

Founded
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HUB

Centre of Club Communications
Rotary Club of Wolverhampton

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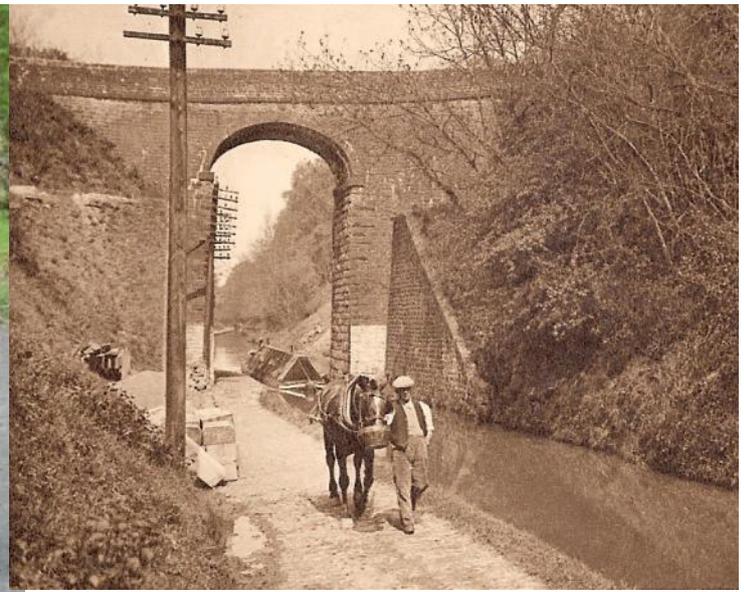
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 1210
RIBI No. 77

November 2018

Four went a-quizzing We drove to Aldridge Social Club on 16th October without high hopes. The other teams were Dudley, Wednesfield, Brownhills, Aldridge and Wednesbury. After two hours of serious questioning we came third in that list. If we had remembered the name of the current President of RI we might have been second equal. If we had remembered the name of the current DUP leader we might have finished second. There was no chance of defeating Dudley with its score of 136 (about 68 %) but there is a chance that we will survive into the next round – of the starting 52 teams 42 will go forward. We need a training schedule in place to prepare for 16th January? (Stop press: we are through to the second round!). SW (PW,RH,BW)

Horse-drawn Narrowboats in the Black Country



Tony Gregory gave us a fascinating illustrated talk about this transport industry which grew quickly in the early 1800s and endured for a century and a half. Thanks to the likes of the Duke of Bridgewater, James Brindley and later Thomas Telford the price of coal 'halved overnight'. A major achievement was the Grand Cross joining the Severn-Trent and the Mersey-Thames rivers, making Birmingham a central hub. Horses towed the 15 ton narrowboats (not barges) with their 25 tons of cargo around 25 miles per day. We saw pictures and a video of the old days and modern re-enactments – the harnessing, ropes and lock management were ingenious. These horses, slimmer than shire horses, were well treated and still in use in certain circumstances until about 1960. Thanks to Tony for fitting his talk into the meagre 20 minutes allowed! SW



And when did you last see your father?

Peter Wright is planning to tell us a story about his primary school days in which figures this famous picture by William Frederick Yeames (1835-1918). Watch this, or some other, space. (The painting is in the Walker Art Gallery Liverpool and actually should be the other way round!)



A group of Rotarians joined many others at the Goodyear Pavilion for a party on 12th October. The food was good and efficiently served, the wine was inexpensive, the ambiance jolly. Maggie O'Hara contributed greatly, singing on the stage in the first half and among the crowd in the second – a large variety of songs from The King and I to When I'm 64. The very good supporting act, The Ukulele Band, also did some Beatles numbers as well as George Formby etc. President Paul felt he had to wear his chain and was kept quite busy with the usual big raffle. Peter Williams compered and declared that Susan Husband and her colleagues had done all the brilliant preparatory work. Martin Wellsbury was the envy of many, scooping the bottle of Laphroaig. Altogether a very satisfying celebration of a very good cause. SW



Pauls Pearls

It has been a busy month with some significant events. First off was the kind invitation by Peter Williams to Barbara and me to the M. S. Centre annual Party held at the Pavilion. A lovely evening with the opportunity to catch up with former member Chandru Ray. Entertainment was organised by Jerry Hobbs and as you might expect up to his usual high standard. The next Thursday was the Past Presidents dinner which for me has become less and less enjoyable, relying on an outdated format. This year PP Peter Williams offered to organise a change of venue and format. The South staffs Golf Club was the venue and we were well looked after. We had the pleasure of the company of John Gough, a director of Wolverhampton Wanderers, a man well known to many at the dinner. John did not give a speech as such, more of a chat, about the effects that going up to the dizzy heights of the Premiership has on the finances of the club. He also brought with him the Championship Cup, formerly the First division Cup and the oldest trophy in world football. The night was in my opinion a great success. Another highlight was the next evening when Barbara and I were guests of the City Youth Theatre (one of the projects which our club supported) for the Followspot Awards.(...sort of Oscars). Accompanied by PP Mike Boyce we were asked to do the ...open the envelope and the winner is.....presentation. Inspiring to see what opportunities are offered to our youth. (Though no thanks to the City Council who withdrew their funding!!) Other bits and pieces was the win in the district snooker competition and our visit to darkest Willenhall for the district darts competition. Although we won handsomely, I can tell you that the venue was the worst I have ever visited in 20 years of district events. I haven't been to Willenhall before in my 75 years and it is highly unlikely that I will be going back!



President Paul

Alan Walters writes from Capetown

Dear Stuart, thank you for Hub. Yes please continue to send it. I am still an active Rotarian here in Cape Town and still work as an Emergency Doctor. My company has grown over the years. We started with one response car and 2 paramedics. Now we have 4 ambulances, 6 response cars and 45 paramedics and ambulance personnel. We do 450 emergency calls, on average, per month. Despite a quadruple by-pass I am still pulling people out of car wrecks! I hope to pop in to the Club sometime next year. Yours in Rotary, Alan

Past Presidents Dinner



Took place on 18th October 2018 and breaking with tradition the 15 PPs invited a guest speaker in the form of John Gough a director of Wolverhampton Wanderers. John brought with him the magnificent Championship Cup. After the excellent dinner with wine and port he told us many things about the present situation of Wolves (currently 11th in the Premier League). Its income last year was £27m and is due to be £150m this year. Revenue from TV per game was £50k and will be £1.13m. If 'we' finish 5th there is a bonus of £30m. John's first job as director was to sell the club and Jack Hayward accepted £10 from Steve Morgan plus a guaranteed £30m investment. Steve subsequently sold 'without profit' to the Chinese company Fosun. They wanted the best 'brand' outside the Premier League, whose clubs normally fetch £200m. Fosun are very driven and ambitious ; they aim for a 60 000 seat stadium and European football. So far , so good. The decibel rating of the Wolves crowd stands at 85, higher than Man City and Chelsea. The shirt sales and sponsorship are up. Wolves figures prominently in Social Media - Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, vying with Liverpool, Tottenham and Man City. The 6 full time scouts review 4 000 players in various countries every month and the Academy is prospering. We were grateful for Peter Williams' excellent organisation , enjoyed the conviviality and John Hough's talk. (Mel Eves wishes now to be known as Meves!) The instruction to the organiser of next year's event is : Follow that! SW



Gaby and Pat

Jerry Hobbs writes : Jenni and I spent a very enjoyable week with Gaby and Pat in Roseto at the end of September and I'm pleased to report that after a very difficult time since the loss of Gianpiero, they are slowly, but surely, rebuilding their life of new normality. They are surrounded by a supportive network of family and friends and after having lived for several months in their apartment by the beach they are now back and firmly settled in their beautifully situated home in the hills above Roseto.

Gaby and Pat particularly asked that I convey their gratitude for the many letters and cards that they received from Rotary friends since Gianpiero died; something that has undoubtedly helped give them strength in their hour of need.

In front of their apartments, where the above photograph was taken, and in a quiet grassy spot facing the sea, a place that Gianpiero loved, Gaby and Pat and Marzia and her brother have created a memorial to his memory. A place open to everyone, where a tree has been planted surrounded by a small garden with two beautifully cut stone seats. Gaby, Pat, Adriano, Marzia and Tom were joined by members of both families and many of Gianpiero's friends from Roseto and Rome, at a recent ceremony of dedication. The dedication reads as follows:

These stones that belong in time and memory a small space for all to share in remembrance of Gianpiero. The rough surface of the stone seems to belong to the geography of this place and it allows us to travel through infinite time. Nature allows our memories to continue in this deliberately informal space where anyone is welcome to sit and listen to the sea.

'For no age is too early or too late for the health of the soul.....For life has no terror, for those who thoroughly apprehend that there are no terrors for them in ceasing to live.....Death, therefore, the most awful of evils, is nothing to us, seeing that, when WE ARE, death is not come, and when death is come WE ARE NOT. (Epicurus. Letter to Meniceo)



Paul Brennan

Paul accompanied by his wife Rita talked to us about his ambition from a young age to join the RAF and become a pilot. He was turned down twice, the second time having flown many solos in gliders. Years later he was accepted and Rita agreed, retaining a say in his quitting. Life was very good in their first posting to Malta – cheap fags and drink, travel and Russian navy outfits to keep an eye on. When they were then moved to Kinloss they had fewer visitors and it wasn't Paul's desired posting back to Finningley, Yorks where he had joined – but interesting being in the intelligence section during the Falklands war. When he finally got to fly regularly it turned out to be rather boring. After mastering the take-offs and landings (which weren't boring!), 'you might as well be driving a bus without scenery to look at'. Paul finished off

this section of his life – a part two is on the cards, with an account of his position training apprentices at Cosford and the final end of course extensive pranks played by the new graduates, involving a gorillagram, pigs and a car registration plate containing OINK. Fortunately the CO had a sense of humour. Highly amusing. SW



The Rotary Young Musicians Competition 2019 is open for instrumentalists and singers up to the age of 17 to take part in this great, well organised and successful event.

A first round will be at Wolverhampton Music School, Graisle Hill at 4pm on Sunday, February 3rd. 2019, leading onto District, Regional and National finals. Other first rounds take place across the West Midlands, Staffordshire and Shropshire areas. Please contact the organiser below for details.

The competition aims to offer young people: *The experience of performing on a public stage.* An opportunity to showcase their musical talent. *Impartial feedback and assessment of their performance by experienced adjudicators.

Entrants perform 2 pieces of contrasting style lasting up to 10 minutes in all. Full details can be found at www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/competitions or by contacting Rotarian Richard Green at richard.green51@talktalk.net for the competition guidelines and an entry form.



Wolves 1953-54 Champions

How many players can you name? For another view of this same cup see Pauls Pearls.

Club Diary

22 Nov. St Georges Charity Film Night (Finding your feet)
 26th November Junior Tech. Tournament at Uplands School
 26th November Governing Council
 6th December Rotathlon Slot Cars
 Tuesday 11th December SGM
 Tuesday 11th December Zone 6 Meeting
 Sunday 16th December Carol Service and lunch at Patshull
 Monday 17th December Governing Council
 22nd January Rotathlon Snooker
 4th February First Round Young Musicians Competition

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

Tuesday 20th Fran Bumpus - winner Bob Lampitt award
 Tuesday 27th Lisa Stellard - VSO work in Nepal
 Tuesday 4th December Peter Turnock – voyages with Cunard
 Tuesday 11th Special General Meeting
 18th Christmas Message

Duties	Meeting Steward	Speakers Host	Money Steward
20th	P.Hand	S.Williams	P.Davis
27th	J.Hobbs	B.Bailey	F.Dukes
4th December	R.Jones	S.Bott	M.Eves
11th	K.Krishan	n/a	B.Fellows
18th	J.Parry	M.Boyce	R.Fielding

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)