

# DISTRICT 1120



**Rotary**  
Southeast and Gibraltar

**Magazine**

Nov 2021

A SEARCH  
FOR TREASURE

A NEW CLUB  
IS BORN...

WORLD  
POLIO DAY

EARSCLIFFE  
INTERACT  
CLUB

ROYAL  
THANKS

Issue Three

## “IT’LL BE LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS...”



*Photograph shows former president David Garlick with rotary colleagues and volunteers at a previous festive lunch.*

**Following a year's enforced break from their popular festive lunch, Rotarians are again reaching out to those who may be alone on Christmas Day.**

Each year the Rotary Club of Eastbourne opens the doors at Our Lady of Ransom church hall to provide lunch and entertainment for up to 100 people who would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone.

Last year's lunch fell victim to the Covid pandemic, although Rotarians instead delivered gifts and goodwill messages to people's doorsteps across the town.

The event is back this year and lunch will be followed by tea, cake and entertainment. The party runs from 1pm until 4pm. There is no charge and free transport can be laid on for those needing it, although it is not possible to accommodate either wheelchairs or fixed frame walkers.

"No one should be alone on Christmas Day," said club president, Brian O'Neil.

## FELLOWSHIPS AT FOLKESTONE

**Folkestone Channel Rotary has presented Paul Harris Fellowships to three members.**

Peter Godden has given nearly 40 years of service and this award recognises the effective way that he has organised and contributed to Club events and activities like the annual Charity Wine & Wisdom Evening which regularly attracts some 200 Quiz Buffs.

Richard Mallinson has completed 40 years of dedication and commitment. Like his fellow recipients, he has been involved with every aspect of Channel Rotary's work both locally and wider afield.

Joe Sullivan has completed nearly 20 years of service and made an outstanding contribution to Channel Rotary,, especially in Fundraising and Volunteer organization. Joe was the leading figure in instigating and subsequently organising the popular annual Folkestone Channel Triathlon. This year he led the team that, in a matter of days, organised and now manages over 700 volunteers to support the two Covid-19 vaccination sites in Folkestone.



*President Gary Calver and Channel Rotary Founder President David Jarvis congratulate the new Paul Harris Fellowship holders (L to R) David Jarvis, Richard Mallinson, President Gary Calver, Joe Sullivan and Peter Godden*



# AROUND THE CLUBS



## ON YER BIKE!

**Pictured on the seafront cycle pathway are St Leonards Rotary Club President, Therese Mahindrakar and Cycle Event organiser Ian Butters, who are already in training for the 2022 event.**

The annual cycle rally is to be held on Sunday April 24, 2022. The event has raised many thousands of pounds for local charities including St Michaels Hospice and the RNLI Lifeboat. The cycle challenge follows three different routes appealing to all ages and abilities.

## BRING ON THE DANCING GIRLS!

**What a wonderful evening of celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the Charter of the Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington! A large number of Rotarians and guests enjoyed an outstanding dinner at St Augustine's followed by a spectacular series of dance displays performed by students and staff at the Page Mason School of Dance, including a very "special" dance centred on the President, Chris Hedges!**

Two fantastic birthday cakes were commissioned by Past President Mike Benton to mark the occasion. Messages of congratulation were brought from local Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs and from District Governor-Elect, David Lister.



**Folkestone Rotary Club's annual charity golf day - now in its fifth year - was held at Sene Valley Golf Club.**

On a perfect day 19 teams took part in a 18 hole "Texas Scramble" competition with the proceeds being presented to School Uniforms Project.

The club has been working with local schools and discovered that there are many families struggling to provide their children with school uniforms as well as PE kits, shoes and coats. £1400 was raised.

# RE-CYCLE FOR AFRICA

**Maidstone Riverside Rotary Club partnered with the Re-Cycle (Bikes for Africa) charity to collect bikes for restoration and delivery to The Gambia.**

They collected more than 120 bikes in various conditions from excellent to poor. Recycle has a zero-wastage policy and bikes beyond restoration are broken down for parts. All the Rotarians involved had an enjoyable and hard-working day. Children regularly walk eight miles or more to attend school. So too do men and women to work in the fields.



*PICTURED are Therese Mahindrakar and R Sally-Ann Hart MP*

## ST. LEONARDS ON SEA ROTARY CLUB WEEKLY DINNER

St. Leonards on Sea Rotary Club welcomed local MP Sally-Ann Hart to their weekly dinner. In a wide-ranging speech to members, Sally-Ann was able to update those present on a number of local issues including transport links and the environment.

# WORLD POLIO DAY

**Members of the three Canterbury Rotary Clubs (Rotary Club of Canterbury, Rotary Club of Canterbury Sunrise and Canterbury Forest of Blean Rotary Club) jointly lit up St Dunstan's Church in purple on World Polio Day. They were also joined by other members and Assistant District Governor for the South East District (1120), Kevin Fielding.**

In a surprise presentation, Past President of the Canterbury club and a past member of Canterbury Sunrise, Philip Abbott (who had organised the lighting up), was awarded with a Paul Harris Second Sapphire award in recognition for his work by Past President of Sunrise, Gill Sissons.





# A NEW CLUB IS BORN.....

**Graham Bucksey, a building services engineer and consultant to a property management company, joined forces with funeral director Stephen Tester to bring a brand-new Rotary Club to Crowborough.**

He said: "Stephen and I were members of the previous Rotary Club in Crowborough which sadly closed at the end of 2016. We got chatting and realised we both missed being Rotary members and helping our local community. So, with the support of the South East Regional Team, we launched the new Rotary Club for Crowborough at an initial meeting on the 7th April 2021 on Zoom." At the launch meeting, Graham explained to those who took part in this first meeting (which included four members in waiting in addition to Graham and Stephen plus District representatives) that the new Crowborough Rotary Club was based on a new less formal model dispensing with dining, Regala and was very much a dual gender club with meeting being held for around 75 minutes in various local venues.

It became apparent that to operate under the Rotary Great Britain and Ireland umbrella/banner and benefit from RGB&I support and be operating legally, they needed to initially become a Satellite club under the wing of a sponsor club. An approach was made to Heathfield and Waldron Rotary Club through a senior member of this club who is a close friend of Graham. Our approach to the Heathfield Club was successful and was unanimously voted through at one of their business meetings. The Satellite Rotary Club of Crowborough has now recruited 16 fully committed members, nine ladies and seven men of varying ages from early thirties to mid-seventies.

A high percentage of the members are from local businesses, including solicitor, financial advisor, funeral directors, web designer, property manager and printer. Graham said: "We are supporting the local dementia forum and have assisted at the first community/dementia café for Crowborough dementia sufferers. We are supporting the Crowborough Food Bank with helpers and expertise.

We held our first charity event last month, a golf competition at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club with an evening Dinner to raise dementia awareness and funds for the Wealden Dementia Forum.

We are providing help to the Town Council at the annual firework display on Bonfire Night. We will have members collecting for the Mayor's charities which



*The winning team at the Charity Golf Event (The Bandits) The two ladies in the team are Debbie and Amanda from the Wealden Dementia Alliance who the event supported. Amanda and Debbie presented the prizes.*

include the Crowborough Food Bank. We have a stall at the Crowborough Christmas Fair on November 26 to promote Crowborough Rotary. We will be joined on the stall by members of the Crowborough Food Bank Team. We have an events programme for 2022 including a lady's fashion show in March.

Our member who is a web designer has built a brilliant website for the club [www.crowboroughrotary.org](http://www.crowboroughrotary.org) Please have a look at this site which tells you more about the new Crowborough Rotary Club.

We have a lot of highly motivated and forward-looking members in our club. We are looking forward to a bright and active future supporting and helping the Crowborough and surrounding areas community. We are looking forward to achieving Charter status." Email [grahambucksey@btinternet.com](mailto:grahambucksey@btinternet.com)



*some of the Crowborough Rotary members grouped around the Conan Doyle statue in the centre of Crowborough(Crowborough). Conan Doyle, the Author and creator of the Sherlock Holmes books lived in Crowborough for many years in a house called Windlesham Manor (Now a Care home)*

# 'THANK YOU' TO OUR AMAZING LOCAL VACCINATION VOLUNTEERS

**On the evenings of 11th and 15th of October, the Rotary Club of South Foreland organised 'thank you' receptions for the more than 100 Volunteer Marshals who have supported the Dover Vaccination Centre since it opened in early January.**

Some of them helped at the Aylesham Centre which was opened on 28th December and continued in operation until 21st January. It was good to see around seventy of the volunteers over the two evenings. Those who were unable to attend are also thanked for their help.

The main purpose of the events was to give a big thank you to the volunteers for giving their time, energy and commitment to our local community. It was also a time to meet up with one another, with Volunteer Organiser Robin Dodridge and his team, as well as Doctor Julian Mead, an ever-present supervisor, organiser and problem solver at the centre. There was plenty of socialising while the refreshments were enjoyed, and experiences were shared. This was followed by brief addresses from Robin and Club President, Peter West.

Robin told us how the volunteering at vaccination centres began. While the voluntary sector has always been important for providing help in a national emergency, it was after the Grenfell fire that the Home Office came to realise the true value of this sector and set up the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership. This brought together local and national organisations with the aim of delivering a more coordinated response to emergencies. Examples of national organisations involved are the Red Cross, St John's Ambulance, major faith groups and Rotary. Rotary South East had established Area Coordinators to encourage Rotary clubs to volunteer at vaccination centres as these began to be set up.

This is where Robin, as Area Coordinator for the South East Kent Coast, came to the fore, answering the call to find volunteers for local vaccination centres. Recruits came from the four local Rotary clubs, family, friends, local community organisations and individuals. As the NHS Admin was overloaded Robin offered to run the volunteer system in full, first at Aylesham and then at Dover.

From the early days Robin's aim was to make the process as professional and efficient as possible but this took time; it was soon apparent that this would be a marathon and not a sprint. He referred to his initial

role as a pen and paper, twelve hours a day, seven days a week job with many phone calls and e-mails. As well as recruiting and deploying volunteers, producing daily rotas, writing instructions and risk assessments for volunteers, Robin wrote a Daily Bulletin with the latest information on rotas and changes. This could not be sustained.

Two developments which helped to make the process manageable were the introduction of an online booking system to enable volunteers to book themselves on to shifts, and the establishment of the Operations Team to assist Robin with the workload. He thanked the team of Dave and Judith Smith, Clive Watson and Andrew and Shirley Eberlein. He is particularly grateful to Andrew and Shirley who take over his role when he needs a break. In addition, a backroom team helps to recruit new volunteers, manages the administration needed for them, and deals with publicity and reports.

Finally, Robin thanked the professional team of vaccinators, pharmacists and receptionists led by Doctor Julian Mead. He then handed over to President Peter. Peter referred to the provision of volunteer marshals at vaccination centres as the biggest and most intense programme that Rotary has undertaken in our locality. Although the Rotary Club of South Foreland has taken the lead it has been supported by the active cooperation of the other local clubs: Dover, Deal and Sandwich. He thanked everyone who has helped with this programme, giving particular thanks to Robin who has been totally committed to establishing, administering and improving the process of providing volunteer marshals.

Peter went on to speak of Rotary in the wider sense with its membership of 1.2 million, its motto of 'service above self' and its provision of worldwide humanitarian aid. It is no stranger to immunisation projects. Thirty five years ago there were 300,000 cases of polio, a crippling disease which mainly affects children. It was a group of Rotarians who set up an immunisation campaign and persuaded governments, the World Health Organisation, the UN and other organisations to join in. Today most of the world is free of polio with only two cases reported so far this year.

Nearer home Rotary helps with all sorts of projects, such as supporting local foodbanks, litter picking and beach cleaning. Every year we help with the British Legion Poppy Appeal and this year will be running a stand in Morrisons Supermarket from 30th October until 13th

November. If you feel that you could give a few hours to this worthy cause, please contact us using the email at the end.

We are grateful to Jemma Jenkinson, Morrisons Community Champion, who has supported our 'thank you' events with good deals on refreshments as well as being an enthusiastic and friendly member of the organising team. She will be involved with us during the Poppy Appeal at Morrisons.

The vaccination programme, now entering its tenth month, is far from over, with booster jabs to administer and only 12.4 % of 12 to 15 year having been given their first vaccination. As vaccination is now our prime way of combating the covid virus, it is vital that the programme does not falter. We urgently need more volunteer marshals at Dover in order to spread the load, and there will be the need for volunteers at a new vaccination centre being set up by Doctor Julian at Whitfield.

Thanks again to our Volunteer Marshals who give direction, guidance and reassurance to patients: Vaccination centres could not operate without the help of people like you.

If you would like to consider becoming a volunteer marshal and want to find out more, please e-mail: [sandemcvey@btinternet.com](mailto:sandemcvey@btinternet.com)



## ROYAL THANKS FOR ROTARY COVID COMMITMENT

**Rotary in the South East was recognised alongside the major community and voluntary agencies with thanks from Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, for action and co-ordination during the Covid emergency.**

The Princess Royal met them at a unique gathering at Dover Castle especially to thank the pandemic emergency agencies.

District Resilience leader Brenda Parsons introduced Ruth Portway (Medway), Steve Hanks (Maidstone), Robin Dodridge (Dover) and Joe Sullivan (Folkestone) alongside emergency services, local authorities, volunteer and military groups.

The Princess Royal asked many questions of the Rotary

South East group and particularly remarked on the very wide range of volunteering and support they had been involved in.

Rotary and their volunteers in the district has provided more than 50,000 hours of service since January and raised over £250,000 for local people, organisations and some international communities.

This has included working in Food Banks; supporting vaccination centres across thirteen geographical areas and in Dover and Folkestone managing the total supply of volunteers; supporting young carers and the elderly including through befriending programmes; accessing hundreds of computers for schools and providing scrubs, scrubs bags and thank you gifts for hospital staff. One club provided 7,000 bags and 3000 travel masks.

"We are proud to have played our part during the pandemic," said Brenda. "We have all strived to live up to our Rotary motto 'Service Above Self' to build partnerships and friendships to be sustained as we continue volunteering."





# A SEARCH FOR “TREASURE” THAT’S PURE GOLD!

**There might not have been a jewel to be had, but that didn’t stop members of the Rotary Club of Canterbury and their guests (including one pirate) having a great time at a recent “treasure” hunt.**

At a time when we’re all looking for fun things to do to encourage people to join Rotary, the treasure hunt proved a perfect way for Rotarians and guests to enjoy each other’s company, have fun together and see some under-explored local sights.

The challenge involved the treasure hunters (in groups of 4) driving around villages near Canterbury in Kent to solve 11 cryptic clues set in rhyming verse. Along the way they saw some lovely views and had the chance to learn about some interesting buildings and local history.

Having solved the 11 clues, the answer to each being a figure or number, the hunters had an anagram of letters and numbers to unscramble: I D 2 1 T 1 T I C S O R (Answer beneath the picture caption below). After a delicious lunch at a local inn the correct answers were

put into a hat from which President Stephen Thompson pulled out the winning entry. A signed certificate was given to all the members of the winning team.

In the end the treasure may not have been shiny coins and gaudy jewels-a-plenty, but something much more valuable: a day out, a bit of local knowledge, a hearty meal and, most importantly, friendship and camaraderie.



Picture: Members of the winning car. Picture credit: Martin Ward/Rotary Club of Canterbury.

(Solution to the anagram: DISTRICT 1120)

## A FREE PURPLE-THEMED RECIPE BOOK & ACCOMPANYING FUNDRAISER

**Members of the Rotary Club of Canterbury have worked together with members of the Rotary Club of Canterbury Sunrise to produce a purple-themed recipe e-book (i.e. a digital book) to raise awareness about polio and Rotary’s work over the last 30 years to help eradicate this potentially devastating disease from the world.**

As Rotarians will know, the colour purple symbolises Rotary’s worldwide campaign to eradicate polio; a purple dye is used to mark the finger of a child who has been immunised.

The unique book features recipes suggested by Rotarians, Inner Wheel members and their family and friends and focuses on foods or ingredients that are bluey-purple, pinky-purple, reddish-purple or purply-purple! There’s lots more in the book too.

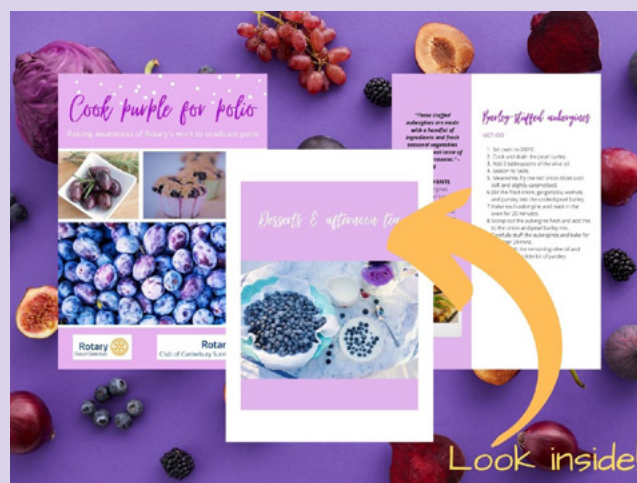
Download a FREE copy of this unique e-book (PDF format), which is only available from the Rotary Club of Canterbury, here:

<https://www.rotarycanterbury.org.uk/rotary-club/erecipepolioplus.html>

If you enjoy the book or any of the recipes within it, or would like to DONATE to the clubs’ fundraiser for PolioPlus, please do so via the same link.



Tell all your friends and family about the book by sharing the above link or the QR code and help raise awareness and funds for this important cause.



The purple-themed recipe book. Rotary Club of Canterbury.



# MALLING ROTARY COORDINATES VOLUNTEERING

**Last December Malling Rotary responded to a Facebook request from the Avicenna Medical Centre for volunteer marshals at the beginning of the Covid-19 vaccination rollout.**

As a small club we knew we would need some help and so we put the call out to Maidstone Riverside Rotary to see if they could help. Before long our volunteer base grew to embrace Malling Lions, Kings Hill Rotary, Sevenoaks Lions, East Malling WI, U3A, friends of Rotary plus local individuals who replied to our Facebook appeal.

By mid September the second phase of the vaccination program came to an end. We have enlisted the help of a total of 94 volunteers who completed 3,400 volunteer hours over 129 clinic days at Leybourne over the last 9 months. To mark this achievement we held a thank you get together with tea and cakes for the volunteers, issuing each of them with a certificate recognizing their contribution to the rollout.



As phase 3 commences with the booster program and vaccination of the younger groups the coordination has been taken over by Neil Cornford of Malling Lions and Kings Hill Rotary. Neil has been fantastic from the start putting out and taking down the signs for each session. Many of the volunteers will continue to show their support by volunteering at future sessions.

## THE 16TH FOLKESTONE ROTARY HALF MARATHON HAS TAKEN PLACE

**Here's Race Director Ray Johnson: "This year's race got back to normal with the popular children's and main race back to normal times.**

Perfect weather conditions and encouraging marshals pulled the runners along to achieve many personal bests. Heartiest congratulations to all the participants in the race. Many runners continue to raise funds for good causes and this year stood out with many emotional participants getting over the finish line having achieved their own goals following difficult times". More than 360 runners took part.

Club President Kate McNeice said: "It is a fantastic achievement for the runners to complete the course either as an elite runner or a new participant to a half marathons 13.1 miles, no mean feat.

The objectives of the race are to encourage participation, assist charities, visit our district, and promote good health, as well as increase the profile of sport and I am particularly delighted that there was such a good turnout during these challenging times. Thanks to you all that have made the event such a success once again."



*Junior race winners Adam & Molly Female winner Amy Simpson*



*Race Director Ray Johnson with winner James Turner*

# EARLSCLIFFE INTERACT CLUB

**Channel Rotary is delighted to announce that the formation of Earlscliffe Interact Club was recognised at an Evening of Celebration at Earlscliffe Sixth Form College, Folkestone.**

It was attended by 70 guests including members of Interact, Rotary officials, local dignitaries, teachers, family and friends. Interact Clubs are formed under the auspices of Rotary International and bring together young people aged 12-18 in nearly 11,000 clubs in 109 countries worldwide to develop leadership skills and support their local communities through charitable work. In so doing, the members discover the power of Rotary's worldwide motto of 'Service Above Self' and learn how leadership can be serious fun.



*All the members of Earlscliffe Interact with Guests from Channel Rotary and Immediate Past District Governor Brian Dunne.*

Despite the impact of Covid, Earlscliffe Interact Club arose in 2020 from a joint initiative between Head Teacher Joss Williams and Channel Rotary's then President Malcolm Stewart. Also influential was student Iulia Lambrino whose parents are both members of Timisoara Cetate Rotary Club in Western Romania.



*Presentation of the Interact Chain of Office by Rotary Immediate Past District Governor Brian Dunne.*

As the Interact Club's founding President, Iulia has enthusiastically driven it forward with the encouragement of her parents and the school. The new club has 28 members from eight different countries. Their recent charitable work includes providing Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children in Folkestone and donating £1,000 to Demelza House

Children's Hospice raised by club members undertaking sponsored activities in their home countries during lockdown.



*Earlscliffe Sixth Form College Head Teacher Joss Williams welcomes the guests*

They have also organized a series of webinars on Career Opportunities with speakers from Channel Rotary. Looking ahead they have several projects in mind including working with local Primary Schools to



*Channel Rotary President Gary Calver exchanges banners with Radu Lambrino of Timisoara Cetate Rotary Club in Romania.*

President Gary Calver said how much Channel Rotary appreciated being able to work with the school and its pupils through the Interact Club. Their commitment shone through in their achievements so far. He looked forward to a long and happy relationship.

President Gary welcomed Iulia and her leadership team to the stage and congratulated them on a tremendous first nine months:

- President Iulia Lambrino
  - Secretary Maria Toma
  - Vice President Trevor Justin Oguchi
  - Treasurer Nicoleta Suruceanu
- Rotary Immediate Past District Governor Brian Dunne then the Earlscliffe Club's President's great applause.

The evening concluded with a buffet provided by the College.



*The Earlscliffe Interact Name Plate which will be displayed on the College building.*



# DOVER ROTARY RECOGNISES COMMUNITY CHAMPION.

**The Rotary Club of Dover has honoured a dedicated and long serving community champion by awarding Margaret Jean Tyler (known as Maggie) a Prestigious Community Service Award in recognition of her decades long service to the Tower Hamlets Community in Dover.**

The Award was given to Maggie by President of the Dover Rotary Club, Ian Wright who was accompanied at the presentation by Past President of the club and Assistant District Governor of Rotary District 1120 Peter Sherred, at Curzon Hall on Tuesday 12th October 2021. In presenting the Award President Ian told Maggie the Rotary Club had considered her many years of service to the Tower Hamlets Community and he praised her for her selfless work in Curzon Hall and in the community.

Maggie has always lived in the Tower Hamlets area of Dover and has always been involved with the community of the area. With her husband Chris, a church warden of Charlton Church, Maggie lives in Astor Avenue just a short walk from Curzon Hall. She attended the Creche in the Hall in 1990 with Abby her daughter and first son David. When she became aware that the Creche was to close she offered to buy the toys and trimmings of the Creche from the person then running the group.

That was the start of a long running relationship with Curzon Hall. Having purchased the contents of the Creche she renamed the group the Pink and Blue Club for parents and toddlers. Maggie established the running of the group and soon had a couple of helpers to assist. Demand was high for the Creche in the deprived area of Dover in which Curzon Hall is located. Originally the creche met at £1 per family per week and those attending were provided with tea and biscuits provided by Maggie. As the years went by Maggie dropped the £1 a week cost but maintained a light breakfast for the parents and children purchased out of her own money.

Many of the parents attending were single mothers, unemployed or looking to escape the four walls of

their homes with their youngsters for a few hours a day. Originally Maggie met for a couple of hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the afternoon before parents had to collect other siblings from school. Maggie continued to run the Creche until early 2020 when Covid 19 caused the closure of the Creche due to isolation requirements. In June 2021 she decided the Creche would, sadly, close as helpers had moved on. Maggie's passion for children was evident over the years and she made numerous friends of parents of children who attended her Creche.

In recent years Maggie joined the Tower Hamlets Forum, a group dealing with anti-social behaviour and other matters pertaining to the Hamlets and she remains very much a part of the Hall in that capacity. Maggie, who with Chris have three adult children, now comes across children of her Creche who have their own children when they attend for baptisms or marriage services at Charlton Church. She is fondly remembered by many for all her selfless work in helping those who needed an escape during the week and who came to her Creche.

Responding to her Award a clearly surprised and delighted Maggie Tyler said "I have never been given such an Award or won anything before now." Rotary delivers by acknowledging those who place Service Above Self.



*President Ian Wright with Maggie and Chris Tyler*



# DIFFERENT STROKES...

## Rotary Clubs on both sides of the Channel support a magnificent sponsored swim

What do you do when your school badly needs a Sensory Room and there are no funds available? The teachers at Westerham's Valence School came up with a novel answer – let's have a sponsored cross channel swim. The school's aim was for six members of staff to swim the channel as a relay, with all six swimming the last mile to finish together.

Thankfully, sponsorship has come in from Crowdfunding as well as friends and families, and already stands at considerably more than double the original target of £10,000. Sponsors include The Rotary Club of Edenbridge and Westerham and their contact club of Yvetot in Normandy.

Aurelie Reaud, who is principal Physiotherapist at Valence School, was one of the six swimmers, and her father is member of the Rotary Club of La Baule in Brittany. This

resulted in the La Baule club collecting a further 300 Euros from Club members to swell the coffers.

"What an incredible team effort" said Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary Club President Terry Cartwright "and what a worthy cause. The donations from our Club and the Rotary Clubs of Yvetot and La Baule, totalling around £1,000, will be used to equip the new sensory reading room with sound, lighting and computer equipment. We are hopeful that our application for a District Grant will be successful to help finish to job."



(l-r) Edenbridge and Westerham Rotarian Zena Belton, Assistant Principal (Students) of Valence School, receives donations from President Terry Cartwright and International Service Chairman Paul Leslie.

# TONBRIDGE ROTARY CLUB MARKS WORLD POLIO DAY

**The Rotary Club of Tonbridge was one of thousands of Rotary clubs across the world taking action on World Polio Day to raise awareness, funds and support to end polio. This vaccine preventable disease still threatens children in parts of the world today.**

If polio is not eradicated, it is estimated that, within 10 years, as many as 200,000 children annually all over the world could succumb to polio, including here in the United Kingdom.

Many polio related activities used the colour purple, which has become a symbolic colour in the fight against polio, inspired by the colour of the dye painted on the little finger of a child to signify they have received a potentially life-saving polio vaccine.

In Tonbridge, as a way of commemorating the work of Rotary worldwide in combating this disease, the Rotary Club planted 4,000 crocus corms opposite Tonbridge School so that in Springtime a carpet of purple flowers can be seen.

Tonbridge Rotary Club President Barry Ednie said:

"We were proud to be marking World Polio Day locally and recognising the work of Rotary and our partners and the millions of people involved in so many ways in the fight for a polio free world. Only together can we end polio, a virus that is still potentially just a plane ride away."

"We have seen over the past two years with COVID-19, that cases of a disease anywhere, is a threat to everyone, everywhere. We've also seen the power of vaccines and community togetherness, and how we can all play our part. The members of Tonbridge Rotary Club remain committed to working with our communities and our partners to eliminate this potentially deadly virus and make Rotary's dream of a polio free world a reality."





# DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP TEAM LAUNCHES ROTARY ADVOCATES SCHEME

**A new initiative aimed at connecting Rotary with the local business community was launched at the recent District Conference.**

Speaking at the launch session Assistant District Governor Colin Norgate said that "Recent successes achieved with Rotary Business Partners schemes and similar Rotary led business networking groups provide clear evidence that effective networking can enable us to establish contacts with the local business community and thus a huge potential raft of contacts. They in turn could assist us by volunteering in support of our various projects or even become active Rotary members."

"We need to build on that success and to do so we need to create our own group of "networkers" who will be willing and able to go to networking events and promote Rotary", he added.

The membership team are looking to attract Rotary members within District 1120 (as well as friends/ volunteers) who are actively involved in networking groups/organisations as part of their business operations, or, who have experience in face - to - face networking. Details of which networking groups they are members of or regularly visit/have contact with would also be sought.

From there a list of those local/national networking groups would be drawn up where the message about Rotary would be positively received.

The aim then would be to provide those members who are willing to act as "Rotary Advocates" with key messages such as 60 second elevator pitches; 10 minute presentations; hand outs (leaflets/flyers/business cards etc) which they can use in their networking activities.

For the outreach via networking to succeed, the role of the Advocates should be to convey a three-pronged message about Rotary, namely :-

**1. To promote Rotary as an organisation that can help businesses with support for their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives or other projects (e.g. environment/sustainability)**

**2. To ask the business community for support in various key Rotary projects which will grab their attention - that support could be either financial or manpower based.**

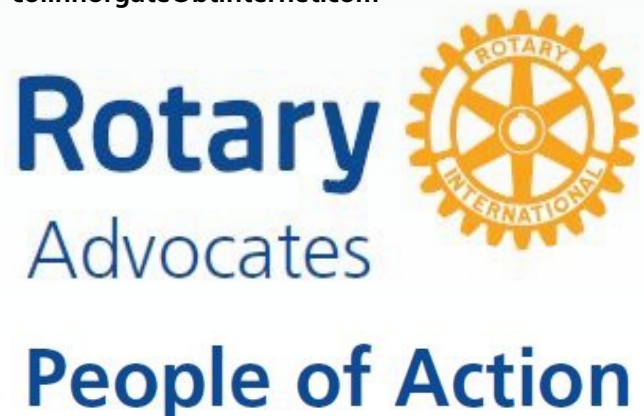
**3. To invite people in other networks to visit the Rotary Clubs as welcome guests. Both the Advocates and the clubs involved should actively think about whether Rotarians or those in their circle could use the services of some of the business people who they engage with but also emphasise the importance of business networking with a conscience.**

The aim is to gather a team of 20 such "advocates" across the district we can then provide them with the tools outlined above to sell a clear, consistent message about "Who We Are and What We Do!"

By targeting the networking groups we identify as key, we can then set about getting the word out about Rotary across our district and set up "information events" that the business community can come along to and discuss in more depth ways to collaborate with us and potentially become volunteers. At the same time we can offer them various models for Rotary club formats that might appeal to them as prospective members.

District Governor Nominee and Membership Lead Ray Seager commented, "Members with a passion for Rotary will be given the tools and support to help not only develop their own strengths but also get the Rotary message across".

if you are interested in becoming a Rotary Advocate please contact Colin Norgate via e-mail [colinnorgate@btinternet.com](mailto:colinnorgate@btinternet.com)



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF ROMNEY MARSH KEEPING BUSY

**It has been a very active month for our club and especially for our President, Barbara Gold, who has been at the forefront of everything that we are involved with.**

We ran an appeal over the summer for laptop computers which has now ended with the last 8 units being delivered to local Primary and Nursery Schools at the end of September. The Head Teachers of the Schools were delighted to receive them and said that they were much needed and would be in use by pupils "within the next day or two".



*Happy heads, L-R St. Nicholas School, Lydd School, Brooklands School and Abacus Nursery*

Over the course of our Appeal, approximately 60 laptops were donated, together with chargers and cases, and we were also fortunate to receive an extremely generous donation that was used for the purchase of 2 more.

Some of the laptops were given to a school that had the resources to refurbish and reprogramme them in-house and others were taken to a company in Sandwich that was already involved in a 'Rotary Laptop Campaign', for refurbishment and donation to local schools.



*Computer People Team led by Alison & Dave*

The remainder of the laptops that we were given were taken to 'The Computer Company' (Alison and Dave), of Church Approach, New Romney, who kindly donated their time and expertise to our Appeal, by refurbishing and reprogramming them; what a marvellous gesture on their part, for which the Rotary Club is extremely grateful. We are so grateful to the people of Romney Marsh who donated laptops, chargers, cases, funds and time, to our appeal. The response really was outstanding. Our Club is proud to be a part of such a wonderful, caring, community - together we can make a difference.

As the laptops campaign began to run down in September, we launched a similar appeal for mobile phones to help local charity 'Porchlight' with their work supporting the homeless and vulnerable in our area. The phones will be given to Porchlight to pass on to its homeless clients so that their outreach workers can keep in touch with and help those clients especially now, with the dark nights, winter approaching and a rise in homelessness at least partly resulting from the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.

There is a great community spirit amongst the generous people of Romney Marsh and their response has, as ever, been very encouraging. However, what was not anticipated was the response that resulted from the article about our Appeal that was published in the October Edition of this magazine. The Rotary Club of Chatham contacted us to say that their Club, too, had previous dealings with Porchlight, were keen to assist with our Appeal, and asked for details. As a consequence, the offers of help have 'snowballed' and details of the Appeal have now been circulated to contacts and friends of RC Chatham Rotarians and, also, to the Maidstone, Medway and Gravesham Rotary Clubs.

A delivery point and 'courier service' has been arranged from Chatham where our Club Treasurer's daughter conveniently lives and has 'volunteered' the use of her home as a drop off point.

Meanwhile, back on the Marsh, Georgia Cook of Porchlight (pictured right) collected the first 27 mobile phones and chargers from our President on 27th October, and they will soon be distributed to the homeless people who need them. More have been donated at our local 'drop off' points and will be collected shortly, and passed on to Porchlight. Naturally, Georgia was delighted to be told about the help now offered by other Rotary Clubs.



A big thank you to everyone who is helping by joining in this project – it's a wonderful illustration of the fellowship of Rotarians working together.

Finally we are now getting the sleigh out of storage and preparing ourselves to once again lead the town's lantern parade on 10th December and resume our regular collection runs around the Romney Marsh towns and villages.



# ROTARY FISHING FOR PLASTIC!

**Inspired by Scarborough's Fin the Fish, the combined Rotary Clubs of Thanet have been working on a similar project for Margate promenade/sands which they hope will be ready for next spring.**

As Fin the Fish was part funded by Yorkshire Water, we approached Southern Water. It was great news to hear they have pledged to kick start the fundraising campaign for this 'Rotary in Thanet project with a significant boost towards the expected budget of between £20,000 and £25,000.

The installation will collect plastic waste for recycling aiming to reduce plastic on the beach, educate and raise awareness and complement the artistic culture which exists in Margate. We are continuing

discussions with Thanet District Council and it is hoped the project will be given the go ahead shortly so that our crowdfunding pages can go live. We are also inviting support from local business community .

Our fish will need a name and we intend inviting schools to give us some ideas. It is hoped similar installations might be sited around other Thanet Bays and beaches in years to come. Look out for further fishy updates through our Rotary websites and face book pages .

The lead Rotarians for the project are :

Beverley Aitken - Margate Rotary Club

email - [aitken.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:aitken.beverley@gmail.com)

Caroline Winzer - Thanet Sunrise Rotary Club

email - [carolinewinzer@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinewinzer@btinternet.com)





# DONATE THIS WINTER

**Channel Rotary's Winter Fund launched quietly at the start of October. The Fund is designed as an easy access one-stop secure place for donations to help organisations working in our community to provide extra care necessary during the coming winter months. Donations are managed securely by Just Giving and paid into Channel Rotary's Charity Fund.**

Covid has added additional pressures in so many areas as well as causing new areas of need. This year the Fund is focused on three local charities. The Winter Shelter for the homeless, Age UK and the Food Bank.

Covid's social distancing has forced the Winter Shelter to work in very different ways. This has made life more comfortable for those who must use it but these improvements come with costs. The project has been extremely successful. Not only does it take people in from the streets during the worst of winter weather but it has helped up to 80% of those it supports find permanent homes and some to find work, helping to repair many broken lives.

But sadly a new cohort of troubled people find themselves drifting into homelessness all the time. The Winter Shelter does not just provide food and a bed. It aims to provide whatever support is required to help the underlying causes of each individual's situation; shelter and food at night and then volunteers working during the day to find solutions to the individual needs. You can find the Just Giving link [here](#).

One of the most striking issues we encountered in the early days of the vaccination programme was the

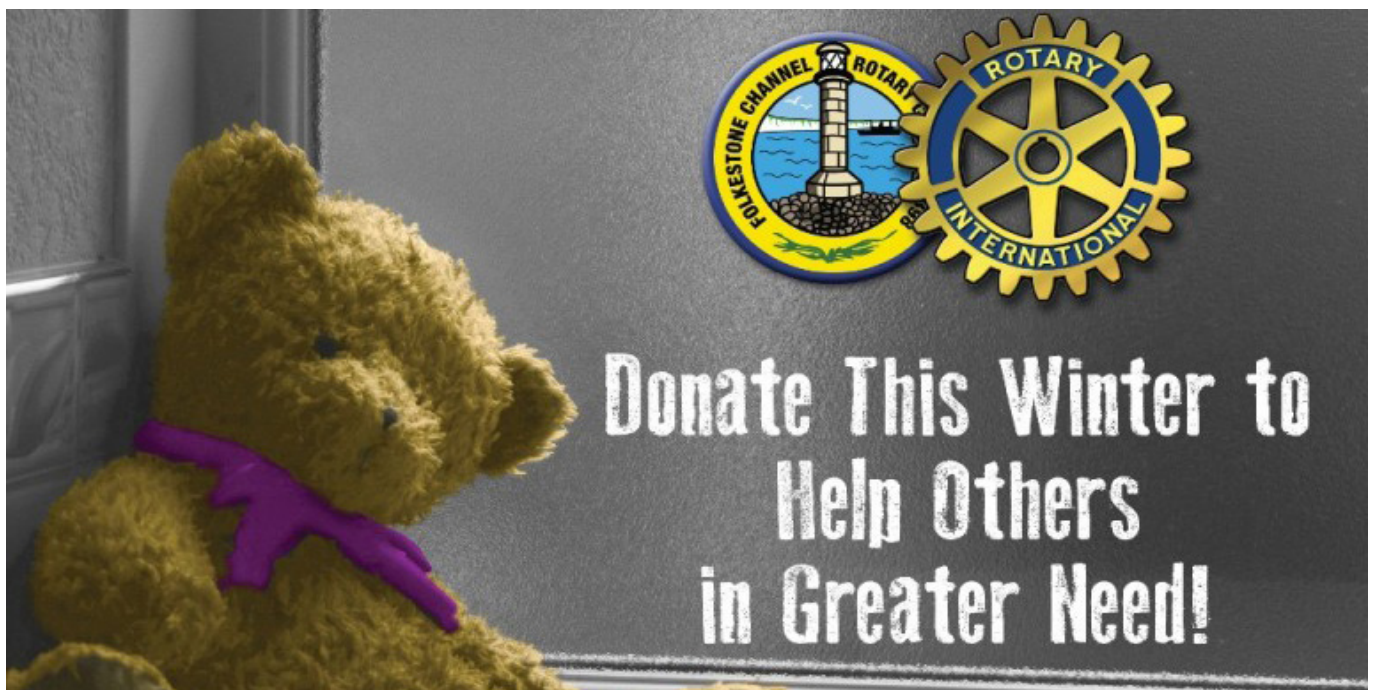
loneliness that resulted from isolation amongst the very old, many of whom live alone. Age UK had been such an important link in their lives; meeting the elderly, identifying and solving needs and providing the opportunity for social contact; lunches and other meetings.

Many changes have been necessary to provide support for this vulnerable group in a world which has not returned to normal, especially during the winter when the elderly will be most at risk again. Rising prices, fuel in particular, are constant worries for the elderly. Age UK is there to help keep a watchful eye, protect and support. Donations to the Winter Fund will be divided evenly between our three chosen charities.

Regardless of furlough and business support grants some people in our community lost their livelihoods because of the pandemic and had to turn for support to the Food Bank in the last year. The Food Bank has also had to make many changes in the way it operated because of Covid and has had to cope with reduced opportunity to collect supplies.

All these three organisations receive support from Channel Rotary during the year not only in funds but volunteer support as well. But this is the time when pressure builds especially in this winter when covid is on the resurgence again. Please donate through this link

In recent years, some who receive the Winter Fuel Allowance have donated it to those in greater need. The Winter Fund is a nice opportunity to be able to donate. Every penny we receive will go to these charities as soon as possible during the winter and put to the best possible use.





# AN UNUSUAL 'BOX' PROJECT, WE SHOULD SUPPORT!

**Sometimes, someone has an idea, simple in its originality, but far-reaching in its ability to change lives. And, as this is the slogan for this Rotary year, I should like to tell you about it here:**

"Classroom Box" is a programme from District 1030, proposed and supported by my opposite number (International Service Lead) in that District (the London area). It is, at least currently, targeted at eight schools in the Basse area of Gambia in West Africa, one of Africa's smallest countries. Like many small countries, the Gambia tends to get overlooked. So, in Rotary terms, this makes this initiative doubly worthwhile.

The parents of African children have to pay a sum for their education, not a large amount, but still, it makes a dent in the majority of family budgets, especially if there are several children at school. Then, there are the necessities of school life, exercise books, pens, pencils, crayons, a pocket calculator, and a dictionary, that we take for granted here. Oh yes, and a pair of serviceable shoes. That's what the boxes contain. The total cost of a box is £26. This means that ten pupils are equipped for a total of £260, or about what my club would give a visiting speaker to support their charity.



I know it is a 'trans District' request, and that these tend, (on the whole) to be less successful than 'home-grown' initiatives, but I really do commend this action to you for support. It is targeted, affordable, will make a big difference to the recipients, and is replicable elsewhere, for example in RC Senlac's interest area in Kenya. I hope you can persuade your club to send it a donation.

**Thank you.**

Transfers to:

Account name: **The Rotary Charity Fund – D 1130**

Sort Code: **30.90.39 (Lloyds Bank)**

A/c. No.: **0136 6241**

And follow with a confirming e-mail to:

[suresh.bharwaney@gmail.com](mailto:suresh.bharwaney@gmail.com)

**Francis Hodge 14.10.21**



# THANET SCHOOLS YOUNG ARTISTS' FESTIVAL WORKS ON DISPLAY AT THE MARGATE SCHOOL

**More than 600 paintings by pupils and teachers from 36 Thanet schools and colleges have been on display at The Margate School.**

The annual Thanet Schools Young Artists' Festival organised and supported by Margate Rotary Club ran until November 7.

Every year young people are encouraged to enter the Rotary Young Artist competition. This year categories and themes were:

**KEYSTAGE 1** "Animals, Insects and Minibeasts"

**KEYSTAGE 2** "Germs, bacteria viruses and cells"

**KEYSTAGE 3** "Sport or comic heroes-pop art style"

**KEYSTAGE 4** "Portraiture, reflections of the soul and the selfie"





# CHISLEHURST ROTARY CLUB

**Chislehurst Rotary Club has had a very eventful summer of good old family fun in this green and leafy suburb, helped enormously by the lifting of restrictions, some sunshine and lots of wonderful volunteers.**

A new event to Chislehurst was the Visit Chislehurst Big Picnic. A free, family day of fun held on the Commons; surrounded by the local church, pubs and woodland. The day was organised locally and sponsored by The Chislehurst Rotary Club, Chislehurst Society and Chislehurst Commons, all local volunteer groups who are passionate about the area.

It was a wonderful, typically British, relaxing day, with a local pub serving drinks, live bands playing, whilst families arrived with rugs and picnic hampers, setting up their pitches for the day. Children spent the day playing on the Commons and were entertained by organised Victorian Games of Hula Hoop, Quoits, Coconut Shy and so much more. There was no escaping the games for the adults too, with teams made up for Tug of War, which seemed to be the highlight of the day.

Families lazed in the sunshine, listened to music, and enjoyed the delights of good local fun. The Rotarians moved amongst the families with a wheelbarrow raffle, which yielded almost £1000! This money was used



swiftly to sponsor 2 Shelter Boxes (nominally for the Haiti Appeal)

The main Summer Fair, held later in the month, was a great success. Riding high on the back of the Big Picnic, families were eager to enjoy the commons and flocked to the fair. With balloons flying high and the smell of candy floss, the commons were full of families attending the fairground rides, local business stalls of food and arts and crafts. Staged entertainment of music and dance kept the crowds entertained along with the much-loved 'human fruit machine' run by the Rotarians.

The net profit for the Summer Fair was over £5,300. This money is now in the Charity fund and will be distributed to worthy causes over the next few months.

Both events were a huge success, which attracted enormous support from local residents and volunteers. It has been a great summer for Chislehurst Rotary Club.



# BEXHILL ROTARY CLUB'S ANNUAL CRAZY GOLF CHALLENGE

**The International Committee of the club recently organised a Crazy Golf Competition at Hastings to raise funds for their projects in the coming year.**

After an enjoyable fish and chip supper the Bexhill Rotarians and their friends got down to the serious business of the evening. The winner, with most holes in



one, was Corinne Gadsden but Brian Cope, who came second, is looking forward to a rematch next year. In previous years profits from this event have enabled

the club to purchase Shelterboxes for use in climatic emergencies, assist in hygiene projects in Kenya and, more recently, to supply food relief for Thai people who have been unable to work due to Covid.



# LONDON MARATHON

**Folkestone Rotarian Ray Johnson completed his 21st in a row and smashed the total £100,000.00 raised for the Kent Association for the Blind.**

He said: "I am delighted to report following all the donations kindly received I have exceeded my aim of getting over the £100,000 raised over the years in aid of the Kent Association for the Blind ([www.kab.org.uk](http://www.kab.org.uk)) who provide essential training and support to people who are blind, deafblind, or partially sighted, mainly in the Kent area.

This race was my 21st consecutive London Marathon (21 in 2021) the weather was perfect, along with being back in London, with the crowds who were as always fantastic who spurred us all on that made it a most enjoyable occasion.

Equally exciting was not only getting over the finishing line in at 04:55:19 nonstop but to raise vital funds for the charity and sincere thanks go to all who have contributed whether individuals or companies." Further details can be found at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rayjohnson](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rayjohnson) Here you will find further information and pictures.



**The deadline for articles in the November issue is Thursday 18th Nov as well as advertising.**

## Disclaimer

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