children against Polio. That really is quite a result from your £5 contribution. And you had a Christmas Card from everyone else too! So once again, thank you everyone.

.Mike Boyce



Bitcoin was conceived as a universal and international means of making payments which would operate on a person-to-person basis, without the need for intermediaries to look after the whole process. Once established it could, in theory, make the role of bankers redundant. In recent years the formerly unblemished reputation of bankers has been sullied by sub-prime mortgages, the PPI scandal, the shame of interest-rate swaps and decisions knowingly to misdirect and plunder the assets of small to medium companies. Many would love to be able to conduct business without the need for such “assistance”. Anyone taking the plunge to become actively involved in

Bitcoin has the choice and opportunity, just to speculate on future growth in value, to become a “node” and actually take part in processing transactions, or to get even more involved and become a “miner” - trying to share in the rewards available from “mining” new Bitcoins. Before the prospect of replacing bankers can become a reality, there needs to be a much wider acceptance of Bitcoin as a means of settlement. The enormous volume of recent publicity has unfortunately centred on other aspects – the widely fluctuating values, the excessive power consumption involved in the process, potential harm to the environment and the possibility of use to conceal and launder the proceeds of crime, in many guises. How it all evolves remains to be seen, but in the meantime the website www.bitcoinfees.com opens a treasury of celebrity videos – Warren Buffett – “He no like!” but Richard Branson is happy to be paid in Bitcoin for (future) space travel. What a lark!!! Thanks to Geoff Lowndes for his excellent exposition. P.S. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney has just launched a scathing attack on cryptocurrencies, describing them as ‘bubbles that attract fools’.



IPP Stuart has now acquired a banner with a lot of bannerettes (which he must now examine and try to remember where they came from). One of them was brought by a former Lufthansa pilot and present Rotarian from somewhere near Lake Constance. He visited us in connection with a VSE group. It was stated that the President had once handed over the banner to the IPP. Paul had no memory of such a ritual but did the handover anyway.



Stuart got a banner but Derrick picked out a Joker and received a nice cheque for £277.50 from the Rollover Raffle. Please let us know which you would prefer—or perhaps better not!

CAC is planning an outing

The Club Administration Committee chaired by Geoff Lowndes (and by PE Richard Horrell from July) comprises a number of office holders—Secretary, Treasurer Speaker Secretary, Duties Officer, Almoner, Attendance Officer etc and welcomes proposals of any matters that club members wish it to discuss. Suggestions for future speakers and vocational/fellowship visits will always be welcomed. At this time it is considering raising a party to attend St Georges charity film night showing of **Darkest Hour** * on 26th April (preceded by a meal at the Queens Cantonese Restaurant). Full details will be published in due course but note the date in the meantime. (* Gary Oldman has just won the Oscar for best actor for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in this film.)



Derek

When I visited he was fixing the cooker, one of many DIY jobs, notably a broken garage door recently. He drives, plays snooker with his son-in-law, helps organise some former nurses, even cooks occasionally. His specialist is pleased with his continuing progress, but he is frustrated by the ongoing speech problem which extends to difficulty in dealing with television programmes and gatherings of people. He is keen to do the Bluebook corrections when we have them. Also he looks forward to joining us at events and meetings. (A pity that the Slotcars was cancelled and that he didn't know about the visit to Classic Motor Cars.) Our visits are appreciated by him and Sylvia. SW

Lasting Powers of Attorney

Margaret Rowe, a partner at FBC Manby and Bowdler, gave us a clear and interesting talk about what used to be called Enduring Powers of Attorney (not now invalid but perhaps less apposite). They fall into two categories, Property & Finance and Health & Welfare, two areas in which the donor cedes powers of decision to a trusted person or persons (a good idea to name a substitute in case the trustee dies before you.) If these powers are not in place then a lengthy application to the Court of Protection may be necessary. (Ed.: having made our wills



we have so far not taken this step on grounds of cost. Probably unwise—we may take up the better deal offered by M&B.)

Two notices

(1) On 20th March the third quarterly draw of the 200 Club will take place ; £100 and £25. Extra balls are available from GL for £10 each.

(2) DG Carol Reilly invites all Rotarians, partners and friends to an End of Year Dinner on Friday 18th May at the Whitehouse Hotel in Telford. Tickets £22 available from AG Malcolm Hallewell lionshome@yahoo.co.uk

Club Diary

11th March District Final of Young Musicians
 15th March District Quiz
 16th March 24 hour Bikeathon
 22nd March Brewood Singers at Linden House (MS Centre)
 14-16th April Llangollen weekend away
 23rd April Interclub Skittles
 26th April St Georges Film Night
 1st May AGM

(Cont. from above right)

Tues 17 April John Wilson Buddy Bags
 Tues 24th April Colin Cundy Travels in India

Hub will be published 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: stu-jen108@talktalk.net

Meetings & Speakers

Tues 6th March Margaret Rowe : Power of Attorney
 Tues 13th March (Evening) Cosford Apprentices and V.S.E.
 Tuesday 20th March Business incl Future Giving Programme
 Tuesday 27th March Ken Wagstaffe Rotary Foundation
 Tuesday 3rd April No Meeting Bank Holiday
 Tuesday 10th April Mike Boyce Hitting the Heights in Argentina

Duties

Meeting Steward	Speaker's Host	Money Steward
13th Mar (Evening meeting)		
20th Mar J.Wootton		A.Jacques
27th Mar P.Wright	F.Dukes	R.Jones
10th April B.Bailey	R.Fielding	K.Krishan

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 4pm 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).