

July 2024

Rotary
Congleton



NEWS *Letter*

In with the new...

What an honour to be the President of the Rotary Club of Congleton, A club that is going from strength to strength, a club that has a wonderful camaraderie and a club that I am so proud to be a member of. I make no excuses in repeating that this is due in no small part to our last two presidents. Thank you.

Full report inside...

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Presidents Farewell Patter...

Being your president for the past 12 months has been a pleasure and a privilege and I have now handed over to Ian who will be a fantastic president for the coming year

The club goes from strength to strength, we have managed to welcome 2 new members during the year, Janet Hollins and Penny Mercer, more importantly we have a successful, vibrant and settled club full of some fantastic people. In addition, just in the last week or so, we welcomed the transfer from Sandbach Crosses to Congleton Rotary, to the incoming District Governor Jean Billingsley.

We have had some great project leaders who throughout the year have been bringing along, with their team members, new ideas on how we do things, which both enhanced and revitalised many of the projects that have been around for many years.

The Environmental team went from strength to strength and forged links with the Town Council and other community groups. Youth services have established very strong links with the local schools resulting in the initiatives and competitions that we put forward being well received and supported throughout the year.

Sandra and Rachel leading Swimathon have increased the fund raising to new heights, by raising a record amount of money during year, I have no doubt that they will do an even better job next year

Eddie continues to lead community affairs and of course is the coordinator for one of our most prestigious events, the Bonfire and Fireworks Display which is delivering enjoyment to the community as well as raising significant funds for our charity account

Jo continues to make the Tree of Light a great success, particularly as she comes up with new ideas to gain even more public participation

Stew of course continues to be an ever present on membership services, organising various social activities and leading all of our recruitment processes which have proved to be very successful over the past few years as the club continues to grow and attract new members.

There is one member however that I would like to pay a particular tribute to, and that is Doug Parker. Doug has single handedly been responsible for organising many of our social events for many years, whilst also at the same time raising funds. How he managed to sell the tickets that he does at all the various events he has organised, is beyond me, but he did. He has also for many years organised the visits to Care Homes and the War Memorial Hospital

Doug has been a stalwart of the Club for many years and I think we should all pass onto Doug the appreciation that he deserves for what he has done for the Club and the Community over many years.

The success of the Club though does depend upon the support and willingness of the members to both lead and involve themselves in the numerous projects that are promoted by the Club every year and this year I have certainly had that support.

But, such success would not be possible without a vibrant and active promotion strategy. John Gauld almost single handedly has been responsible for promoting the Club to levels not achieved by the majority of Clubs in the UK. We are truly indebted to John for the fantastic work that he has done during the year and continues to do.

Thank you to all of you for the support that I have received throughout the year which is very much appreciated.

Brian Hogan



Brian Hogan

Assistant District Governor's praise.

Rotary Assistant Governor, John Shepley, praised Rotary-Congleton's role as one of the northwest district's most active and successful clubs.

At the club's AGM on June 3rd, Rtn. Shepley said that Congleton demonstrated an enthusiastic and vigorous programme of activity, benefiting the community. He drew attention to the success of the environmental team in this growing area of concern for Rotary, throughout the country. He also commented on Rotary's international role as one of the world's foremost charities funded largely by the work of its active membership.

The AGM ends an active year for Rotary-Congleton, under the presidency of Brian Hogan. In July, he passes the mantle to Ian Robinson, well-known as a retired local veterinary surgeon. Ian told the club of his plans for the year, re-emphasising the social and community role of the club, whilst reaching out to local businesses.

This year, Rotary is re-emphasising its roots as a business organisation, and John Shepley joined the members of the club in pre-viewing a video which will form part of the club's promotion in a campaign to attract local businesses to be launched in September.

And in with the new...

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My role is very simple now the foundations are set; carry on the good work!



Ian Robinson

At the root of this is ensuring that every member is involved, listened to and feels engaged and part of our family. Rest assured I have ample listening skills (after all I am married!)

Rotary is not all about charity work or service; a bigger part of my year is to have fun and fellowship, without which we have no firm base to unite in all our tasks ahead.

Rotary clubs need to grow; to bring in fresh ideas, new contacts and more abled bodies (if you know what I mean?). Word of mouth is still the most effective method, so get your thinking caps on. In this vein I ask for all your support to ensure our corporate initiatives come to fruition.

I am conscious that Rotary-Congleton has its heart in our local community; our association with the schools is fantastic. I am also aware that our general community profile is a little weak. We are seen as an easy source of man power for our town council (nothing wrong with that) but I feel we could do so much more and put our Rotary stamp on local charitable needs. Please consider your local skills set and let Eddie

form a progressive and enthusiastic team.

There still exists many misconceptions of Rotary both locally and generally. We need to enlighten and dispel these misunderstandings. Local community projects can only help. John does an unbelievable job at this but he does need support; again I ask any of you with appropriate drive or skill-set to please please help this man out.

Finally Rotary-Congleton is just our small piece of a much greater and freely available huge organisation. I must encourage you all to further your Rotary experience, be it by using 'My Rotary', or other informative web avenues or be it by visiting other clubs locally, when on business or on holiday.

Our links in this respect with District has perhaps not been the greatest in the past. Things are undoubtedly about to change. As from the start of this Rotary year it is with the greatest of pleasure that we to welcome Jean Billingsley our district governor into our club. (her Sandbach club has had to close and how fortunate we are for her to chose to join ours)

Finally, on a similar note, Simon our environmental guru has been appointed district environmental lead. We wish him all the success in this role. (Rest assured he will still devote his efforts into Congleton).

Here's to a fantastic year

YIR

Ian



Eddie Stars in the Bee Day

Do you know the bee basics? They're important pollinators. They make honey. They make buzz. They like to join you at picnics.

But did you know that they also provide us with medicines and even help keep our planet beautiful and healthy?

World Bee Day saw Rotary's Eddie Rush sharing his expertise! World Bee Day is a campaign to raise awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today

Rotary-Congleton's environmental team set up shop to celebrate World Bee Day on Sunday May 19th near the Bee Garden in Congleton Park. Local bee keeper and Rotarian Eddie Rush brought his glass fronted show hide full of bees in various stages of building their frames and filling them with honey.

Eddie, dressed in his white protective bee suit attracted family audiences throughout the afternoon, all fascinated by his story and his demonstration frames moving from an empty wooden frame to a full one, heavy with 6 lbs of honey.



IT'S A HANDOVER! HERE COMES THE NEW TEAM!

The new team has taken over for the next Rotary financial year. At a meeting at Astbury Golf Club on July 1st, incoming president, Ian Robinson promised members a year where every member matters and where everyone participates in a year of fun and fellowship, while the club continues to play an active role in the community.

He thanked last year's president Brian Hogan for handing over a healthy and vibrant club and paid tribute to the 'mainstays, secretary Rod Goodier and treasurer, Bob Mallet.

President Ian welcomed Eddie Roberts as president-elect. Eddie will assume office next year. Ian presented Eddie with the traditional regalia of office. Eddie is currently responsible for liaison with the town council on all community matters including the bonfire and fireworks in the park – a major annual event for Rotary.

Ian also announced that Simon Fallis will be the president nominee, taking on the mantle in two years time. This coming year, Simon is representing the club at District level, where he will become the district environmental officer liaising with the 62 Rotary Clubs throughout the northwest. The environment is a growing area for Rotary and one where our club has set a lead under Simon's guidance.



Ian Robinson and next year's president, president-elect Eddie Roberts receives his regalia.

MAKING THE SWITCH-ON SAFER FOR ALL



Many thousands of people crush into the town centre to watch the popular annual ceremony to switch on the town's Christmas lights at the end of November. The sheer weight of numbers can make the event a daunting experience for some people.

Recognising this, the town council is planning to create a separate safe area for people with disabilities, the elderly and young families with pushchairs. This year, a large screen television will be erected in the Market Quarter with a live feed to the events on stage so that these groups can get a perfect view of the entire event in complete safety.

Local companies have rallied round to help with the installation and Rotary-Congleton has come to the rescue, helping to fund the project with a cheque for £750.

Rachel McCarthy CTC's town centre and events officer picked up a cheque from Brian Hogan

Ian kicks off his year with a major press article.



This is what our superb local paper printed...

New President has an ambitious new target - and a short time to deliver.

In July every year, 36,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries throughout the world elect their new president. The presidency lasts just 12 months and each new incumbent has a short time to introduce his or her ideas to help build and develop their club.

Rotary-Congleton is no different from the others, and this year outgoing president, Brian Hogan, gives way to Ian Robinson in July.

Ian is well known to many as a lifelong Congleton man who made many friends, during his career as a veterinary surgeon treating both family pets and also among the farming fraternity. For the last 40 years, Ian has also been a member of the local Rotary Club.

Fun-loving Ian insists that his year will be filled with social activities. As a result, the club's 30 members can look forward to an enjoyable and memorable programme. But, paradoxically, he is also a surprisingly shy and thoughtful person and underlying his sense of fun is his concern, ensuring the club's present health is sustained and improved into the future.

Every Rotary club has an ongoing issue maintaining its levels of membership. No one is getting any younger and membership in

needs refreshment and replacement as people age, retire or simply move away. A new, younger generation is also a lot busier and therefore harder to recruit. Membership of Rotary encourages a particular sort of like-minded person with a desire to give back a little of their spare time to support their town and the community. For the last 76 years, that has been the role of Rotary in Congleton; giving, helping and supporting. In recent years the club has been successful in attracting new members with Ian's two predecessors bringing in more than 10 new members.

Ian in turn has a radical new idea and a theme to explore for his year.

The Congleton club was originally formed by a group of local businessmen, the pillars of town society. In the old days, they met weekly at lunchtime and had a good long lunch, during which they had time to explore Rotary's core concerns - investing in building and supporting the community. Over the years the strict attendance rules and the formality of the early days have given way to a more relaxed attitude. Today, Rotary-Congleton meets on Monday evenings twice a month, alternating business and social evenings. The membership now includes an increasing number of women.

Membership of Rotary-Congleton is open to any resident who shares its values and has a little time to give to both club and community.

Ian Robinson's secret weapon is to revisit the original strengths of Rotary as a club for business-people, supported by their companies. He wants to take his offer of membership together with a strong mutually beneficial deal to organisations and businesses, large or small. 'It doesn't matter if you are self-employed, a partnership, a small or large organisation or in either public or private ownership,' he said. 'The benefits to an organisation of becoming involved as a corporate member of Rotary are considerable. Our plan is to spell out the deal in detail. Over recent years, the

benefits to a business of being a Rotary member may have been overlooked. Rotary is still regarded as a prestigious club with a strong global brand and one where it is a privilege to be a member.'

Ian is revisiting the idea of 'Corporate Social Responsibility' the modern jargon for an organisation having a responsibility to its local townsfolk for its presence in the town. CSR means putting something back into the community in which the organisation exists, works and finds its employees and sometimes also its customers. He says that this was Rotary's founding strength and over time, the original thought has been left to evaporate a little. Revisiting the role of an organisation in the community is an opportunity to create a new, two-way partnership with the modern Rotary.

'No business is going to encourage its people to be active Rotarians, without understanding what's in it for them,' he said. 'Rotary has a strong offer to make. The Rotary organisation builds teamwork and encourages confidence-building and public speaking. In addition, Rotary has strong ethical standards and its famous '4-way test' for truth and fairness has been adopted by many organisations throughout the world. But membership also offers so much more. Rotarians enjoy making easy business connections with similar people in every town with a club throughout the UK. Further afield, international connections can easily be made with around 1.4 million members in 36,000 clubs in over 200 countries worldwide. We're all members of the same Rotary, willing and able to help club members wherever they are in the world,' he continued. 'It goes without saying that this is a two-way deal,' says Ian. 'Our club stands to benefit from new company members as well. New company members bring modern business thinking and new resources to everything we do. That's a welcome injection of new blood, experience and new enthusiasms from which everyone benefits.'

The plan to re-integrate Rotary with local businesses is now at the active planning stage. A presentation is being put together

and business meetings are planned to start at the end of the summer holidays.

'We hope every employer in Congleton will think deeply about the advantages that a 'Corporate Member' plaque positioned outside their front entrance could make,' said Ian. We have a strong presence in Congleton and our brand is recognised worldwide, influencing governments, providing peace bursaries, providing clean water, supporting education, providing healthcare and of course, our world-leading multi \$bn role in originating the campaign to inoculate under 5-year-old-children to all but eliminate the scourge of polio.'

'We will still be there throughout the year, with members assisting our town council with their events, as well as running our own programme, including our concerts, the town's bonfire, our growing environmental programme, Swimathon and our major investment in our Youth Programme, supporting all our local schools with competitions and events aimed at stimulating young minds.'

' During my year, we mean all local businesses and organisations, however large or small, to see the benefits of a close working relationship with Rotary. We're still the world's leading business club. Make no mistake, Rotary-Congleton means business!'

In order to be president, Ian is handing on his role as Rotary's International officer, a position that he remains passionate about.

During his time in office, he has supported many of the initiatives of Rotary's global charity in disaster recovery and more recently supporting Ukrainian refugees. He has also encouraged local members to participate in Rotary's active programmes in healthcare, providing clean drinking water, and supporting education at all levels up to and including bursaries at leading universities providing training for diplomats, and promoting peace throughout the world. Ian has run a local 'Lend With Care' initiative that helps start-up businesses in third world countries and still perhaps best known, the Rotary-inspired campaign to eradicate polio.

Paul Nixon honoured with a Rotary service award

Rotary Great Britain and Ireland, the national arm of Rotary, has honoured one of Congleton's local personalities..



Paul Nixon picked up the gauntlet when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. He set up CAUSN – Congleton Area Ukrainian Support Network – and masterminded an operation to look after the flood of Ukrainian refugees as they arrived in Congleton and the surrounding area.

On Monday, 17th June, Rotary Great Britain and Ireland recognised his work with a framed certificate. The certificate was signed by Eve Conway, Rotary International Director 2023-25 on behalf of the Rotary GB&I Board.

It states "Service Recognition Award presented to Paul Nixon in acknowledgement of special service."

Rotary-Congleton's then president elect, Ian Robinson presented the certificate and read a citation. He said "I am proud to present Paul Nixon with an award – not from us, but from from Rotary Great Britain. This 'Service Recognition Award' is an acknowledgement of special humanitarian service. I think, in our recent history, it is the first time that we have been able to secure such a national award."

Ian concluded, "Paul Nixon, it is my great pleasure to present this Service Recognition Award to you on behalf of every Rotarian in Great Britain and Ireland."



Wildlife Friendly Garden Competition gets off to a flying start.

The Wildlife Garden Competition received a boost recently, when one of the sponsors, Timothy a Brown, the Congleton Estate agents, placed a full-page advertisement in the Congleton Chronicle to promote the competition.

Perhaps their thinking is transparent! If Congleton householders improve their gardens, they enhance the look and the value, not just of their own property, but of their neighborhoods as well! Ultimately, the more attractive properties will be more appealing to buyers!!!

Be that as it may, the competition, in its first year, has been a talking point for many people as Rotarians, often dressed as bees have been seen at many events around town. The interest in the competition has been great, Organiser, Simon Fallis said that the competition has raised awareness of the plight of our wild birds, bees, bugs and butterflies as well as the larger garden animals, toads and hedgehogs.

Entrants have to supply a photo of their efforts by 31st August. There's a £100 prize for the best non-garden entry for a window box, courtyard or balcony and another prize of £100 for the best wildlife friendly garden – which could be a border or a larger area.

Rotarians and their families are not allowed to enter the public competition to win either of the main prizes, but are encouraged, nevertheless to take part and enter into the spirit of the competition.



It's just the start and some are coming along nicely - but these gardens are not going to win a prize!



STAR-GAZING ROTARIAN SPILLS THE BEANS



Rotarian Tony Blackburn took the Club on an electronic stargazing trip from Jodrell bank. He explained the workings of the array of telescopes in this country - and around the world - that can be linked together from his base at Jodrell Bank to form one giant

radio telescope in order to look at far distant galaxies. Tony, an electronics technician at the University of Manchester is responsible for the wizardry that keeps the five UK telescopes linked by fibre optic cables to Jodrell Bank in perfect nano-second electronic synchronisation – ensuring the radar images are in sharp focus as they gaze at distant galaxies. Tony's presentation started with the history of the site. He described how Sir Bernard Lovell succeeded in persuading governments of the need to finance the project at Jodrell Bank and even how the telescope played a central role in tracking Russian 'sputniks' and in the early warning system for an attack during the cold war.

ROUND-UP OF CHEQUES GIVEN TO THE SWIMMERS



ESTATE AGENTS JUMP IN

Timothy a Brown estate agents entered a team of 6. Their 55 minute swim covered 135 lengths of the pool and earned them £560.25 for Tom Brown's chosen charity, the MND Association. Tom describes Motor Neurone Disease as being close to his heart. Their team's swim adds a similar amount to Rotary's own chosen charities, The Old Saw Mill and Listen Out Loud, Congleton's own charity for ex-servicepeople.

Two of the 6 swimmers from the company, Nigel Pipon and Tom Brown received their cheque from Swimathon organisers, Rachel Brown and Sandra Conway.

THEY SWAM FOR THE LIFEBOATS!

Marlfields Primary Academy has been a regular participant in the Swimathon in recent years. This year 27 school swimmers jumped in and raised £736 towards the cost of providing clothing for one RNLI crew member.

The school has been involved with the RNLI for around eight years and aims to raise the money to provide one crew member with clothing kit each year. The special clothing – sea boots and layered clothing - costs around £1,600.

The school is very aware of the dangers of water and is eager to prepare its children for the future. The National Curriculum suggests that primary school children should be able to swim 25 metres, but Marlfields aims to do better and get its children to do Rooky Lifeguard courses.

The 27 children swam in teams and covered 440 lengths of the Congleton Leisure pool in 55 minutes. In total they raised £1,393.62 of which £736 goes to the RNLI, with the remainder being donated to Rotary's chosen charities

BIDDULPH CLUB SETS A RECORD!



Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club are keen supporters of Swimathon – with just reason! They use the event as a fund-raiser in order to support their ongoing needs to train their coaches and teachers. There is an expensive requirement as the training qualifications are both essential and expensive! This year, their swimmers raised a total of £545.20 towards their costs. On the day, 34 swimmers from Biddulph swam 1,120 lengths of the pool. Remarkably, that's a team record for the whole event!

After two very enjoyable years at the Biddulph Leisure Centre, Rotary was sad to move Swimathon back to its permanent home base in Congleton. Many regarded the Biddulph pool as better suited to the running of the event, with parents able to encourage their teams from seats at the poolside – impossible in Congleton as the cafe is located behind a glass wall.

However, Congleton is Swimathon's home town and provisional dates are being set for 2025.



SWIMATHON CHEQUE HELPS CARE INSIGHT'S LEAVERS

The Care Insight Swimathon team swam 81 lengths to raise money.

Care Insight gets £243.70 to fund projects and activities to enhance Cheshire care leavers' lives.

The care leavers, aged from 16 to 28 are assisted to flourish when they leave their former lives in foster care or children's homes. Care Insight's programmes help the young people to connect, with outdoor activities and skill development, helping to create friends and family for those without support networks.



Rotary president (now past president) Brian Hogan with the Care Insight team, Leo, Charlotte (Mentor co-ordinator), Jacob and Ash

OLD SAW MILL GETS A £6,000 BOOST

Peter Aston recently picked up a cheque for £6,000 from Rotary-Congleton's Sandra Conway.

The OSM was one of Rotary's two charities voted by its members to receive a share of funds from the recent Swimathon event. The record-breaking Swimathon meant that both the Saw Mill and Congleton's Listen Out Loud Foundation each received around £6,000, including Gift Aid.

The Old Saw Mill started around 8 years ago as a start-up business pressing and selling apple juice. From that small beginning, a cafe opened,

together with meeting rooms in the building on Back River Street. During Covid, the Saw Mill started delivering food to people with mobility issues and that operation has blossomed to the point that 120 meals are now delivered weekly, many of them supplied at no cost. The funds from Swimathon will enable several months of food to be delivered until this year's apple crop is pressed into apple juice and sold to boost the funds.

The Old Saw Mill itself entered two teams into Swimathon, raising £957.50 from their own sponsorship - half of which contributed to the overall total. Peter Aston said that, once the idea of Swimathon was discussed it received enthusiastic support. He is certain that, chosen charity or not, they will participate enthusiastically in next year's event.



OSM swimmers from the Swimathon team were there in support as Sandra Conway presented a cheque to Peter Aston.

A GREAT DAY TO GIVE £6,000 TO THE LOL FOUNDATION

It turned out to be a great day to present its cheque for £6,000 to the LOL Foundation at their All Ranks Mess and Community Cafe.

Saturday, 29th June was both Armed Forces Day and a celebration of the cafe's first year since it opened. Armed Forces Day is a chance to show support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community; from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets.

Brian Hogan and Rotarians attended to make the presentation. The cheque was a result of the LOL Foundation being chosen together with The Old Sw Mill as the local charities receiving Rotary's share of the monies raised at this year's Swimathon event. Each year the club members vote to choose two local charities, and retains 50% of all the money raised to donate to them. Mrs Jill Dolman, who together with Andy Dolman Bayley, founded the charity, said that the money will enable the cafe to continue with some building work, purchase a new display fridge and also extend their menu offerings.



The cafe put on a great event to celebrate Armed Forces Day which ran throughout the day. The Congleton RAF Cadets were there in support. The celebration featured the Biddulph Male Voice Choir who were in fine voice. Inside, the cafe did a roaring trade.

The cafe in Victoria Street, opposite Morrisons, is open to everyone, not just Service veterans. It has come a long way since its opening. During the year it has become popular and extended its range of support for veterans including a book exchange which sparks discussion about what is or is not a good read!

Two therapy counsellors are available at the cafe to provide support to veterans – and anyone else from the community who is in need. An adventure training team organises therapeutic days out including trips to Wales, Scotland and Normandy for the recent D-Day anniversary.

The cafe also provides help with the cost of living in the form of free breakfasts to children under 11. Any surplus cereals are distributed to families in need.

Since its formation, LOL has found a home for many and helped with counselling and with the results of PTSD for countless other ex-forces personnel.

Young Photographer competition winner gets his first job!

Obe, now aged 10, was the overall winner in last year's Young Photographer competition. Part of his prize was a special assignment to take photos for a national journalist. The photograph, was to show the children at the Bromley Hub's 'Play and Stay' group which meets on a Friday morning.

Rotary's own photographer, John Gauld, one of the Young Photographer competition judges, was there to record the photo-shoot. He said that he was impressed by the way that Obe set about composing his shot, showing the playgroup against the colourful background that forms such an important part of the environment at the Hub. Obe took several shots before lying down and photographing the group with a bright red wooden rocking horse in the foreground. John said that for him, that was Obe's 'Shot of the Day'. He remarked that Obe was indeed a worthy winner of the Young Photographer competition, which pitted him against the work of pupils up to the age of 17.

Obe is looking forward to entering this year's competition.



Above: Obe's winning shot and below, Obe with his iPad.



Vale Juniors net some seasonal support

Vale Juniors under 10 football club's coach, Josh Longmuir and his daughter Harper, aged 9' collected a cheque from Ian Robinson for their new kit for next season. Now, all 21 team members will be resplendent in their new kit in time for the new season. Harper is wearing last year's Rotary-sponsored shirt. The Rotary club has an active programme focussed on supporting the town's youth with a series of stimulating competitions and a programme promoting environmental awareness.

Smiles all around in Uganda



On June 20th next year, Dental nurse Honey Bevan from Congleton will set off to Uganda with a little help from Rotary-Congleton. Honey was raising sponsorship to take part in a Dentaaid programme supporting dentists visiting schools, local communities and even prisons. The aim is to provide dental care and to help spread awareness of the importance of dental health in that country.

Holly picked up £500 from Ian Robinson and Rod Goodier

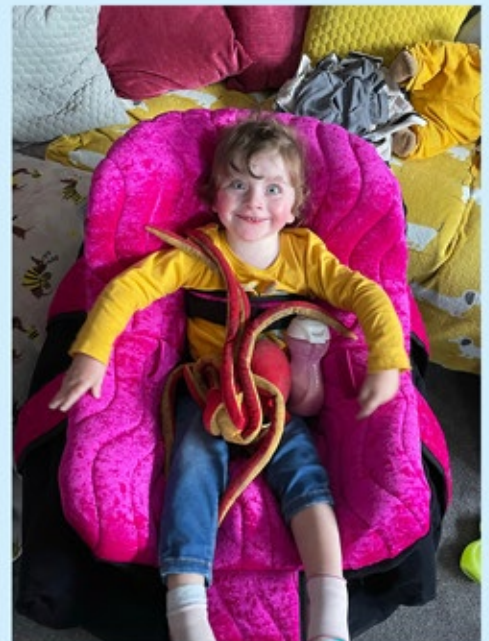
Thank you for the chair...

Grace Davenport's mother Claire came to a Rotary meeting especially to say 'Thank You' to the club. Recently, Rotary purchased a special chair for her daughter Grace, who is now nearly 3 and suffers from a very rare condition, and is only one in 11 million with 'Ogden Syndrome'. Grace has very complex needs and her care is 24 hours. Claire says the chair is 'transformative and has changed Grace's life'. The chair allows Grace, who has to use it throughout the day, to be comfortable – and to sit high-up and to join in at the same height as the rest of the family.

Mrs Thompson is organising a fundraising day in order to take Grace to Disneyland. It is being held at Congleton Cricket Club on 6th October, starting at 11am. All Rotarians are welcome to attend.



Grace's mother visited the club meeting and, below, Grace in her new chair.



LAST-MINUTE ROSIE PUMPED OUT ALL THAT JAZZ!



Phil Shotton's Kaleidoscope Big Band jazz returned to the New Life Church for a sell-out Rotary concert for his fourth appearance on Saturday, 29th June. Phil introduced the programme, and brought his entertaining and witty style to the evening.

The concert featured a repertoire of popular music from the history of jazz. Singer Marilyn Royle was booked to attend but was forced to pull out due to illness. Her place was filled at the last minute by Macclesfield singer, Rosie Douglas whose lack of practice but nevertheless near perfect and spirited performance of the songs chosen by Marilyn Royle brought appreciation and lengthy applause.

Her favourites included 'I've Got You Under My Skin', 'Night and Day', 'Mack the Knife', 'Summertime' and 'Can't Take My Eyes off of You.'

Mary Kirkpatrick performed a saxophone solo of 'Georgia on My Mind' while Simon Lodge performed 'Somewhere' from West Side Story on the trombone. Joe Cockx performed a flugel horn solo and Phil Shotton himself, displayed his musical skill and versatility with his saxophone. But, after a phenomenal performance by the Kaleidoscope band and soloists, it was Rosie's vocals that were the stars of the night.

Doug Parker has organised the popular series of concerts and events at the New Life Church for many years, After the 'Last Night at The Proms' in September, he intends to stand aside and leave the organisation to a new team.



Diary Page

Astonbury weekend and our big collaboration with Rotary-Biddulph. A chance to get involved, but bring your own chairs!

Are you Game? Chance to play and have fun

An era ends as our impressario Doug delivers his Last Night at the Proms - loved by so many. Doug hands over the organisation of the event to the safe hands of the membership team for the future.

We're on the final run-in to the annual bonfire and fireworks. We need everyone - and all the help we can recruit - to get our major fundraising event off with a bang. Let's not disappoint up to 5,000 local people.

Fri 12 Jul '24	15:00 PM to 23:00 PM	Astonbury
Sat 13 Jul '24	16:00 PM to 23:00 PM	Astonbury
Mon 15 Jul '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Speaker Night
Footnote:		Cyber Crime
Mon 5 Aug '24	19:00 PM to 21:00 PM	Business meeting
Sat 17 Aug '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Garden Games Party
Mon 2 Sep '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Business Meeting
Sat 14 Sep '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Last Night of the Proms
Mon 16 Sep '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Social/Speaker Night
Mon 7 Oct '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Business Meeting
Footnote:		Bonfire Planning
Mon 21 Oct '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Social/Speaker Night
Mon 4 Nov '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Business Meeting
Mon 25 Nov '24	19:00 PM to 23:00 PM	Charter Night
Mon 2 Dec '24	19:00 PM to 22:00 PM	Business Meeting

"WE MUSTER PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS, WHO CREATE SOMETHING TOGETHER THAT'S MUCH GREATER THAN WHAT THEY COULD CREATE INDIVIDUALLY."

Rotary 