

Founded December
1921



HUB

Rotary Club of the City of Wolverhampton

Service above self



District 1210
RIBI No. 77
RI No. 19999

Registered Charity No. 220492

www.rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk

President Brian Bailey

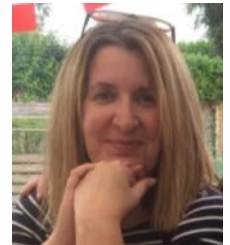
October 2020



Richard Horrell handed the chain of office to Brian in the latter's garden (see photo) and a day or two later we had a confirmatory club meeting by Zoom on 7th July. 32 members plus 9 visitors participated, including IPDG Brian Reilly and AG for Zone 6 Mukunda Chidrawer. Lots of detail is included in the note sent to all members by Secretary Gerry. We were updated on the plaque and trophy arrangements for Fraser Dukes, on Shelterbus (currently parked in the Good Shepherd yard) and on the consultation about restructuring the club (which will be the subject of the next Zoom meeting on 14th July.) Brian Woolley reported that this year's De-

cathlon winner is Richard Horrell. President Brian then gave a brief résumé of his career from Local Authority Treasurer to

research into corporate governance, involvement with Wolverhampton Archives group and participation in the National Gardens Scheme. He is looking forward to the year and its challenges. There followed perhaps the most unusual agenda item, the induction of two new members via Zoom. Sally Woods (left), sponsored by Jerry Hobbs, is a mother of two and a Community Fundraiser for Compton Care. Katie Guest (right), sponsored by Peter Wright, is a mother of three and Development Manager at Cosford Museum. She and Sally were both formally inducted by President Brian and expressed their pleasure



to join the club using this advanced technology! The quite full agenda was successfully completed in under an hour! SW

Déconfinement

In early July there are vast increases in Corona infections in the USA and in Brazil, where President Bolsonaro tests positive. In the UK on 3rd July, with now over 44 000 deaths, Boris, flanked again by Vallance and Whitty, announces the continued loosening of our lockdown (see the more economical French term above). Wee Nicola describes the Westminster changes as 'shambolic'. Downing Street stresses that this is a cautious reopening of the hospitality sector. Whitty: the aim is to 'balance the multiple risks'. Will the public go carefully into the pubs? And when will we get some relief for the theatres? Boris says: 'Enjoy the summer safely'. French friends took advantage of reopened restaurants to have a meal out on 2nd June with their son and daughter-in-law. Jeni and I ventured to Bella's on 7th July for a very nice meal - without our more cautious son and daughter-in-law! Calculated risks. SW

Meetings by Zoom in July

We held a Club meeting with President Brian Bailey on Bastille Day, continuing the recent use of Zoom and with a good turnout again. Bluebooks now distributed. Shelterbus may possibly be taken over by the Salvation Army. Problems with Fraser's plaque at the National Memorial Arboretum. Patshull Park Hotel is in receivership so we will have to find another venue for our Centenary meal. Begin discussion of new club organisation. Sports & Ent wants to know why CAC is so large. This subject continued in CAC the following day - the point is that CAC members all have a Club job to report on. Terry Walker, Andile Siziba and probably Alvine Noumey have left the club. The prospect of meeting face to face remains distant. On 21st July the Zoom meeting will have a speaker - see account overleaf.

Young Musician of the Year



Richard Green represented the club at the presentation of a trophy and cheque on behalf of Rotary in Wolverhampton to 18 year old saxophonist Alice Bennett who has been selected by the Wolverhampton Schools Music Service as the Young Musician of the Year.

The presentation, which normally takes place at the pre tour concert of the Youth Orchestra, was held in the bandstand at West Park in the presence of the Mayor Councillor Claire Darke, and the District Governor, Ken Wagstaffe - attending his first engagement of the new Rotary year.

Alice has just left Wolverhampton High School for Girls and hopes to pursue a career as a professional musician. In addition to playing the saxophone, she is an accomplished violinist and is the leader of the Youth Orchestra. She hopes to do a gap year carrying out voluntary work overseas before going to music college. She is currently doing voluntary work with our District Alumni Association on the Books4Home project.

21st July Meeting

Another first for us, a Zoom meeting with a speaker. But first some business with 33 attendees including a contingent from Stourbridge - Bob Fearn, President Julia and others. Richard Green gave us greetings from President Deep of the Walsall Rotary Club where he attended an international over Lottery business and another first? It was then Links, former DG at the ners deal with deaths (and third of the total in his inquests a year. The first Guardsman who died in Moors Murderer – the dumped at night in the blood transfusion could not be given etc We also heard about Harold Shipman who may have killed over 200, whose cases did not come to inquest because they died under his sole practitioner care. (Richard Walton could not remember a single death in surgery in his years of practice.) Rotary activity helped Chris to 'switch off' after work. A fascinating session. (The photo from my iPad shows Chris in the middle of page two.) SW



meeting (via zoom). Paul Lockley performed the Roll-Geoff Lowndes hit on a joker and scooped the £779, the turn of our speaker Chris Sumner of Southport same time as Richard Green and retired Coroner. Corotreasurer) and he has dealt with 2700 deaths, about one district. Some interesting detail from some of his c.250 person to be killed by an airbag – a short lady. A Welsh Helmand, shot through the 'trauma box'. Ian Brady the objective was to leave no trace of him so his ashes were Irish Sea. A Jehovah's Witness who died because a

A Visit by District Governor Ken Wagstaffe



Another well attended Zoom meeting with a few visitors like Praveen Parmar speaking from Lusaka, Zambia (who has worked a lot with Mike Boyce) and Hazel Brindle from closer to home (who is interested by our success in attracting new members). After some news items Ken was able to witness the induction as a member of Helena Walters who is actually transferring from the Cape of Good Hope RC. And then a repetition 'before our very eyes' of the Rollover Raffle, which Richard Green does not win. There are a couple of pages about DG Ken in the recent district Roto magazine emailed to members. He quoted Rotary International President Holger Knaack whom he met in San Diego (see photo of Doreen, Ken, Holger and Susanne). 'Rotary opens opportunities' is his motto. Ken spoke to us for about 20 minutes using powerpoint slides declaring our upcoming aims, 1) to grow Rotary, 2) to end Polio, 3) to support Rotary Foundation and 4) to do good in the world. Ken wants us to formulate our own plans working with District. It is essential to continue Fraser Dukes' Polio effort – numbers of new cases are up, but the monitoring centres are proving useful in tackling COVID-19. Rotary gets good value for its Global Grants – for which applications are not lacking. 'Let's not wait for the storm to pass. Let's dance in the rain'. In a vote of thanks President Brian assured him that he was pushing on an open door. SW

Calling Kampala North



Charles Cox in his capacity as member of the Rotary Cadre of Technical Advisors gave us a presentation by Zoom of his visit just before lockdown to Kampala. We had a good turnout including many Ugandans and heard about the Kampala RC and Philadelphia RC global grant worth \$215 000 to train midwives and community health workers. It was clear from the participation of project leader Francis 'Tusu' Tsubira that his club knows its way around Rotary grants. At present the work is disturbed by COVID-19 but it is ongoing. One of the improvements to be made is the transport of pregnant women to hospital by other means than



the ubiquitous motorcycle. We briefly touched on AIDS with the tale of a lady infected by her husband, abandoned with her three children, being restored to an active life and setting up a charity for the AIDS-impacted. And the hospital in one of the photos advertises a service other than midwifery! Charles was very well received on his visit to inspect this ‘fantastic programme’. And we were delighted to have as many as 19 Ugandans participate in this meeting. Mike Boyce, who has worked in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia but ‘not yet in Uganda’, gave a well merited vote of thanks. SW



Club Meeting on 18th August

A total of 19 members attended this Zoom meeting – the prospect of face-to-face meetings is still uncertain. President Brian began by expressing the Club’s sympathy with Stewart and Sue Ross on the tragic death of their daughter. Richard Green reported that district had accepted our bid for part funding towards the acquisition by Bangalore of an \$80 000 Digital Printing Machine to make limbs for Jaipur. Secretary Gerry is recovering from his accident bearing a twelve inch scar. The report from our Youth and Community Service Committee considered the new, Ludlow-inspired small Grants Scheme which will kick off in 2021. In the session about the New Club Structure which is almost ready to roll there was some discussion about the new role of Club Communications Officer, Crocus planting will happen in October. The next two club meetings, by Zoom, will take place on 1st and 15th of September, SW



Whack a Mole

It feels like time (later August) to describe a phase in the pandemic. The title is someone’s idea of Boris’s strategy – to strike hard at each new spike of infections in Barnsley or Preston etc. Our increase in infections and deaths continues, with the difference that deaths are now specifically of people diagnosed as infected with Corona within 28 days. The figure for deaths has now reduced to 41 369 (17th August.) Worldwide it is c.766 000 and the ‘table leaders’ are the USA, Brazil, Mexico and India. (Trump continues his fakery with inflated claims for blood plasma treatment.) Part of the England strategy is to force incomers/returners from countries with higher infection rates than ours to self-isolate for 14 days. Of course there are complaints about this and other policies. Schools are supposed to reopen in September but the teachers unions appear not to be convinced. Minister wee Gavin Williamson has also been forced to follow wee Nicola in scrapping the process of A Level grade modification and allow teachers’ grade assessments to stand. Watch this space.



Wolves Play Café

My computer screen was more than full (25 plus) on 1st September including Bob Fearn from Stourbridge, Stan Jukes from Wednesfield and Colin Cundy in advance of his stem-cell replacement therapy. Richard Green has recently joined a meeting of several club presidents all keen to know how we are growing our membership. The British Legion may have at last agreed to a plaque for Fraser Dukes at the National Memorial Arboretum. Governing Council has discussed face to face meetings, the Y&CS report and the new club

structure, operational from 1st October. Lisa Stallard’s talk about her Wolves Play Café (see picture) gave us some detail about this provision for under 5’s and their carers founded by Lisa and her mother Helen. Its website www.wolvesplaycafe.org shows lots of toddlers enjoying themselves - and learning. The initiative is currently funded by Millennium Point Trust , National Lottery Community Fund and Wolverhampton Council, but of course is seeking to generate income. Various sessions are paused at present because of COVID-19 but some outdoor events, in the park, are helping onward progress. RG suggested a link-up with The Haven. President Brian thanked Lisa and noted that we should watch this space. SW

Club Administration Committee

Some of the members were able to report at this meeting on 14th September and during it we had reports on the Wolves vs Sheffield match! (A good win.) Almoner Jeremy sent a note on various cases, in particular improvements in the health of Dick Dawes and Alan Jacques. A full programme of speakers was tabled. Hub editor Stuart was told to carry on carrying on. Jerry Hobbs is ‘working up’ a proposal for website improvement, though we think ‘it does the job’. Some clubs want face to face meetings but this is not yet in prospect, A venue for our Centenary Dinner is still being sought. And the identity of our new Club Communications Officer is still a mystery!



Club meeting by Zoom on 15th September

A note from Mike Colley indicated that the Tree event 'seemed feasible' and had the cooperation of Express and Star, but without a plinth set-up or choirs. The Digital Printing Machine for Jaipur, referred to in Foundation and International's memo to CAC (project value \$80 000) has been given the go-ahead. Crocus planting is scheduled for 19th October, but with only 6 Rotarians. A new shoe box initiative is projected – donations to Mike Boyce. The meeting noted grants for a well in Kimbilio (Congo), a grant to feed youngsters in Lusaka (Zambia) and ongoing small loans in Lend With Care.

DNA and all that

Former District Governor Dr Roger Summers gave us, at the 15th September meeting, a very interesting and light hearted talk based on his 40 years of work in forensics (the application of scientific methods to the investigation of crime). Despite the jokes about The Body Shop, Ann Summers, defibrillators available at funeral offices and air crash passengers clutching their bottles of duty-free whisky, the science emerged strongly. DNA is ever more useful. Fingerprints remain invaluable. Bite marks are unique. Ears are unique. Even vein formations on the backs of hands. Tattooists can often recognise their own work etc etc The whole talk was fascinating - but we were cautioned about indiscreet reporting.



Shoebboxes 2020

In 2014 the two Mikes took a vanload of shoeboxes to Moldova and Romania (see photo) – a trip that was emotionally challenging and rewarding. This year Mike Boyce has agreed to continue last year's initiative, with Julie Hickman's help. If we send him £10 (or more) by BACS (using the bank details in the 15th September Bulletin) they will fill as many boxes as possible. (Sylvia Morgan has asked for boxes since her granddaughter likes to fill them in herself.) Thanks Mike and Julie.

Lives and Livelihoods

On 21st September CSO Vallance and CMA Whitty held a special conference on their own to inform us about what is clearly a **Second Wave** of COVID-19. In France, Spain and the UK infectious cases are now increasing exponentially, doubling every 7 days, and not because of increased testing. Normally flu would kill 7000 a year but this virus is more virulent. Soberly and clearly they described the dangerous situation. Average 4189 cases a day, 248 people in hospital, 37 deaths (average 23 per day) and total 41825. Later Boris in the House and on the telly exhorted us all to go along with the increased restrictions – he couldn't resist saying 'a stitch in time saves nine'. So here we are, with Wolverhampton one of the hotter spots. Let's hope that the economy will keep growing, schools will keep working and the younger folk leave the pubs early and don't bring the disease home to granny. On 24th September chancellor Rishi Sunak added economic provisions – support for 'viable' jobs, SMEs, reduced VAT, etc. 'It's on all of us.' (At the end of the month it's over 6000 cases a day, 40 deaths a day and a total of over 42143.)



Rotary, the Sally Army and me

A good 'zoom-in' for our 29th September meeting. Some business was transacted : the search for a Centenary venue continues, Richard Walton failed to win the Rollover Raffle, face to face meetings are not yet possible, the British Legion has agreed that Fraser Dukes may have a plaque, the Red Cross cannot take on Shelterbus. Shoebox donations and crocus corm planters are still sought. Then it was the turn of our speaker Geoff Blurton who has been a



Salvationist for many years and a Rotarian for 25 – and he plays the trombone (see photo wearing his DG 'gong').

The Salvation Army over the years has posted him to several countries. He headed a school for the visually impaired in Kisumu (Kenya), worked at the university in Cape Town, served in war-torn Kuwait, became president of the club in Lusaka (Zambia) in the centenary year of R.I. (2004-5), helped to reconstruct in Indonesia after the Tsunami (and an earthquake), arranged a global grant to purchase a plastic recycling machine for an all ladies club in Java – and much besides. To finish this quick account of a very full life he sang us the song 'If I can help somebody as I pass along....then my living shall not be in vain'. Hear.hear, Geoff!