

September 2024

Rotary
Congleton



NEWS Letter



President's Patter

First of all, may I thank you all for your kind thoughts during my spell of illness; you'll be pleased to know I am back on form..... so look out!!

Well not many meetings yet BUT hey, my main theme of fun and fellowship has been positively blooming.

A beautiful day greeted us for a very informative trip around the Anderton Boat lift (with naughty cream cakes to follow!)

Similarly the rain kept away for our memorable garden party which raised nearly £700. A huge 'thank you' to Stewart, Cath and John (Knight) whose fantastic efforts ensured it ran smoothly and thanks to all that helped from cake making to stall manning. Its success was in no small way also down to Mark Bailey and his Biddulph team; it can show that shared projects really work and are very rewarding. (Biddulph raised around £450)

Even more spectacular was Cath and Mike's garden games afternoon; fabulous fun and fellowship. (Oh, did I mention I won the overall competition!!).

Speaking of competitive events the bowls evening and dinner at the Railway was equally great fun and competitive (sadly I didn't win this one!) Huge thanks again to 'mister organiser' Stewart.

The Entertainment committee wants your ideas for fun days out; so get typing. To all you unable to join us yet in our "extra curricular activities" YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.

On a more serious note..BONFIRE. It is rapidly creeping up on us. Eddie has worked overtime to ensure it is bigger and better than ever BUT it needs each and everyone's support: so be THERE.

Similarly our other hero Doug has worked tirelessly over many years with organising his many fund raising events. His "swan-song" is rapidly approaching; the Last Night of the Proms on 16th September. It would be very fitting if we ALL could support him on this night.

Sadly after our next meeting on 2nd September I will have to seek Sun, Sea and Sangria for a few weeks. Hey oh someone has to do it. Be kind to Eddie while I'm away!!

YIR - 'Senor Presidente'

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Ian

Ian goes the Whole Hog

Ian Robinson's first task as Rotary-Congleton's new President was to host a hog roast for Congleton and Biddulph Rotarians, their families and friends. Luckily, Ian managed to choose a July afternoon when the sun shone and the showers threatened but held off.

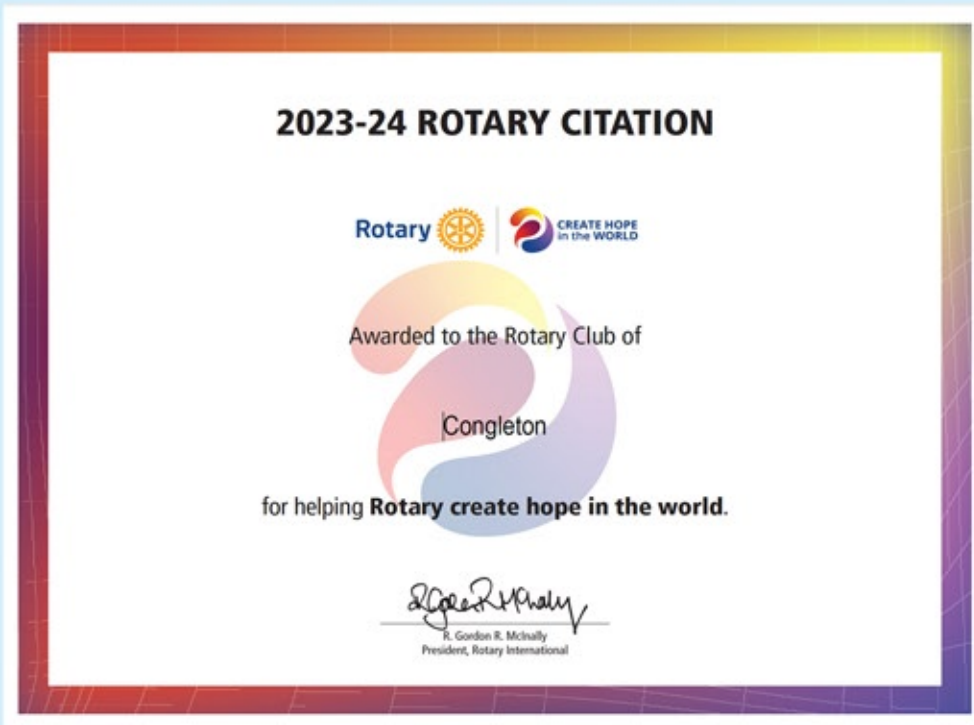
Every Rotarian contributes to its central charity – the Rotary Foundation – one of the world's largest charities – and one that actively promotes peace, supports education, the environment, medical interventions, clean water and disaster aid. It is probably still best-known as instigating - and with its 1.4 million members - supporting the worldwide polio inoculation campaign with over \$2.6bn. since 1985. The proceeds from Ian's garden party games, hog roast and bar, divided between the Congleton and Biddulph clubs, will go to support Rotary Foundation. (When Rotary runs fundraising events in and around town, all the money raised is spent locally).

So it was that around 150 friends and relations played Tombola, hunted to find bottles of wine, played countdown, skittles and other games. They listened to local group, 'Nostalgia', who did what their name implies, and played into the evening with a succession of well-known favourites from the history of pop music.

Biddulph Rotarian Mark Bailey of 'Blueys' cafe fame, served drinks from a full bar and demonstrated his ability as a chef, carving the hog and dishing up gargantuan baps, stuffed full of pulled pork, apple sauce and stuffing together with generous portions of crackling!

As an aside, the event suffered from the minor inconvenience of an unforeseen major football match and Wimbledon tennis featuring Novak Djokovic. Locally, the Congleton Youth Orchestra provided conflict for 3 Rotarians and their families who had to leave the party early in order to attend. There is no weekend in summer that is free from such distractions!





Rotary-Congleton gets a Rotary Citation from International President.

For it's work last year, led by our president Brian Hogan our Congleton Club has achieved recognition from Rotary International.

The Citation was accompanied by the following message:

"Dear 2023-24 Club President, Brian

Congratulations! Your club has earned the Rotary Citation, the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve, for 2023-24. This past year, your club demonstrated a commitment to achieve its goals, which ultimately helps strengthen Rotary and shape our future.

Once again, congratulations on a successful year as club president!"

*Sincerely,
Gordon R. McNally
2023-24 RI President*

Tree of Remembrance is care home's garden centre piece.



Residents of Bradwell Court Care Home now have a new area where they can sit in peace and enjoy their memories. The club has planted a Remembrance Tree in the garden.

Long-term resident at the home, Mrs Kathleen Craven celebrates her 90th birthday in September. She said " I like it. I like the thought of it. Well done!" Incidentally, Kathleen said that her husband, Mike Craven was a long-time member of the Rotary Club.

The inscription on the plaque reads 'This Maple Tree was Planted in 2024 by The Rotary Club of Congleton. A Quiet Place where Residents can Pause to Remember People they Love.' "Gone but not Forgotten,"

Our photo shows Gemma Grosvenor, the home's activities co-ordinator, Kathleen Craven, president, Ian Robinson and Simon Fallis, who organised the tree.



Jo with judges, Mel Kirby and Bernard Pendleton

Jo meets the Blooming Judges

On Wednesday 14th August, NW Britain in Bloom judges visited Congleton. Jo Lancaster was asked to attend the judging at the Community Garden where The Rotary Tree of Light is growing.

Jo told the judges that significant changes were made to the Tree of Light in December 2023. In line with Rotary-Congleton's Environmental ethos, the plastic stars were replaced with wooden shapes and the plastic ties were replaced with biodegradable twine. The wooden shapes were hung directly on the tree rather than on the metal fences. The overall effect was very positively received and looked more natural, in addition to being environmentally friendly.

The judges were familiar with Rotary Tree of Light schemes in other towns and were interested to hear about the environmental changes that we had made in Congleton. They congratulated Jo for the project and for steering it in a positive direction.

The Tree of Light will be back again throughout the Christmas season.

Rod picks up a surprise bouquet for Rotary



The head teacher at Congleton High School, Ms Heidi Thurland invited Rod Goodier as a guest to the Scholars' Awards Evening held in Congleton Town Hall on Thursday July 18th. It was a wonderful evening celebrating many students with numerous awards. The Alumni speaker Adrian Young is currently a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force. He gave an excellent overview of his school days at CHS and his fast-moving career in the RAF.

Later in the evening, several 'special awards' were presented. The Partnership Recognition Award was indeed a surprise when the head of CHS said that Rotary were a major part of the school's community activities, and Rod was then presented with a basket of flowers by Sgt Young. Rod knew Adrian from his air cadet days and also the head of governors at CHS, Mr Rich Benson. Rod thanked CHS on behalf of Rotary and congratulated all the students on their awards.



Rotary's Heart is at the Heart of Congleton.

Rotary-Congleton and Streetscape came together to create a wildflower garden in the shape of a heart in the Market Place Gardens, to the rear of the town hall. Rotary provided sufficient seeds to ensure repeat plantings so that the wildflowers will come back year after year. Streetscape prepared the site and added additional top-soil to the site.

Chief officer of Congleton Town Council, David McGifford said "It's really great! The council is keen to expand its wildflower plantings across the town, with obvious benefits to the environment and the community as a whole."

Rotarian Simon Fallis instigated the plan to create the heart in the centre of the town. He said that The Rotary 'heart' reflects the town's motto of being 'A small town with a big heart!'

Rotary organisation has the environment as one of its key areas of interest around the world.

Such has been the success of the local environmental initiatives that Simon Fallis has now been invited to take responsibility for Rotary District's 62 clubs throughout the northwest of England.

President Ian Robinson said that he was proud of the initiatives that the club was taking in supporting the environment and the leadership that Congleton is providing in encouraging Rotary clubs throughout the northwest to share their ideas and plans in their own towns.

Photo: David McGifford, Ian Robinson and Simon Fallis

STOP THINK PROTECT!



The burgeoning threat of online Fraud is exercising the minds of Cheshire Police! Detective Constable Andrew Kevan knows all about it, and imparted a great deal of his knowledge in how to protect smartphones and computers in an hour-long talk to Rotary-Congleton's members and friends. (Astbury Golf Club, Monday 15th July).

His high-speed, content-filled presentation outlined the threats from email, social media and online dating. He stressed the methods by which software companies 'scrape' data from everything we do on our phones and either sell the data, or learn about our movements and buying preferences.

One particular piece of advice concerned password security and how to check if a password has been compromised. Andrew is an advocate of using three memorable words, rather than the difficult to remember scramble of words, numbers and symbols!

The final – and perhaps most worrying – section of his talk concerned the arrival of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and how criminals could use images from social media posts to create false identities.

Remember, Remember the **Second** of November!

Congleton's popular Bonfire in the Park is on **Saturday, 2nd November** this year. The event usually fills the park to capacity with around 5,000 families and friends enjoying the show. Rotary stresses the safety and environmental aspects of organised displays, with commercial fireworks costing many thousands of pounds and a professional team with full security and safety procedures in place on site - as opposed to unregulated events in the back garden.

The format remains more or less the same as in previous years with the park open to the public at 5pm. The procession to light the fire starts at 6pm.

There will be two fireworks displays. The first at 6.30 will feature quiet fireworks for families with young children and for anyone with any sensory issues. The second display at 7.30 will be the full, professional display of aerial fireworks and loud bangs.

Organiser Rtn. Eddie Roberts says that fairground rides and sidestalls will be back and the club hopes to provide a greater choice of food. Alcoholic drinks are not allowed in the park after dark and due to the nature of the event.

The Rotary Club has enhanced the event and is providing more lighting including a 100m festoon of lights to illuminate the main entrance path to the event. Further mobile toilet facilities have been booked to add to the existing park toilets.

For the first time a family ticket is being offered for two adults and two children. If bought in advance the family ticket will cost £22. Adult tickets are £8 and children from 5 to 13 pay just £5 with under fives getting in free.

On the day, the family ticket rises to £30, adults £10 and children £6.

Tickets will be on sale at the Congleton Information Centre at the Town Hall from now until November 2nd. Rotary will have gazebos in the town centre on selected Saturdays throughout October. Tickets can be purchased by card or cash.

Come on Guys!

As in previous years, primary schools and nurseries will be invited to compete to build a Guy Fawkes to sit on top of the fire with a cash prize for the winners.



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| Mon 2 Sep '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Business Meeting |
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| Sat 14 Sep '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Last Night of the Proms |
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| Mon 16 Sep '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Social/Speaker Night |
| Footnote: | | John Knight - Flying with the Airlines |

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| Mon 7 Oct '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Business Meeting |
| Footnote: | | Bonfire Planning |

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| Mon 21 Oct '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Social/Speaker Night |
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| Mon 4 Nov '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Business Meeting |
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| Mon 25 Nov '24 | 19:00 PM to 23:00 PM | Charter Night |
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| Mon 2 Dec '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Business Meeting |
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| Sat 14 Dec '24 | 19:00 PM to 22:00 PM | Christmas Concert |
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| Mon 16 Dec '24 | 19:00 PM to 23:00 PM | Christmas Party |
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Piary Page

It's Sold Out! The Last Night at the Proms is a complete sell-out. So if you haven't booked your tickets - it's too late! All is set for a great night with two spectacular guest stars

Heavily booked - John Knight takes flight in a fascinating speaker night covering his life in the clouds.

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.

November 4th: It's all over for another year! Time to learn the lessons and count the costs

Our great Charter Night is once again at the wonderful Sandhole Oak Barn, courtesy of the Worth Family. Get togged up, get your tickets and bring your friends. It's always a fantastic night!

Gosh! It's nearly Christmas! Our annual Christmas Concert and

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

Rotary 