

# DISTRICT 1120



**Rotary**

Southeast and Gibraltar

# Magazine

April 2024

Horseplaying Bexhill  
Rotarians

Trip to  
Westminster

Channel Rotary runs  
Kents biggest quiz

Join Eastbourne  
family on its  
African mission

The London  
Welsh Male Voice  
Choir returns  
to Canterbury  
Cathedral

**Issue Thirty Two**

Cover image: The Creative Quarter, Folkestone

Rotary  
Club of Folkestone



100  
YEARS OF SERVICE



Member Club 19426 RIBI District 1120

CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



GOOD  
NEWS

**FOLKESTONE-BASED COMMUNITIES**

DRAGONS DEN PITCH

**DRAGONS DEN  
CONTEST 2024**

BIDS OF UP TO

**£500**

PER ORGANISATION

CLOSING DATE OF ENTRIES:  
29TH OF MARCH 2024,  
FRIDAY, 5PM



**OPEN FOR FOLKESTONE-BASED COMMUNITIES**

● Uniformed Organisations ● Charities ● Schools ● Local Community Groups ●

The competition takes place at the Burlington Hotel on the 23rd of April 2024, Tuesday.

For more inquiries please email: [tom.mcneice@folkestonerotary.org](mailto:tom.mcneice@folkestonerotary.org)



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# CHANNEL ROTARY RUNS *KENT'S BIGGEST QUIZ*

**144 contestants came to the William Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone to raise money for Folkestone Channel Rotary's local charities.**

Channel Rotary has been running this Wine & Wisdom evening for over 30 years and this year it was a sell out! The 36 teams had to tackle a whole range of questions from science to sport whilst enjoying a ploughman's and good wine. Quizmaster Derek Harris, Channel's President, said "It was a fantastic evening with excellent support and a really fun atmosphere – what an easy and enjoyable way to raise charity funds."

Such was the strength of the teams that two tied for first prize and three for the second. The winning teams were Rob & Alison Cowell, Terry Cooke-Davis and Tom McNiece from Folkestone Rotary and Peter & Sallie Hickman, Colin Drake and Michael Stephens from Sandgate.

Over £1500 was raised to support local charities. It was so successful that as people were leaving they were asking when are you going to do the next one – next year for sure



Folkestone Rotary - L-R Rob & Alison Cowell, Terry Cooke-Davis, Tom McNiece.





The Margate Rotary Club  
are pleased to present  
the 15th annual

Sainsbury's

# THANET SCHOOLS YOUNG ARTISTS FESTIVAL 2024

**"INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE"**

13th-19th May 8.00am to 10pm  
at Sainsbury's Westwood Cross  
Prize giving ceremony  
18th May at 12 noon

Winners will be on display at the  
Margate school from May 21st to the 27th .  
A selection of wildlife and environmental  
paintings will be also displayed at Monkton  
Nature Reserve from 27th onwards.

"The Whale" by Tara Gill, 13yo



Sponsors:



Or Steven Ralph Alexander, Ramsgate and Westgate-on-Sea Town Councils

# ***ANOTHER PLEA FOR DONATIONS FROM JAMES THE CYCLING PRESIDENT***

**Bexhill Rotary's President James Slinn (pictured) is aiming to cycle 2,500 miles by the end of June when his year in charge comes to an end.**

James is also looking to raise £2,500 worth of valuable funds for two local charities – DISC Dementia Support ([www.discdementiasupport.org](http://www.discdementiasupport.org)) and the Sara Lee Trust ([www.saraleetrust.org](http://www.saraleetrust.org)). Both charities perform incredible work giving support to families of people suffering from life ending conditions of dementia and cancer.

PLEASE DONATE TO HELP JAMES RAISE MORE FUNDS (details below) James Slinn says, "A very close friend of mine was struck down with an aggressive form of dementia and died in 2022. All I can do now is to set myself a tough challenge in his memory to raise funds for the organisations that can help families come to terms with these personal tragedies."

James reports, "The Long Ride challenge has been challenging over the winter months with weeks of frustrating wind and rain curtailing the opportunities for cycling. Despite these interruptions, I am close to half way done. The second week in March saw a sojourn to the Fenlands in Lincolnshire and a target of 100 miles to be covered in the company of both Bexhill and Spalding Rotarians, including our Past President Graham Dawson who is now with the Spalding club." James continues, "I am also planning a journey from Dunkirk in France to Gouda in Holland over the Whitsun bank holiday weekend, a distance of 150 miles, so that



will leave 1,000 miles to be covered in 14 weeks, an average of 70 miles per week – yikes!!"

James's fundraising initiative was launched in January and has already reached the halfway mark BUT James still needs much help to reach his target, so please help boost this SPECIAL APPEAL for more funds for these two marvellous charities .....

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY to:

- Bexhill Rotary Club Trust Fund (Registered Charity No. 1026868)
- Nat West Bank 51-70-12
- A/c 65650395
- Quote reference 'Long Ride'

James says a GREAT BIG thank you for any donation you can make, be it large or not so large, as all monies to collect will go to these DISC Dementia Support and The Sara Lee Trust

## ***Horseplaying Bexhill Rotarians raise over £900 for charity!***

**A crowd of Bexhill Rotarians and friends assembled at Bexhill Sailing Club for their annual Race Night to have a lot of fun and raise funds for charitable causes.**

Of course the punters had to have sustenance to help them with their betting and that came in the form of piping hot, hearty plates of fish & chips, courtesy of Louis Fish & Chip Shop in Bexhill.

Rotarian Tim Pilbeam was an excellent and lively Master of Ceremonies who made sure the evening went with a swing and encouraged the punters to get involved with each race shown on a big screen. Rotarians Cara Grant and Sue Day aided by Amanda Donaldson and Margaret Field got into sales mode deftly persuading punters to be Horse Owners, and selling lots of raffle tickets which raised a more than healthy £325.

Past President Robin Taylor was Race Master and Chief Steward whilst President James Slinn and Past President John Cooper efficiently ran the Tote to make sure everything ran smoothly on the night.



# JOIN EASTBOURNE FAMILY ON ITS AFRICAN MISSION



Jess and Felicity and happy Kabalega pupils.

**Big-hearted businesses are being invited to join in the fun as party goers plan a glamorous night out in support of children at an African school.**

Tickets are now on sale for a Banquet and Ball that is set to be one of Eastbourne's most glitzy summer events – and to be held at The Winter Garden on Saturday, June 8, from 6.30pm until midnight.

Driving force behind the evening are Eastbourne couple Jess and Simon Gisby, who have made it a family mission to continue the work of Jess's aunt, Penny Mann, with their mission being to provide the children with a much-needed new schoolroom.

It is hoped that upwards of 300 people will attend the Winter Garden ball, with businesses being asked to play their part and invite guests on to their tables. Tickets priced £80 (with tables of ten) are on sale to groups and individuals and available from [jessgisby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jessgisby@yahoo.co.uk). Entertainment will come from the hugely popular band, The Zoots, and there will be a prize raffle and casino

tables. The event is being supported by The Rotary Club of Eastbourne, of which Jess is a member.

Jess and Simon took their own two children, Logan (11) and Felicity (13), to Uganda during school half term, to meet the children at Kabalega primary school and learn more about the Masindi community which Jess's aunt had supported for the past 20 years. Logan and Felicity were both given Kabalega uniforms to wear during their visit.

The family took eight suitcases on their trip – seven of them packed with donations from family and friends and including sports kit and tennis rackets from Bede's School and books from Gildredge House.

Said Jess on her return: "The kids are just amazing – kind, polite and happy. Some get to school as early as 6am because they are so keen to be there.

"We were greeted by an impromptu school band. Logan is still messaging one of the boys he met. They really are such lovely children."

It is the second visit the family had made to Uganda to meet teachers and pupils and to see first-hand how aunt Penny's efforts had benefitted the community. On that first visit, Simon, a teacher at Bede's prep in Eastbourne, had taken the children football shirts and kit donated by the school.

On their first visit, Jess and Simon met four students supported by Jess's aunt who are now going on to study at university. Facilities at the school are very cramped and the priority for fund-raisers is to build new classrooms at Kabalega.

There are around 1,000 children using the cramped facilities at Kabalega. Government support is very minimal and the school receives only about £500 funding per term.

Logan – a keen sportsman and county cricketer – enjoyed the sports lessons and the family took some of the pupils on a trip to a nearby safari park where, astonishingly, they saw wildlife such as hippos and crocodiles for the first time.

Said Jess: "There is such joy on the children's faces at all that is done for them, and it's truly humbling to see the difference even a little money can make," said Jess. "With just a little thought we can make such a lasting legacy. Eastbourne people have big hearts and we are asking them to reach out to these lovely children."



Simon, Jess, Logan and Felicity at the school.



Logan and Felicity with Kabalega headteacher, Jonathan Businge.



School outing – at the top of Murchison Falls.



A typically crowded classroom at Kabalega.

## Tree of Light- 25 years and still shining brightly

The Rotary Tree of Light situated outside the Congress theatre each year gives comfort to many people as well as raising funds for our community.

Donations received from hundreds of individuals, sponsoring a light for a loved one and valuable sponsorship from local businesses has once again raised £4,300.

Three donations of £1300 each were handed over to East Sussex Hearing Centre, Defiant Sports and St. Catherine's College as well as £400 to the Salvation Army who always support the event playing Christmas Carols. The Rattonians provide singing for the event and poems were shared with the 270 people attending the service who then tied ribbons to the tree.

Dedications are put into a book situated at the Eastbourne Library as well as being visible on the website - <https://www.eastbournetreelight.co.uk> All our sponsors are also listed, so a huge thank you to all involved and anyone wishing to support the project going forward can contact Eastbourne AM Rotary Club, who organise the event.



Dave Cooper (Joint President of the Eastbourne AM Club) with Mark Dimmock from East Sussex Hearing Centre



Alan Langley (President of the Eastbourne Club) with Madeleine Maynard from St.Catherine's College.



,Ray Blakebrough (Past President of the Sovereign Harbour Club) with Loretta Lock MD of Defiant Sports

## Folkestone Coastal 10K - Get your skates on! Well running shoes really!

**THIS year's 13th Folkestone Coastal 10K will take place on Sunday 26th May.**

The run will head towards Hythe and then return on the flat promenade so there is sure to be a chance of a personal best for those experienced runners. The event will be supporting local and international charitable causes, and participants are encouraged to run for their chosen charity. There are various age ranges registered including a number of 15-year-olds who have been invited to take part from local schools to an octogenarian.

This is an award-winning race having recently won The Best Charity Sporting Event in the South East of England. This year there is a virtual facility due to popular demand so everyone can be involved even on cruise ships.

Race Director Ray Johnson said: "The race is looking as exciting as ever as not only do we have a record number registered already but in addition we have much needed support from many sponsors including the main supporter

SAGA along with The Roger De Hann Charitable Trust, Church & Dwight, Holiday Extras, Sleeping Giant Media, Alkaline and The L&B Restaurants.

"If you are a company and would like to support please email the race director [ray@folkestonecoastal10k.co.uk](mailto:ray@folkestonecoastal10k.co.uk) The event benefits many good causes within the district and it is a great way to support your own preferred charity."





# *What's the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh been up to lately?*

**At one of our recent weekly meetings, the Club was very pleased to welcome Loren Regan from Demelza House Childrens Hospice.**

Demelza, which was set up in 1998 by a local Rotarian Derek Philips in memory of his daughter, delivers extraordinary care to extraordinary children who are facing serious or life-limiting conditions throughout Kent, South East London and East Sussex. Demelza Kent provides professional, specialist, one-to-one care and support and access to life-enhancing facilities for babies, children and young people up to the age of 18. Loren can be seen (on the right in the picture) with President Mark Singfield and Club Secretary Barbara Gold.

Loren gave a very interesting talk, explaining that Demelza currently looks after around 2500 children and their families offering a range of support including home-based care. Loren explained that Demelza has identified around a further 8000 children and their families in the area that they cover who would benefit from some level of support from Demelza. The charity is always looking to widen the services and support that can be provided across the whole region.



A new member...the Rotary Club holds a 'partners night' when there is a fifth Thursday in the month. These are opportunities for Club members and their partners to meet socially.

At the most recent event the Club was pleased to be able to combine it with the formal induction of Ray Yonish into our Club. Ray has a background in graphic design and lives in Littlestone. The picture shows Ray being welcomed and given his Club badge by Syed Rahman, the Club's Vice President.

The Club was very pleased to experience the great hospitality offered by Becky and Dean at The Plough in New Romney. All of the members had a very enjoyable evening and were treated to good food and great service. It's definitely a venue we would return to for another of our social evenings.



## TRIP TO WESTMINSTER

**Senlac @ St Leonards Rotary paid a visit to the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Courts at Westminster.**



The event was arranged by former MP Michael Foster and was enjoyed by all those who attended. The guides were well informed and helpful, and it is a trip I would recommend to anyone.

**Bryan W. Hunter**

former MP Michael Foster



# The London Welsh Male Voice Choir returns to Canterbury Cathedral

The Canterbury Forest of Blean Rotary Club is delighted to arrange the return of The London Welsh Male Voice Choir to Canterbury Cathedral at 7.00 pm on Saturday 1st June 2024 for a Charity Concert in aid of The Strode Park Foundation in Herne Bay and other local charities.

Led by its inspiring conductor and musical director Edward-Rhys Harry and accompanied by its regular pianist Annabel Thwaite the 80-strong choir will present its usual balance of familiar songs, hymns and arias, including music to remember the D-Day landings on their 80th Anniversary this year. The cathedral nave will echo to the sound of this magnificent choir and it will be a very special occasion not to be missed.

The concert will support the valuable work of the charity Strode Park Foundation in Herne Bay, which provides vital care and support services for children and adults with a range of disabilities.

Admission to the concert is by ticket only which may be obtained from The Canterbury Festival Box Office, tel: **01227 454568**



# A talk by the High Sheriff

**"It's voluntary, unpaid, hard work and you have to buy your own uniform but it's very interesting and very rewarding."**

So said the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Mr Richard Bickersteth who, with his wife Rachel, honoured the Rotary Clubs of Senlac and St Leonards by joining their meeting.

The High Sheriff spoke of the history of his ancestral home, Ashburnham Place and also of his role as a representative of King Charles III.

Since his appointment in April 2023, he has visited, amongst others, the police, fire and ambulance services, the RNLI, the prison service, the judiciary, schools, various voluntary agencies and charities and youth events. He also attends such events as Mayor Making and royal visits.



Michael Foster, formerly a High Sheriff himself, thanked Mr Bickersteth for honouring the clubs with a visit and for a very interesting and informative talk.



## *£1500 raised on cycle challenge*



**A cheque for £1500 was presented to St Michaels Hospice in St Leonards by the St Leonards Rotary Club.**

This money was raised on the cycle challenge in April 2023 and the amount was down quite a lot from other

years due to the heavy rain which lasted all day.

The marshals got as wet as those who took part - still it was a great effort by all those present.

# *Tonbridge Rotary Club's Centenary*

Rotarians past and present celebrated Tonbridge Rotary Club's Centenary by attending a Charter Lunch comprising some 60 people at the Holiday Inn Maidstone-Sevenoaks.

Members, Friends and Business Partners were joined by guests from other Rotary clubs who were addressed by speakers.

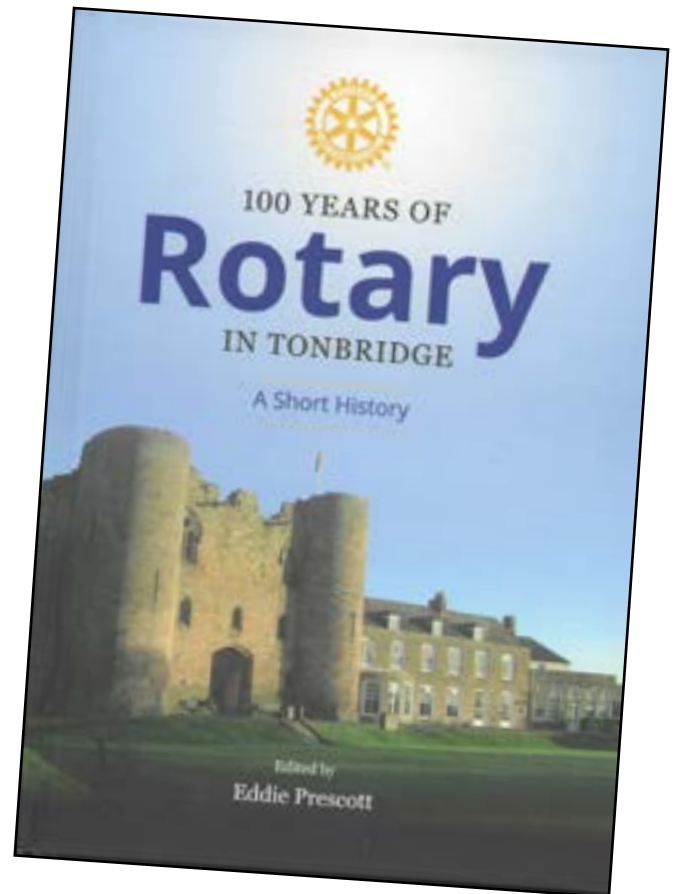


These included Rotary International Director Eve Conway, District Governor Ray Seager, Jeroen Van Duikeren Joint President of the Rotary Club of Goes and Tonbridge Rotary Club President Peter Conetta.



The club was delighted to receive a plaque celebrating the Centenary which was donated by Tonbridge's Dutch Contact Club, Goes, who were represented by two members.

A commemorative book – 100 Years of Rotary in Tonbridge – edited by Assistant Secretary and former President Eddie Prescott was launched at the lunch. The club, which is currently located at Poulton Wood Golf Club first met at Joscelyn's Tea Rooms in the Carlton Café on Tonbridge High Street. The book traces the development of Rotary in Tonbridge from 1924 to the present day and records aspects of the social history of the town during that period.



Following the success of our free prize draw at the club's gazebo during the Christmas Festival, and through an initiative by Paul Marsh, it was decided to repeat the exercise at Tonbridge Farmers Market on Mother's Day. A team consisting of Valentina Waters, Paul Marsh and Eddie Prescott, supported by Robert Greenhalgh who provided and erected the gazebo, was on site in atrocious weather with heavy rain for the whole period. This inevitably had a big impact on footfall and only a handful of people were available to fill in the contact form for the draw to win six bottles of wine.



At the end of the session we were very grateful to Jeremy Hills for offering space in his garage to hang the wet gazebo cover whilst it dried out. It was a dull day,

with reduced footfall, but our intrepid trio were not put off. This was the first of three planned recruitment events at the market. We hope for better weather when we will be at the market again on 9th June and 14th July.

The club hosted its Annual School Leavers Lunch on 7th March when students invited from six Tonbridge schools each gave a short talk to Rotarians describing their plans and ambitions for the future. An excellent meal was provided by the Ela Bella restaurant, one of the club's Business Partners. The students presented very well; those who spoke were Asher Higham, from Weald of Kent Grammar School; Ethan Rocks (The Judd School); Holly Key (Tonbridge Grammar School); James Allan (Tonbridge School); Grace Latham (Hillview School for Girls) and Kaedyn Poulter & Tom Butler (Leigh Academy).



**The Rotary Club  
of Tonbridge**  
invites you to a

# Charity Quiz

at

## The Schools at Somerhill

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
at 6:30 for a 7.00 p.m. start

**To support Ambulances for Ukraine  
and other  
Rotary Charities**

**Includes a hot lasagne supper**

A Vegetarian/Vegan option is available, but this must be booked in advance.  
There is no bar so please bring your own drinks, snacks and glasses.  
Ample free car parking

Good quality Raffle prizes

Ticket Price:  
£ 17.50 per person on tables of 6 or 8

Organiser Rotarian Peter Thomas [peter.nigel.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:peter.nigel.thomas@gmail.com)

Tonbridge Rotary Trust Fund is a Registered Charity: No.1039138

## THE 34TH ANNUAL CHANNEL ROTARY CHARITY GOLF COMPETITION

# 2024

Friday 10th May  
Sene Valley Golf Club, Hythe



**4-Person Team Competitions**

**Cost £45pp  
(SVGC Members £30)**

**Start Time From  
8.30am**

 **Headway Kent**  
Brain Injury Support

[www.channelrotary.org.uk](http://www.channelrotary.org.uk)  
Email: [channelrotarygolf@outlook.com](mailto:channelrotarygolf@outlook.com)

# *Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary*



**70's chart-toppers Chicory Tip have entertained Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary now on several occasions. They have had our Senior Citizens to their feet and dancing at our annual Strawberry Tea party and played for Club members and partners at our own Christmas parties.**

This gave our Community Service Chairman Jim Burbridge the idea of booking Chicory Tip for a public dance in the Edenbridge WI Hall. With some trepidation we offered 90 tickets, moderately priced at £10 each, and to our surprise and delight they sold out in a couple of weeks! The three band members, doing nothing to reduce the average age of those in the room, rocked until everyone dropped and a great night was had by all. Through ticket sales, bar takings and a great raffle the evening made over £800 and this will be donated to local charities.

It is always a pleasure to collect for Marie Curie. Who needs an excuse to put on a silly hat and a yellow tabard and get out among the community? The annual Daffodil Day is well received by everyone, with paper money donations making up as much of the proceeds as coins. Surprisingly although we had a cashless facility to hand it was only requested on a small number of occasions. We do still have cash for a good cause!

President Elect Peter Smith was lost for words when he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship at last month's Business Meeting. Assistant District Governor Carol Vizzard MPH made the presentation and is pictured to Peter's right as President Brenda Risdon looks on. Peter was a stalwart and Past President of the Edenbridge Club prior to their merger with Westerham eight years ago and has chaired all of the Rotary committees over some thirty years. Before joining Rotary Peter was a keen Round Tabler and rose to hold the office of District Chairman in that organization.



# *Transforming Disappointment into Action: A Call to Revitalise Rotary Spirit*

**Today, I address you with a mix of disappointment and unwavering resolve, reflecting on the responses garnered for the district-wide fundraiser proposals.**

It's disheartening to acknowledge that yet again, among our 72 clubs, only a few have embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm. This lacklustre reaction not only signifies a waning interest in district events but also denotes a squandering of our collective time and resources. It's crucial to recognise that our joint efforts have been instrumental in the success of initiatives like the Polio campaign. This makes it all the more alarming to witness clubs veering towards competition rather than embracing the benefits of collaboration.

When I joined Rotary, my aspiration was to foster profound connections, extend a helping hand to the underserved, and enrich the core values of our organisation. With a background as a seasoned business consultant, I'm deeply troubled by the inertia prevailing in many clubs, coupled with a reluctance to embrace innovative approaches. This adherence to antiquated methods and aging members is contributing to a steady erosion of our membership base month after month.

Consequently, I resolved to take proactive measures alongside other likeminded individuals, and with the blessing of DG Ray Seager, investigated the formation of a Rotary Fellowship in our district. I am pleased to announce that a new branch, "Rotary Means Business South East UK," has now been formed. There are more than 200 RMB branches around the world, but to date, none are operational within the Rotary GB&I area. It is hoped that this initiative will act as a proactive measure to assist in addressing the decline in Rotary membership through significant recruitment. Although membership will be open to existing Rotarians of clubs within D1120, the main thrust will be towards new members, who will be attracted by the focus on business networking. As a Rotary fellowship, there will be no competition or conflict with the activities of the members' own clubs. Rather, there will be complementary efforts to rebuild Rotary with an active recruitment strategy.

This endeavour aims to reignite the spirit of Rotary's founding principles, as envisioned by our founder, Paul Harris. The mission of this new branch is simple, yet profound: Rotary Means Business (RMB) encourages Rotarians to bolster the success of their peers by engaging in business transactions with them and endorsing their services to a wider audience. RMB is attractive to younger members as most of whom don't have a lot of extra

time. If they can consolidate Rotary and business networking, they're more likely to join a Rotary club. RMB encourages members to support the success of their fellow Rotarians by doing business with them and referring others to them.

While my dedication to supporting the district remains unwavering, I've made the decision to relinquish my role as the district fundraiser lead. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the camaraderie and support I've encountered during my tenure, albeit brief.

I thank you for your understanding and look forward to fostering continued collaboration and growth within our Rotary community. Together, let's work towards revitalizing the essence of Rotary, reinstating its founding ideals, and igniting a renewed sense of purpose.

Any member wishing to join us on this journey should contact me directly for more information and membership requirements.

Warm regards,  
**Roger Hickman**

## ***THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:***

***"We can't change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails to always reach our destination."***



# *Club holds the last Meeting based at The Elwick Club*

**The Rotary Club of Ashford said a reluctant farewell to staff at the Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford as over 30 years of working together come to a close .**

"We have used this venue for longer than almost any current members remember,' said President, Renate Beerling. We are sorry to say 'Goodbye' to the staff but we have decided to change to a new venue.

President Renate presented Chef, David Fournillier with a 'Goodbye and Thank you' gift. Renate continues: "We wish the team all the best for the future."

From 25th March 2024 the Club will be meeting at the Holiday Inn North, Maidstone Road. TN26 1AR where we will host Monday evening meetings from now on - 6.30pm for 7.00pm

"The new venue will help us to accommodate bigger meetings as we are growing in numbers particularly since we initiated Associate Membership, which give prospective members a chance to sample is like what being a member without having to join as a full member." For more information search for 'The Rotary Club of Ashford'



The Elwick Club



President Renate and Chef, David Fournillier



Holiday inn North, Maidstone Road

## *The UK Child Exploitation Awareness Conference*

**Cliff Grieve, former Detective Superintendent and Rotary Club of Ashford member fulfils the role of Kent Ambassador for the Global Rotary Action Group against Slavery and Child Exploitation.**

In this role he attended the conference in London, marking the 10th anniversary of National Child Exploitation Awareness Day - hosted by the Metropolitan Police.

"The day was a real inspiration. There are over 2,000 organisations local and national throughout UK working towards the common goal of keeping children and young people safe. It is gratifying to learn how so many agencies and individuals are working to combat the cynical exploitation of innocent youngsters into a life of crime or slavery. In particular I was encouraged to hear the life story of one survivor of this horrendous crime. One speaker had an unbearably cruel childhood, but despite this has come through it and is now studying for master's degree." For information on this initiative go to the website:

**[stop-ce.org/national-child-exploitation-awareness-day/raise-awareness/](https://stop-ce.org/national-child-exploitation-awareness-day/raise-awareness/)**



Cliff, right, is pictured with Paul who now works with children and young people to help prevent them from succumbing to grooming and exploitation by criminal gangs.



# Local Author Carol Creasey enthralled Rotary Club



President Renate thanks Carol for an entertaining and thought-provoking evening



A selection of Carol's books

**Carol Creasey, local author and public speaker, visited the Club to reveal something of her life and work with a talk entitled 'Inspiration'.**

Carol spoke movingly about the birth and life of her autistic son, Paul, of her worries and joys and how he has inspired others to overcome handicap.

She also told the club about the history of her book-writing - how she started by writing down her experience about how life had evolved with Paul's development which she offered to Mencap. They couldn't use it but suggested the work should be published as a book and put her in touch with a publisher - the rest, as they say, is history. From that, she branched out in to fiction. Always set in Kent, she now has books from 'Whodunnits' to romance.

For more information search for 'The Rotary Club of Ashford'

Meetings each Monday 6.30 for 7 at the Holiday Inn North, Maidstone Road TN26 1AR



Carol with President Renate and Club Secretary, Marion

# 75th Anniversary Celebrations



Recently the Rotary Club of Hythe celebrated their 75th Anniversary, their original Charter Date being 9 March 1949.

The event was led by President John Gabris at the Hythe Imperial Hotel celebrating what had been achieved during the past 75 years.

Guests included The Rt Hon the Lord Michael Howard of Lympne, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, Major Dennis Bradley and his wife Mave, Right Worshipful Town Mayor of Hythe, Councillor Anita Jones and her husband Steve, Member of Parliament for Folkestone & Hythe, Damian Collins and his wife Sarah, Rotary District Governor of South East District 1120, Ray Seager and his wife Caroline, Assistant District Governor of South East District 1120, Peter Sherred and his wife Mary and the President of Abbeville Rotary Club (Contact Club in France) Anton Joseph and his wife Melanie.

The evening was made more special by the presentation of a Sapphire Paul Harris Award to Harry Wooding for his continuing exceptional work and support to the club and a certificate recognising 50 years of service to John Batten.

In addition to this Laura Hayden was inducted into the club as a new member by President John Gabris. After making presentations to Harry and John, District Governor Ray Seager spoke of the good work being undertaken by Hythe Rotary Club and future projects being undertaken within Rotary International. Lord Howard gave a speech recollecting many stories of his time in government. A splendid evening was had by all that attended.



# Look out for the Dragons!



Medway Sunlight  
**Rotary**



## Rotary Charity Dragon Boat Challenge

Part of the Chatham Maritime Food and Drink Festival  
St Mary's Island Chatham Maritime, ME4 3ER

# Sunday 26th May 2024

## Fantastic Fun for all the Family

Over £95,000 raised for Charity in 8 years!  
Contact Bill 07813 334683



With grateful thanks to  
Chatham Maritime Trust &  
the Dockside Outlet Centre



# A 'boots on the ground' update on the Polio situation - India, March 2024

Everyone in Rotary knows about the work we have been doing to eradicate Polio so I thought it would be good to let you know how much things have improved in the last 14 years since I first went on a National Immunisation Day.

Before 2010, healthcare workers were immunising children under 5 years old every 6 weeks yes, every 6 weeks - because they were exposed to the virus so much as they played in streets with open sewers. I have just returned from a trip to Amritsar and am delighted to report that the picture is very different now.

There are 2 main approaches to getting children immunised:



## 1) Encouraging families to bring their children for their vaccine

Booths are erected in the streets and in 2010 children thronged to them - not to receive their 'Polio drop' but to receive the little gift that they knew we brought for them! Under 5's would bring babies that had been discarded to the rubbish tips - so that the toddler could also receive the baby's gift.



In Amritsar this year, children just trickled along - this was not disappointing, this was great news because most of them had already received their Polio vaccine.



## 2) Taking the vaccine to the children

Healthcare workers go into the slums to find those who have not received their vaccine. Here, a single toilet will typically serve around 30 families. We were delighted to find very few children who had not been immunised.

India's streets are generally much cleaner than even 8 years ago - the streets are hosed, rubbish removed, cow dung cleared and the open sewers are largely covered. It is very rewarding to see the improvements reflected in the number of Polio cases and that the fundraising and hands-on work that Rotarians have done has been worthwhile.



There has not been a case of Polio in India now for 12 years (WHO) but there are still a few cases in Afghanistan and Pakistan so we can't stop our work just yet but we're nearly there in the Global Eradication of Polio.

**Hilary Brian - RC Chestfield**



# FAVERSHAM FAMILY BIKE RIDE

a Rotary Club of Faversham event

**Sunday 12th May 2024**  
**Start 10am**



12.5km route

@favershambikeride  
favershambikeride.org



**Kesson**  
PHYSIOTHERAPY

**ASC**  
FINANCE FOR BUSINESS

Organised by Faversham Rotary Club, the 12.5km country route is well signed and marshalled, and is suitable for all ages and abilities. Enjoy some wonderful scenery whilst getting some fresh air and exercise with family & friends. Riders can be

sponsored for their chosen charities or for Rotary's local community projects.

More details, including how to register, at [favershambikeride.org](https://favershambikeride.org)

# DISTRICT FINALS OF ROTARY'S YOUNG CHEF COMPETITION HELD IN CANTERBURY

The Rotary Clubs of Canterbury and Canterbury Sunrise joined forces with David Watson, District 1120's Youth Service Team Leader (2023/2024), to hold the District Final of the Rotary Young Chef competition.

The competition is an excellent opportunity for youngsters to showcase their culinary skills in a competitive environment. The challenge for the youngsters is to prepare and cook a two-course meal within a fixed budget in 2 hours.

Six finalists took part in the event which was held in a local School: Lewis (from Medway); Claudine (from Whitstable); Darcy (from Faversham); Saskia (from Orpington); Stanley (from Folkestone) and Faith (from Chatham).

Menu items included: bruschetta; roast chicken; ravioli; chili con carne; chicken Kiev, souffle, drizzle cake, and a variety of delicious cheesecakes.

The youngsters did an excellent job – and even managed to take a fire alarm and evacuation (no actual fire) in their stride.

“The flavours, taste, and presentation were all excellent,” remarked Tim Clark, one of the three judges (his fellow judges were Joey Wicks and Alison Forrest).

The competition was won by Darcy with her offering of butternut squash, spinach, and feta rotolo plus baked apple with cream. Claudine came second and Stanley was third. The next stage for Rotary Young Chef is the Regional Finals in Southampton.



Some of the delicious dishes prepared by the Young Chef competitors



The three judges deliberate the entries.

All photos credit Rotary Club of Canterbury



Darcy's winning dishes of butternut squash, spinach, and feta rotolo and baked apple with cream.



Winner Darcy is pictured with David Watson from Rotary District 1120



# Young Voices and Rotakids Valentine Disco

**We have recently seen the two most exciting and looked forward to dates in the young people of Hythe Bay School's diary, those being Young Voices and Rotakids Valentine Disco.**

Recently Hythe Rotarian Roy Lawler, 5 teachers, the Rotakids and 48 of their fellow classmates, joined 9736 other children at the O2 for YOUNG VOICES 2024 to form what is year on year the world's largest school choir.

This day, however, starts many months before the event, with lunch and break time practices ensuring that on the day all goes well. The day itself was a long one for all, leaving school early travelling to London for a full day of practise, finishing at 5pm with a 2-hour break before the evening concert begins.



With lots of excitement we looked down as the O2 filled itself to capacity with parents and family of the almost 10,000 children taking their seats ready for the performance. With the venue sold out and at full seating capacity the evening went without fault and yet again, the children doing us proud. With a finish time of 9pm, it was a slow exit out of the venue and as you can imagine with that number of children, security was tight and very well organised. With 54 very tired children the journey home was much quieter than the journey there.

With Young Voices having ended it was now time to focus on what has fast become the event of the school year, The Hythe Bay RotaKids School Valentine Disco. As well as this being an incredibly enjoyable evening, it is by far one of the best single fund-raising events of the year. Preparation started several weeks before the date, with the children making posters, as well as organising side stalls for participation. This year, as last, they chose - glow sticks,

temporary tattoos, nail painting and a raffle, all priced at 20p a go .... but boy, do those 20p's mount up! The total for the evening ended at a very respectable £526.



We soon had our first meeting to discuss where and how we would shop, comparing all the different supermarkets and where we would, as they say, "get maximum bang for our buck". After compiling our list and knowing we would be able to get a 10% discount at Sainsbury's, which along with Nectar prices, proved to be our place to go, so with a list of most needed products required by the Rainbow Centre and a further donation of £25, we shopped like there was no tomorrow and cleared the shelves of almost all that was on our list!

We then had a trip to the Food Bank hub where we met with a very nice man who took his time to thank every Rotakid individually and listened intently to who they were in the club and how they had raised the money. In total the children donated just over £600 worth of food on behalf of the Rotakids of Hythe Bay School.



# JAMES GIVES THE SARA LEE TRUST A LIFT

Bexhill Rotary's President James Slinn dropped in on Tuesday 12th March to see Nikki Hawes and the Sara Lee Trust fundraising team at the new Therapy Centre in Sidley with a cheque for £1,000 to give the trust's funds a good lift.

When President James took office last July, one of the charities he nominated that he would raise funds for was The Sara Lee Trust, and the cheque he presented to them comes from part of the total monies raised by Bexhill Rotarians from the generous public in their Christmas Collections.

The purpose-designed Therapy Centre that James visited is tucked away behind the trust's charity shop in Ninfield

Road and provides a calm and therapeutic space right in the heart of Sidley. The centre is mobility friendly and accessible to all, providing a serene a welcoming environment for individual and group therapies, and counselling. In addition, a delightful walled and sensory garden provides colour, scent and interest all year round.

On presenting the cheque to Nikki Hawes (presentation pictured), James said, "I hope the money will help the Sara Lee Trust continue their invaluable work supporting families coping with cancer related illnesses."

Much more information about the work of The Sara Lee Trust can be found on their website ([www.saraleetrust.org](http://www.saraleetrust.org)).




**The deadline for articles in the May issue is 18th April as well as advertising.**

#### Disclaimer

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