

ROTARY NEWS

ISSUE NO. 13 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HODDESDON AUGUST 2016

Rotary Summer Lunch celebrating Swinging Sixties for H2H (see page 11 for full details).



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Technology Challenge
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RYLA Scheme

District 1260 - Chartered 1947 - Club No: 19256 - Charity Number 270925

President David Johnston takes the helm

Monday 4th July 2016 was a day that I will remember for some time, a day when my youngest son Tom became 21 and I took the reigns from past president Ted Grad to start my year as President of Hoddesdon Rotary Club. Over the last sixty nine years there have been many prominent holders of this office, some filling these shoes more than once. The ability to lead and give direction to a club such as ours is a real privilege, and I look forward to the next twelve months with much anticipation.



As you will read in this bulletin, there is always something happening - an event, gathering or community project, our members regularly involved in some way and it is good to be part of such an active club. In recent months we have entertained local pensioners with a Spring Variety Show, and also taken others for evening drives followed by a meal at The King Harold's Head in Nazeing. In May we entertained our Rotarian visitors from twinned club Dinant, a good weekend had by everyone. This month we had our Summer Lunch, celebrating the sixties in style, and more socialising is planned with the Celebrity Night in November, and possibly a Five Club Dinner Dance next January.

In my year I am keen to strengthen our links with youth there being many established projects that we already support but with scope to extend this good work. Our club has supported Teens Unite this year and also Hailey Hall School with a day at Chessington (page 9). I hope to progress a Young Artists Competition in conjunction with other clubs, this in addition to the existing Essay Writing Competition, Technology Tournament and Creative Writing Competitions that we hold annually.

With seven months to go, our H2H project taking ten local students from Sheredes and John Warner School to Everest (page 14) is gathering pace and we are all in training for this exciting venture. Whilst in Nepal we will complete a community project renovating a kitchen and canteen area within a local school, more on this in our next issue. Our fund raising continues and following a successful Race Night (see page 13), future events will include a 'Guys sing Dolls Show' on 19th November, this currently being organised in conjunction with our student trekkers.

I look forward to commenting further as my year progresses and, whilst life in Rotary can be hectic, it is never boring and together we live life to the full as we put 'Service before Self'.



Picture posts



Rotary District Conference May 2016, attended by a number of our members and partners, who stayed at the Grand Hotel, Torquay.

Pictured below— Howard and Dorothy Connor celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary. Chris Waddington and Ted Gradosielski with Sophie Phillips from B3Living. Charles Walker MP visits club, Peter and Genys Lardi, Trish and Jackie in white heat of summer.



Ware Dragonboat Race 2016

1...2...1...2... the counting shouted, or quiet on the breath, or just thumping inside a brain in time with the incessant beat of the drum... in... back...out...forward... the relentless cycle of paddles pulling deep into the river as it flashed under the hull of the 11-crewed dragon boat. The sun on the bow-wave catches in the eye and water hurled from the paddle in front (that has come up at an angle instead of straight) catches full in the face, but undeterred the crew propel their boat forward toward the



distant finishing line. Rio has nothing on us! For over a whole life-time minute hearts pound and arms ache but the crew comes through triumphant!



Our Rotary Club team was up against pubs and clubs, fit young athletes and office-workers who were representing their firm. Half silver-heads and half H2H participants, our team battled through against all the odds to achieve a creditable medal-winning third place.

Students Jenni Painter, George Wooldridge, Shannon Ollinger, Tom Culley, Adam El-Shuh and Emily Price crewed with Club members Lawrence Bone, Ted Grad, Keith Theobald, Meirion Morris, David Johnson and David Bradburn to form our amazing team. Our fastest time, out of three races, was only 0.6 of a second behind the silver medal winners' time.



It was a great day of fun and a great day for the charities supported by the various crews.

This is not the first time that our Club crew, mainly of a more senior age, has done well. Rotary is about people working together, not just doing their own thing, but pulling as a team to achieve great things. In a small way the Dragon Boat Race reflects this. Winning teams work together: it's much more important than what any individual, however strong, can do by themselves.



The Spring Variety Show

In May, 300 single pensioners and other guests were invited to a new event for Hoddesdon Rotary Club, The Spring Variety Show.

After twenty five years of arranging the Easter Dinner, it was decided that change was due, and rather than a sit down meal the emphasis would be on entertainment from local musicians and performers.



The evening held at The Spotlight Broxbourne was a great success, and the Borough of Broxbourne Community Choir provided entertainment with a variety of songs, directed by Gabrielle Hanley. Other performances were provided by The Broxbourne Recorder Ensemble, Milicent and Constance Robinson (piano/violin), and others. The evening's entertainment concluded with popular songs from the six-

ties, performed by Danny Vegas.

A buffet meal was provided for guests, delivered to tables by young waiters from Hailey Hall School, together with the H2H students from Sheredes and John Warner School.

With many guests needing transport, a group of local volunteers and Rotarians, together with three mini buses took the guests home, all having made some new acquaintances and having enjoyed an entertaining evening. We look forward to next year's event, planning already underway !



DONATE
to your local foodbank



Technology Challenge 2016

For the 22nd year the Clubs of Amwell, Hertford, Hertford Shires and Ware supported Hoddesdon Rotay Club in putting on the biggest (and one of the best) Tournaments at Spotlight, Hoddesdon on Tuesday 21st June.



Ten schools entered 29 teams (116 young people) who were challenged on the day to plan, design, build and demonstrate bridge constructions varying in complexity (three age groups each with own Task). All had to support a 1 kg weight but junior bridges had a single span, intermediates had a ramp which could be raised and seniors had two ramp sections.



As usual it was amazing how little noise arose from so many youngsters as they concentrated the skills, technical know-how and teamwork learnt in their school curriculum.

Two teacher teams designed and built model bridges also when not indulging the opportunity to network with their counterparts.

Each team demonstrated their creation before a panel of Rotary judges and their efforts appeared on a large screen on the stage for all to appreciate.



The entries ranged in their robustness, some bridges carried to the front for inspection with intrepidation and great care but failing to meet the stringent requirements of the judges. Participants held their breaths as the tests were completed and with only one opportunity for the bridge to carry the load, or not as in some cases!



Eventually, winners were declared: team members got inscribed medals and book tokens. Their school got a coveted Trophy. Awards were presented by the civic dignitaries shown:-

Foundation Winners – Chauncy – Cllr Alexander Curtis, Deputy Mayor of Ware

Intermediate Winners – Haileybury – Cllr Dr Linda Radford, Mayor of Hertford

Advanced Winners Richard Hale – Cllr Ken Crofton, Chair of EHDC



Winning Teachers each got a bottle of wine from Past Mayor of Broxbourne Cllr Bren Perryman and each pupil contestant got a Mars bar.

Through one or two cancellations there were even some left over!



Rotary greatly appreciated the support of Spotlight Broxbourne premises team, Lobster Pot caterers and our key Tournament sponsors , recorded in the programme, on a large advertisement and on laminated cards on each table.

The success of the day could be measured by the happy smiles of pupils, teachers, VIPs and



Rotarian judges and stewards alike. This really was a prime example of Rotary in its local community, putting its experience, skills and enthusiasm to tremendously good effect for the benefit of the coming generation.

John Hiscock



Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.
Daniel J. Boorstin



A visit from our friends in Dinant

On 5th May, 17 members of the Rotary Club of Dinant in Belgium arrived at St Pancras station and started their visit to their twinned Rotary Club in Hoddesdon with a coach tour of London sights.

In the evening the President of Hoddesdon Rotary Club, Ted Gradosielski hosted a barbecue at his home in Nazeing followed by speeches and presentation of gifts from the Belgian Club.



The next day a very busy programme had been prepared, with a tour of Newsprint International, lunch at the Olympic White Water Centre with a tour of the course and pumping equipment then a visit to local radar manufacturer Kelvin Hughes in Enfield.



In the evening it was the turn of Past President Peter West to host an evening meal at his home in Much Hadham.

On the last full day of the visit there was a shopping trip to Van Hage garden centre followed by lunch at the King Harold's Head in Nazeing where our host was Jack Yiacoumi, a member of Hoddesdon Rotary Club. In the afternoon, everyone enjoyed a gloriously warm and sunny trip on the River Thames from Gravesend to Chelsea and back to Greenwich with buffet meal on board.

It was clear when we took our Belgian guests back to St Pancras on 8th May that this had been a most memorable trip for them and there is continued enthusiasm to maintain the links between our two Rotary Clubs.

Many thanks to Martin Lynas for organising this weekend, together with the International Committee.



Hoddesdon Community Service

At Hoddesdon Rotary Club the Community Service Committee regularly receives letters with requests for support for good causes, and in July twelve students at Hailey Hall School were pleased to enjoy a trip to Chessington World of Adventure.

There has been a very close relationship between Hailey Hall School and Hoddesdon Rotary Club for many years.

The School has always supported our Easter Dinner event and last year continued that support at the Spring Variety Evening for the disabled and elderly of the Borough. The HRC was approached recently by the school for some financial assistance to enable them to take 12 student boarders, with two teachers to Chessington Adventure Park, with an overnight stay in an onsite hotel.



The Community service Committee was pleased to be able to help and fully funded the cost of the trip. The cheque was presented to Stuart Newton by our President David Johnston (above).

The students had a great time, and experienced many of the rides and saw plenty of wildlife whilst at Chessington, truly a day to remember.

www.haileyhall.herts.sch.uk



Girl Guiding—Sophie Phillips

Following an appeal to our Vocational Committee, we were pleased to provide financial support to Sophie Phillips for her proposed work with GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development).

As a keen leader with Girlguiding (1st Hoddesdon Rainbow Unit) , Sophie explained to our members at a recent lunch what GOLD involves. The scheme enables young women to develop their potential and make a difference in the world. It provides opportunities for guiding members to travel overseas, improve their skills, experience amazing new cultures and know that they're



having a long-term impact. Above –Sophie with Chris Waddington Chairman of Vocational Committee, and past President Ted Gradosielski.

GOLD projects work in partnership with other Guide Associations around the world and have been making a difference for over 20 years. GOLD delivers sustainable community-based development projects ranging from environmental issues to teaching leadership skills.

Since 1991 GOLD has visited more than 30 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America with over 600 members having taken part to date.

Sophie explained that she will soon be travelling to Aruba (a Caribbean island off Venezuela) with five other women from all over the UK, as part of the GOLD project. Every year eight teams are sent to various parts of the world where support is needed. The Aruba team will initiate year one of a five year scheme to deliver training sessions around Guiding , with emphasis on Guiding values and encouraging self esteem. Ultimately this will enable Aruba to gain full membership of the World Association of Guides and Girl Scouts.



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

We will be hearing all about Sophie's experience when she returns to talk to the club again in October.

www.girlguiding.org.uk



Summer Lunch—Remembering the Sixties!

For more than five hours 105 Rotarian Members and their guests enjoyed some lovely weather and a wonderful day in the sun at Vicar's Field, Great Amwell.

Thanks go to Ann and David Hardy for allowing us to use the field. Guests included the Rotary Clubs of Amwell and Enfield, as well as the Amwell Investment Club, and the entertainment with '60s' music was provided by Bill 'n Ricky.



A few guests dressed for the occasion, notably among them Trish and Chris Waddington and Keith Theobald (the joint winners in the competition), John West, and Jasmine Morris.

Sumptuous food was provided by the 'Lobster Pot' and the bar was well manned by 6 students of the H2H project. Martine Johnston sold the raffle tickets and raised over £750 with her solo efforts – well done and thank you, Martine.



Our thanks also go to all the band of helpers in erecting and taking down the marquees, all masterminded from his buggy by the near no-nagenerian Eric Cockman. Two quizzes provided the guests with additional entertainment throughout the afternoon.

Around £1,600 was raised and thanks are due to everyone involved in raising this sum towards the H2H project, initiated by President David Johnston and which will reach fulfilment in March next year. Well done and thank you all!

Roger L H Merton Chairman, 'Ways & Means' Committee.



Battle of the Proms 2016



On the evening of 23rd July a party of 18 , being Hoddesdon Rotarians and partners, made their way to Hatfield House to enjoy the fantastic show entitled Battle Proms.



Hundreds dressed mainly in red, white and blue, carrying chairs, picnic hampers, and Union Jack flags, moved to the arena area in front of the large stage so they could take full advantage of the celebrations. Our party had a big advantage in that President David Johnston had organised two gazebos, from which we had good views of all the proceedings in great comfort. These were efficiently erected by David, Chris and Roger. A superb picnic spread was organised by Trish and Martine. This was very much appreciated by all. Thankyou to both ladies.



The spitfires were showing off their skills at the same time as a complete surprise item was produced by Martine who had a beautiful cake to present to Howard and me to celebrate 56 years of happily married life. A glass of bubbly was enjoyed by all, and it was quite an emotional moment, we are very grateful for the kind thoughts of Martine and all the good wishes of our friends.

Everyone present joined in heartily singing Jerusalem and There'll Always be an England, and the spectacular firework display at the end of the evening was second to none.

Report from Dorothy Connor



H2H Race night

As part of the fund raising for a trip of a lifetime, £2000 was raised by Hoddesdon Rotarians and students from John Warner and Sheredes Schools, a group due to go to the Himalayas in March 2017.

Fun was had by over 100 eager punters all taking part on 15th July, with the event held at Sheredes School. A card of nine races and seventy two horses meant there were inevitably many losers as well as some winners!



Chicken and chips was included, and drinks provided at the 'Nags Head' bar. With the majority of the proceeds going towards the cost of the 'H2H', a donation was also given to a charity for holidays for disabled children, in the name of the organiser Chris Noble who provided his services free.

Next March the H2H group including ten students, teachers and Rotarians will travel to Nepal and complete an eleven day trek to Everest

Base Camp, with the aim reaching over 17,590 ft.

Whist there, they will also be working with local Rotarians in Kathmandu with restoration work to school buildings that were destroyed in the earthquake.

For more information go to Facebook [Hoddesdon2Himalayas](#) or see The Rotary Club of Hoddesdon website.



YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE.



H2H Student's Page

Hoddesdon to Himalayas 2017

Over the past few months the Hoddesdon to Himalayas team (H2H) have attended many different events which will all help go towards our goal of reaching Everest base camp next March.



We are a group of 10 students from the John Warner School and Sheredes School, both in Hoddesdon. Next March we will be traveling to Nepal with the main objective being to walk to base camp on Mount Everest (5364m high). While we are there we will also be doing a project which will hopefully improve the lives of people in the local villages.

So far Hoddesdon Rotary Club has organised some events where we have attended in order to, in some cases, help the running of the event and also help raise funds for the trip itself. Each student has also been tasked with raising £750 to contribute to the cost of the trek. The first event we attended was a charity football match between Hoddesdon Town FC and a Rotary selected eleven. Our team included relatives of Rotarians and also some students going on the trip as well. Unfortunately we couldn't beat Hoddesdon Town but managed one goal! That was more than what a lot of the crowd were expecting going into the break. Nevertheless, both sides' efforts were remarkable, even when the game was buried both sides fought on.

In May, some of our team went along to the Rotary Spring Event evening. They were asked to help hand out food to the Rotarians' guests and talk to them about our trip. They also fundraised by collecting donations from generous guests at the end of the evening which will go towards our overall total. The guests also enjoyed a show throughout the night but thankfully it was not done by the H2H team so was of a better quality than what it would have been. Overall the evening was a hit and we managed to raise a respectable amount to our fund which would not have happened without the generous support of invited guests.



Before we all agreed to go on the expedition to base camp we were all under no illusion that the trek would be strenuous and we would need to be fit. So far there have been three walks, one a month, with the latter lasting for around three and a half hours. We plan to climb Mount Snowdon in Wales in coming months. These walks alone are by no means enough to prepare us for the grueling challenge which lies ahead.



Each year in Ware there is an annual Dragon Boat Race and this year we decided to enter a team of students. The team included members of the group from Sheredes. After a slow start the team eventually finished third, a good result but also managing to raise awareness of H2H amongst the local community.

In the first three months we have done a fair amount together, but we have not been overwhelmed with events considering the fact that we have all been completing our GCSEs as well. On the promotion team we have set up both a Twitter and Facebook page you are able to follow us on. (Twitter - @RotaryH2H and Facebook – Hoddesdon 2 Himalayas). We have also put together a presentation about the project which then can be used at specific events.

We hope you enjoyed finding out about our ongoing project.

Carl White H2H trekker.



THE DOGETT'S COAT AND BADGE

Each year up to six apprentice Watermen take part in this race from London Bridge to Cadogan Pier in Chelsea, competing for the prize of a red coat with a silver badge. This is the oldest rowing race in the world, started in 1715 by Thomas Doggett to celebrate George I and the House of Hanover.



The race is called Doggett's Coat and Badge and is just over five miles long. In early years there were cash prizes which went to the winning contestant; in recent years the prize money goes to the rowing club where the winner is a member.

Monetary prizes are awarded by the Fishmongers' Company to the rowing clubs of those taking part,

with £250 first prize

On Wednesday July 20th, a beautiful sunny day, the gun of HMS Belfast signalled the start of the race. There was sufficient wind to disturb the surface, especially after the first mile. Onlookers including a party of Hoddesdon Rotarians, thronged the bank and several large passenger craft carried privileged spectators making up a flotilla of followers. This year's winner had a very keen time but did not manage to beat the record (1973) held by Bobby Prentice.



A Ghurka trumpeter welcomed the winner to receive the trophy at The Fishmonger's Hall. As the winner was announced and handed his trophy on the balcony of The Fishmonger's Hall (sponsors of the race for many years past) Sir Steve Redgrave presented bottles of champagne as a reward for their strenuous efforts to the competitors. Then the little launches carried the beaming winners to greet the spectators, shaking hands all round and being greeted warmly, especially by those who had wagered and benefited from their achievement.

Hoddesdon Rotarians left for a welcome lunch and cold drinks on what was a very hot day. Participation in the event was made possible through the Immediate Past President, Ted Grad, to whom our thanks were expressed by Roger Lee.



POLIO – THE CHALLENGE NOW.

A message from new President Eve Conway of Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland, a previous Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar studying for a Master of Science Degree in Broadcast Journalism at University in Evanston Illinois, the home of Rotary International:-



This is a historic year as it is the year that we shall be celebrating the Centenary of Our Rotary Foundation.....our charity “doing good in the world”, from funding global scholars and peace fellows to carrying out our countless humanitarian projects around the world to ridding the world of polio.

So far this year, just 18 cases of polio have been reported in the two remaining countries where polio is still endemic, Pakistan and Afghanistan. But most unfortunately where we had planned to celebrate Nigeria being free of polio for two years disappointingly two new cases have been reported (WPV1). Work continues and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative says that concerted efforts must focus on eradication.

We have reached a significant point thanks to the dedication and determination of Rotarians with our campaign started in 1985. Now twenty one years on but crucially we need to remain focused on completing this key Rotarian objective.



Can you help?

We're always looking for volunteers to help us out. So why not get involved today!

Find out more



How much ?!?!?

For those that don't listen to the Today programme on Radio 4, this is British humour at its best. Right at the end of the programme there was a discussion about the cost of tickets for Premiership football matches, the cheapest between £50 and £100 for some matches.

An older chap being interviewed said he could recall many years ago arriving at the turnstiles and being told that the ticket would be £10.00.

'What?!' the old chap said, 'I could get a woman for that price!'

The turnstile operator replied 'not for forty five minutes each way with a brass band and a meat pie in the interval, you wouldn't !

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

Two men are fishing in a boat under a bridge and see a funeral procession starting across the bridge. One of the men stands up, takes off his cap and bows his head. The procession crosses the bridge, and the man puts on his cap, picks up his rod and reel and continues fishing.

His friend says, "That was touching. I didn't know you had it in you."

He responds, "Well, I guess it was the right thing to do – after all, I was married to her for 40 years."

Billy was at school one morning and the teacher asked all the children what their fathers did for a living. All the typical answers came out, Fireman, Policeman, Salesman, Chippy, Captain of Industry, etc. etc. but Billy was being uncharacteristically quiet, and so the teacher asked him about his father.

'My father is an exotic dancer in a gay club and takes off all his clothes in front of the other men. The teacher quickly set the other children some work and took little Billy aside to ask if that was really true. 'No' said Billy 'he plays cricket for England, but I was just too embarrassed to say'.

Why does someone who runs marathons make a good student? Because education pays off in the long run!

Dating in Sixties. On a hot Saturday evening in 1960, James had a date with Annabella. Having knocked gently, Annabella's mother welcomed James in and offered tea or lemonade. Once sitting comfortably, the mother politely asked 'what are you and Annabella planning to do tonight?' Oh go to the flicks and then a coffee bar, and maybe a walk on the beach afterwards.'

'Annabella likes to screw you know', mum informed. REALLY James gasped, surprised to say the least. Oh yes her mother continued 'when she goes out with her friends that's all they do.' 'Is that so' replied James, incredulously. 'Yes she'd screw all night if we let her.' Having left for their night out, Annabella returned half an hour later bursting into the house and slamming the door behind her. 'MUM THE TWIST, the bloody dance is called THE TWIST.'



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

A report from Tommy Smithson

On the weekend of July 8th I travelled to the Henlow RAF base not knowing what to expect of the coming weekend. On the first day we were assigned into teams of six with people from all different backgrounds and not knowing of each other's personalities or traits. It was in this group of people that we would spend the weekend together competing in team based activities with people we had only just met for the first time.



The second day brought more team building exercises both physical and mental. Each challenge would bring a new team leader which gave the opportunity to learn each other's strengths and weaknesses. As a team

we found the challenges hard work, often finishing just before the time limit. We would be graded by the RAF team leaders on how quickly we could finish each task and then the scores would be totalled together on the final day.

On the final day we learned the scores of the previous days' challenges and also had one last challenge where all four teams would join together. The weekend was a huge success in terms of devel-



oping my own personal skills and gaining experience working in a team of people I had never met before. Both the RAF staff and RYLA staff were extremely helpful and gave everyone a platform to showcase their skills and knowledge. In conclusion I would defi-

nately recommend this programme due to the fact it gave me the chance to become a leader in situations I would not normally be in and develop my existing skillset. Thanks to the sponsorship from The Rotary Club of Hoddesdon I have been given the opportunity to increase my personal confidence and to develop leadership qualities.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership development programme . Most events focus on secondary school students, university students, or young professionals. RYLA events are typically 3–10 days long and include presentations, activities, and workshops that cover a variety of topics and personal skill building. For more information see Facebook page for RYLA.



Future Events

Charter Evening—12th Sept
Creative Writing Competition—Sept
President's Weekend Away—October
Celebrity Evening 4th November
Young Artists Competition tba
Christmas Supermarket Collections

Celebrity Evening

Friday 4th November

The Ways and Means Committee are pleased to announce the annual Celebrity Evening with

speaker Steve Davis

Venue The Spotlight, Hoddesdon

4 course dinner @ £45 pp

Tickets from Roger Merton



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For further information please contact Lawrence on: 07803 700919

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 Peter Haynes, Meirion Morris
 John Hiscock, Keith Theobald
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 Community Service - Keith Theobald
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 International - Martin Lynas
 Membership - Howard Connor
 Vocational - Chris Waddington
 Ways & Means - Roger Merton

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