

# DISTRICT 1120



**Rotary**  
Southeast and Gibraltar

**Magazine**

June 2024

**Working nine  
till five!**

**New member  
joins Ashford  
Rotary Club**

**Ray runs  
for Rotary**

**Two awards at  
Minster on Sea**

**Issue Thirty Four**

Cover image: Faversham nautical festival



# CHANGES TO MAGAZINE

**THIS is the last edition of the magazine in its current format.**

District has voted that this magazine shall, from now, be quarterly.

That decision disappointed me because internal communications is, to me, so important.

My role as Editor is purely a voluntary one. The £500 monthly cost is for the top quality production of the magazine.

I have no idea what quarterly means in terms of content - clearly, it is pointless covering events which are three months old. Hopefully District has a plan going forward.

When we started, the then District Governor Chris Brenchley wanted the magazine to improve communication.

It was also supposed to be used as a promotional tool to the outside public to show the amazing work that we do.

I await for guidance as to the future.

I am told the £4000 saving will be used to boost membership. My view has always been you don't money to increase membership, you need vibrant clubs and vibrant meetings which others want to join. You need fellowship and you need friendship.

I await with interest how this £4000 saving will be used.

In the meantime, for at least the time being, I sign over and out.

**Peter Lindsey**  
Editor



## *Senlac's St. George's Day Event*

Senlac, St Leonards Rotary Club held a St George's Day event at Hastings College.

This event was well attended with the help of Ken Melsom who was the MC and kept the event running smoothly.

Lucy Ashton a well known singer, sang many songs appropriate to the event.

Around £300 was raised for the President's charity, which is the East Sussex Veterans Hub.



Senlac Rotary President on the left and St Leonards Rotary President toasting the chef

## *Tee-rific Smiles on the Greens*

**AN eager posse of Bexhill Rotarians and their partners were determined to show off their golfing skills at the newly renovated mini golf course at Princes Park in Eastbourne.**

The course, revived and restored by Yasin Abbas, proprietor of Jazz Barbers in Little Common, had lain unmaintained and unfenced for many years. Now fully landscaped, the course offered a challenge to the Bexhill Rotary party to try their skills over 18 holes for their Mini Golf Championship.

Bexhill Rotary's President James Slinn and his wife Sandra, both seasoned golfers, were the most notorious golfers of the day, but for totally different reasons! President James was disqualified for practicing whilst everybody else was in the clubhouse before the competition had even started, and it was also revealed that he had played the course as a child which was enough to disqualify him on technicalities. Sandra Slinn, on the other hand, proved to be the star of the competition and was pronounced the winner with a great round and

returned to the clubhouse with a score less than the course par of 71.

At the end of a fun filled but windswept morning, Chair of the Social Committee that organised the event, Robin Taylor, presented Sandra Slinn with a Mini Claret Jug, ideal for a mini golf competition, which was appropriately engraved in very small writing 'Rotary Club of Bexhill Family Golf Day Winner'- Sandra is pictured receiving her winner's trophy along with a certificate and a bottle of Prosecco.



## ***Countryside Campaigner reveals rural planning issues to Ashford Rotary Club***

With 42 offices all over England, The CPRE campaigns to protect the rural nature of our landscape, making the countryside a better place for everyone to live, work and enjoy.

Local chair for Ashford, Christine Drury, discussed the national and local issues the organisation is involved in, from ensuring housing developments have adequate infrastructure, include affordable housing and access to green space, to lobbying Government to legislate that new buildings have solar roofs and proper water catchment systems.

Local issues concerning the team include the ongoing light pollution from the Sevington Inland Border facility and the new potential threat of over-development along the A20.

President Renate thanked Christine for her interesting and thought-provoking talk. She said: "It is reassuring to know that we have an enthusiastic and energetic Ambassador for the protection of our rural environment."



President Renate is presented with the latest publication by Christine Drury, local head of the Countryside Charity 'Campaign for the Protection of Rural England' (CPRE)

## ***New member joins Ashford Rotary Club***



Pieter with President Renate

**Pieter Green was born in South Africa where he qualified as Biomedical Scientist.**

Although he started his career in England as a gravedigger, he quickly moved on to work as Biomedical Scientist for the NHS in London, Isle of Man and as far as the Scottish Highlands. His passion for the community and the environment is where the dream to offer a funeral service started. He is now to be found at Willow & Green, in Ashford's High Street, opposite Boots.

Pieter says "I was keen to join Rotary Club because the organisation offers a platform for collaboration with like-minded people as well as community focussed organisations. On an interpersonal level I find the members very interesting with eons of life experience that I can tap into."

President Renate says: "We are always delighted to welcome new members and Pieter will be a great asset to the team here in Ashford as we enjoy working together to help good causes both locally and worldwide"

# RAY RUNS FOR ROTARY

**LONDON MARATHON 2024: Ray completes his 24th in a row and the total of over £135,000.00 raised for the Kent Association for the Blind over the years.**

What an amazing day when everything all came together nicely and one of the best for years. I kind of cruised the 26.2 miles at a relevantly consistent pace and came over the line at an unexpected fabulous time of 4:34:23 my best since the 2019 event. Not bad for a 60 year old!

The conditions were perfect and as always with over 50,000 other runners joining in it was a truly great atmosphere along with the spectators.

It is always enjoyable seeing the wonderful London sights that helped me get round the 26.2-mile (42k) course.

I was equally delighted from all the donations kindly received over the years to achieve now over £135,000 raised over the 24 years in aid of the Kent Association for the Blind of which I am an ambassador.

I was also pleased to not only getting over the finishing line but pushing non-stop running and raising vital funds for the charity. Sincere thanks go to all who have contributed whether individuals or companies.

Going back my best time was 3 hours, 23 minutes in 2002 and I have already entered the 2025 marathon (25 in 2025) which will again be in April next year and already looking forward to it.

To donate is easy to do so via this page. Ray Johnson is fundraising for Kent Association for the Blind ([justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com))

Alternatively, you can pledge via email or just send a cheque payable to the Kent Association for the Blind. Just text me or call and I will let you have further details. You can email me as well [rdjohnson2020@outlook.com](mailto:rdjohnson2020@outlook.com)

**Further details can be found at Ray Johnson is fundraising for Kent Association for the Blind ([justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com)) Here you will find further information and pictures.**



# *Bexhill Rotary gives a helping hand to the young pollinators*



Picture shows President James (left) and Rotarian Peter Halligan (right) with some Young Pollinators

**Lindsay White got in touch with Bexhill Rotary Club to seek help because her Community Supporters and Young Pollinators, of which she is founder and CEO, have been offered use of a shop on Ninfield Road in Sidley to have a youth nature hub.**

Lindsay continued, "This will be part of the Young Pollinators project but will also offer two hours a day after school nature club for working families, and a safe and warm place."

This was a request that Bexhill Rotarians just couldn't resist, so on Monday 15th April President James Slinn and Community Service Committee member Peter Halligan dropped in to the charity's Eco Hub in Western Road Mall to meet the Young Pollinators and present them with a cheque for £250.

Young Pollinators is part of the Community Supporters and was set up by Lindsay White three years ago to advance the education of the public in environmental protection and the natural environment, and to promote conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for public benefit.

The Charity has been involved in many activities and projects including co-hosting, along with the United Nations Association Climate & Oceans, several online webinars about COP26 and the 2021 IPCC report.

They are currently fundraising to install an access ramp and beach garden on Bexhill beach at West Parade, a project that Bexhill Rotary Club has pledged to support.

The Young Pollinators have recently been awarded a significant donation alongside support through Southern Water employee volunteering, expertise sharing and partnership opportunities whilst they are working together.

Community Supporters opened their latest venue in Sidley to provide additional opportunities to people of all ages to learn craft skills and ways to recycle and repair.

Their websites [www.communitysupporters.org.uk](http://www.communitysupporters.org.uk) and [www.youngpollinators.org.uk](http://www.youngpollinators.org.uk) detail their full programme of events and activities.

# Channel Rotary Charity Cycle Challenge 2024

RIDE YOUR BIKE AND HAVE FUN  
30 - 50 - 80 MILES - YOUR CHOICE

Start and finish on the  
beautiful Romney Marsh.  
The flattest cycle ride in  
the country - probably!

- SUNDAY 7TH JULY
- THE STAR INN
- ST MARY IN THE MARSH,  
ROMNEY MARSH
- 7AM START

BOOK NOW

[www.channelrotarybikeride.org.uk](http://www.channelrotarybikeride.org.uk)



## CHANNEL ROTARY ANNUAL CYCLE CHALLENGE

Channel's Annual Cycle Challenge is back again for 2024. Now in its 10th year, it is always a very enjoyable day for everyone taking part and there is a challenge to suit all. For those who are really keen then they can choose the 80 mile (125km) route, which proved very popular last time, or maybe just a gentle 30 mile summer outing.

This event is designed to have something for everyone so you can choose from 30, 50 or 80 mile routes to suit you, your team, friends and family.

It starts at the Star Inn at St Mary on the Marsh and with arguably the flattest cycle ride in the country takes in all the beauty of Romney Marsh. It is a well signed and marshalled route with a refreshment stop.

This year's ride is raising funds for South Kent Mind and other local charities in Folkestone and the surrounding area supported by Channel Rotary. For full details and to book visit [www.channelrotarybikeride.org.uk](http://www.channelrotarybikeride.org.uk) Entries are also welcome on the day.

# THE BLUEBELL WALK

The Rotary Club of Hailsham managed the Arlington Bluebell Walk in East Sussex on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April 2024.

Club members and friends were at the gate to meet and greet visitors, people were offered the use of mobility scooters if required, members and friends staffed the café and kitchens (see photo) and operated the payment kiosk.

Over the weekend the club raised £5,400 net for various charities.

In the 50 years from 1972 to 2022 – 80 different charities have raised £968,124 at this event (£1,662,673).

The club would like to thank everyone who helped and attended this very enjoyable event.



## *Imago makes impact on Ashford Rotarians*

**Fiona revealed the extensive work undertaken by Imago across Kent and the South East.**

She says: "Imago provides support and opportunities to people, families, and communities across Kent, East Sussex, Medway and South London.

Our services focus on improving health and wellbeing, tackling loneliness, building social and educational opportunities, and helping people access the right support.

This year we are celebrating 60 years of service to the community." See: [www.imago.community](http://www.imago.community) for more information.

President Renate comments: "We have already been working with Imago with a focus on the 'Young Carers' community.

Over the past two years our club has donated 200 pantomime tickets to deserving groups of children including 'Young Carers' as a way of offering them some light relief from their hard work as Carers.

We look forward to further collaboration in the future."



President Renate receives the latest brochure on Imago's work from Fundraising and Development Manager, Fiona Cottingham



# North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK

Rotary  
Weald of Kent



**SUNDAY 9th JUNE 2024**  
Online Registration now open

[www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk](http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk)



A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live musical entertainment.

Choice of 1,3,6 and 9 mile routes.

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause.

An opportunity for your fundraising, with Rotary providing the organisation



All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Service.

Every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1069464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1923) and Jersey (247).  
Registered address: 2 Redman Place, London E20 1JQ



Rotarian Peter with Councillor Hannah

# *Rotary Beckenham raises nearly £2,300 for Foal Farm Animal Rescue Centre*

**On Sunday 28th April, Rotary Beckenham staged its sixth Swimalong at The Spa at Beckenham, fundraising for this year's chosen charity. Each year the aim is to swim a cumulative marathon and swimmers of any ability are welcomed. Participation is free, but swimmers raise funds for our chosen charity.**

Rotary Beckenham has raised over £20,000 for charity in its six Swimalongs. In previous years we have raised money for Fighting Poverty in Zambia, Children in Need, RNLI, London Air Ambulance and Bromley Little Theatre rebuilding fund, all at West Wickham Leisure Centre (WWLC).

This year the event was fraught with difficulty since suddenly in mid-February WWLC was "temporarily closed as a precautionary measure following a survey of work by Bromley Council."

Although assurances were made that WWLC would reopen in time for the Swimalong, we couldn't be sure and so we decided to search for another venue just in case. Fortunately, The Spa at Beckenham was able to accommodate us but not until a week later than previously announced to potential swimmers. Several swimmers who had said they would swim couldn't do so on the new date and, six weeks before

the event our, er, pool of swimmers was drastically reduced. Added to this, we were working with a new team at the Spa, in unfamiliar surroundings.

On the day, 14 swimmers gathered at Beckenham Spa and between them they swam over 10 miles. A further 6 swimmers, swimming elsewhere, achieved another 8 miles.

The target of a 26-mile marathon swim within three hours was beyond our reach, unfortunately, since a number of swimmers had to drop out at the last minute.

Because of the change of date, the Mayor of Bromley couldn't attend but Councillor Hannah Gray graciously did, presenting medals to the swimmers and meeting the representatives of Foal Farm and the Rotary volunteers. Our thanks go to The Spa at Beckenham for generously hosting the event this year.

Our thanks also to the volunteers, supporters and sponsors. Most of all, our thanks to the swimmers for taking part in this event and for the great result that they achieved.

Oh, and WWLC is still closed and will reopen sometime in 2025.



Rotarian Adam receiving his medal and certificate



Rotarians volunteers from Beckenham, Bromley and West Wickham clubs



Foal Farm stand at the Swimalong

# *Air ambulance gets £1,000 from Bexhill Rotary*

At a Special General Meeting on Tuesday 7th May, Bexhill Rotarians unanimously agreed a donation of £1,000 to the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance ([www.aakss.org.uk](http://www.aakss.org.uk)).

The air ambulance does valuable rescue work in the South East with 3 helicopters and, when the helicopters cannot fly due to poor weather conditions, 4 rapid response vehicles. Last year saw 3,328 call-outs of which 57% were answered by the helicopters and 43% by the rapid response vehicles. The Air Ambulance costs £18.5 million a year to operate of which 88% is from charitable donations. Each call-out of the helicopter uses £300 of fuel, with the life of a helicopter being around 15 years.

The Air Ambulance currently leases its helicopters but is keen to trim its costs. So, to save an estimated half a million pounds a year in running costs, it has been decided to purchase a helicopter outright at the cost of £6 million. After drawing on various reserves, there's a shortfall of £1 million, but £750,000 of that has already been raised.

As the Air Ambulance covers our Rotary District in Sussex and Kent, the Rotary Clubs in the area are looking



to raise a substantial sum towards reaching this target. Rotary District is also supporting the purchase of a rapid response vehicle £62,000 which is used when the helicopters cannot fly.

Bexhill Rotary's President James Slinn (pictured) says, "The purchase of the helicopter is the first priority and I am really pleased that Bexhill Rotarians have agreed this donation of £1,000 towards our Rotary District's fund."

# *A little spring sunshine for the Safari children's ward*

On a chilly morning in April a little spring sunshine was introduced to the Safari Children's Ward of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Woolwich when a group of Bexley Club Rotarians presented a cheque for £250 to the hospital's very appreciative staff.

This is just one of the many donations to worthy local causes that the Club makes and which will go towards toys, games and perhaps some planting for the attached ward garden.

All are needed to help provide this cheery ward with an even more pleasant atmosphere for their young customers.

Pictured, from left to right, are Rotary Friend Almeric Johnson, Health Play Specialist Carol Sullivan-Wallace, Rtn. Linda Mattin, Ward Nurse Judy Parker, Rtn. Margaret Vaughan and Head of Charity Volunteers, Margarita Vidiella.

Carol, along with the Trust's Head of Children's Services, has kindly agreed to address a future Club meeting to give us a greater insight into the valuable work they undertake for sick children within the Trust's domain.



# *Youth in action at the 2024 Rotary competitions in Medway*

The Rotary clubs in Medway stage annual youth competitions to complement the school curriculum, to help develop the learners and for them to have fun. Brief outcomes from the competitions run this year are given below. Our thanks go to all who have supported the events, including the participants, the teachers, the judges, the venues, and sponsors.

## **26TH APRIL 2024 - YOUNG MUSICIAN**

Eight finalists - all talented young musicians - entertained the audience at the finals Concert of Rotary's Medway Young Musicians Awards on Friday 26th April. A range of instruments were on show - Violin, Clarinet, Trumpet, Saxophone, French Horn, Piano and Marimba. The pieces performed ranged across genres including Classical, Jazz and Film.

The competition has been running since 1994. This year saw the finals concert move to the GlassBox Theatre at MidKent College.

The winner of Best Overall Performer was Rainham Mark Grammar School student Thomas Evans on Alto Saxophone. The runner up was violinist Charlie Binney from King's School Rochester. Pianist Nalukui Kongwa of Rochester Grammar School was given a "special mention". The audience was also treated to a wonderful performance by last year's winner, cellist Isla Morgan of King's school.

## **YOUTH SPEAKS**

Having won the Rotary Youth Speaks Intermediate Award at local level in November 2023, a Debate Team was created by Chatham Grammar School, who went on to represent Rotary District 1120 covering Kent, East Sussex and South London to compete in the S E Regional Final on Sunday 21 April 2024.

Subsequent to this, on behalf of the Rotary Clubs in Medway, Rotary District 1120 and Chatham Grammar School, an invitation was extended to the Mayor of Medway Cllr. Nina Gurung, to present Certificates of Participation to the Team, together with a Special Certificate awarded to Rose Galloway for her outstanding response to the question asked as part of the Chatham Grammar presentation. This took place on 13th May 2024.

## **22ND MARCH 2024 & 3RD MAY 2024 YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER**

Medway Sunlight Rotary Club initiated a Young Photographer Competition for 2024. Due to time constraints and to gain experience, the Competition

was staged with one school, the Rivermead School in Gillingham. Four learners entered the competition and produced photographs on the theme "Rebuilding." The final was held at Rivermead School, and attended by the entrants, local judges, parents, MP Rehman Chishti, the Trust CEO Mark Burgiss and Rotarians. The learners explained their interpretations of the theme, and the judges gave feedback on the submissions. The judges said that the quality of the photographs and interpretations of the theme were impressive. The judges chose Sophie Cogger as the Winner and Beau Streatfield as the Runner-up. The President of Medway Sunlight Rotary, Sonja Curtis, awarded certificates to all entrants and prizes to the Winner and Runner-up.

The Winner and Runner-up of the Medway Competition were entered into the Rotary District 1120 (South East) Competition, and on 3rd May 2024 Chas Bedford, District 1120 Young Photographer Leader, gave the judges' feedback and announced Beau Streatfield as the senior section Winner. DG Ray Seager presented certificates to Sophie and Beau and a prize to Beau. The latter's photograph has been entered into the National Competition.



## **21ST FEBRUARY 2024 - YOUNG CHEF**

The competition was held in the kitchens at MidKent College. 9 competitors, coming from Green Acre, Walderslade Girls, The Robert Napier, and Napier Primary

schools and Mid Kent College prepared and cooked 2-course meals. The judges assessed the presentations and tastes of the meals.

Cllr Nina Gurung, the Mayor of Medway, and Sonja Curtis, President of Medway Sunlight Rotary, presented all the chefs with certificates and the Winner and Runner-up with prizes.

The Winner and Runner-up were entered into the next round at Rotary District 1120 level (covering the South East and including 72 clubs) that was held on 24th February 2024 at The Archbishop's School in Canterbury.



## 8TH MARCH 2024 - TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

14 teams, each comprising 4 learners, from local schools entered the 2024 Technology Tournament and competed at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels. The competition was held at the Royal Engineers Museum in Chatham. The previously unseen task was completed between 9am and 3pm. Building on outline requirements and using the materials pack provided, the teams designed, built, evaluated, and refined their models. At the end of the day the models were demonstrated on a cable bridge.

The task was to make an electrically driven carriage that could cross a river on a suspended cable. The Advanced team had to build a switch for the device to return it to the starting point after ejecting a relief package on the far side of the river. The relief package had to be decorated with a Shelter Box logo. There were as many different shapes and ideas as teams in the competition, and some

worked very well. It was a busy and fun day.

The District 1120 Governor, Ray Seager, and the Deputy Mayor of Medway, Councillor Nestorov, gave out prizes to the winning teams which included a visit to the BAE Systems simulator.

The winning teams were - Foundation: Thomas Aveling School, Intermediate: Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School and Advanced: Waterfront UTC.



## 2025 YOUTH COMPETITIONS

The information packs for the 2025 competitions are expected to be available from RGB&I in early June 2024. The Leaders and their organising teams comprising members from the other clubs in Medway will commence work. Key objectives will be to gain the interest and entries of more schools in Medway and to create greater awareness and participation of the public and relevant local businesses and organisations.

For more information, please contact Tony Muckley at Medway Sunlight Rotary.  
[akmuckley@aol.com](mailto:akmuckley@aol.com) or 0797 6318629

# *Popular return of event that bowled over the town*

**An outdoor skittles event that bowled over Eastbourne last summer is returning by popular demand.**

Saffrons Sports Club will again be the venue for five evenings of fun competition during the week beginning June 10. This follows on from the outstanding success of last year's first ever Eastbourne Skittles Championships, staged by the Rotary Club of Eastbourne.

Companies large and small - along with pubs, clubs, charities, care homes, schools, families and friends, able bodied or disabled - are invited to sign up with teams of six players.

Trophies will be awarded each evening to the winning team each evening. Each will compete against two others, using the original skittles format of rolling wooden bowls at nine pins, in this open-air event. The team achieving the highest score during the week will proudly lift the 2024 Eastbourne Skittles Championship trophy.

Ian Huke, one of the Rotary club's organisers said: "This is a great event full of fun and frivolity, alongside some hotly contested competition.

"It attracts teams from all around the Eastbourne area to join in a community-wide competition open to novices as well as bowlers of any standard and offers a great occasion to relax with friends and work colleagues. Please do sign up and join in."

Cost of entry for each team of six is £30 (£5 per team member). All monies raised during the week will go to local charities. Beer and spirits will be on sale in the Saffrons pavilion as well as hot food, coffees, teas and cakes from the rotary club's own stall.

Full details of the event are given can be found on our Facebook page, "The Rotary Club of Eastbourne" and on our website [www.eastbournerotary.org.uk](http://www.eastbournerotary.org.uk)

For further information please contact event organiser, Ian Huke, at the Rotary Club of Eastbourne at : [ianhuke666@gmail.com](mailto:ianhuke666@gmail.com)



Fun nights under the summer sun – last summer's inaugural skittles competition.

# St Leonards Rotary Cycle Challenge

On Sunday 28th April 2024 St Leonards Rotary Club ran their Cycle Challenge. The weather was not to good at the start of the challenge which meant the numbers were slightly down again this year.

All those that took part were full of praise about just how well it has been organized by Eric Garland and Doug Deeks. We had people from the age of 10 to 79 years of age taking part, we have nothing but thanks for all of those that took part and managed all the check points.



The President of St Leonards Rotary Club awarding the certificate to the youngest member who took part and was ten years old and cycled 25 miles.



The young lad's family who rode with him.



The queue of cyclist waiting to sign up

# *Edenbridge & Westerham Rotary*

**St George's Day fell on a scheduled Rotary meeting night this year. The Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, normally at The Limpsfield Chart Golf Club.**

Never ones to dodge a party, it was unanimously decided to change the mood and the venue on 24th April and have an "Away Day" with partners and friends. The new venue, for one night only, was The Kentish Horse in Mark Beech for a splendid meal. Members were encouraged to dress in red and white in honour of the fearless knight of olden days.

Feeling that entertainment was required, Rotary Secretary channelled his inner Tommy Cooper and delivered a faultless and mirthful sketch on the theme of Saint George's finest hour. The action was transposed from medieval England to near present day Edenbridge. John told his captivated audience of the heroic police Constable who persuaded his doubtful superior officer to allow him to rescue a damsel in distress.

John played all parts, and of course each character required a different hat for their lines of dialogue. John is seen wearing the jaunty hat of the maiden in peril, otherwise he quickly changed to a policeman's helmet or a sergeant's cap. Of course the fire-breathing dragon proved no match for the Edenbridge bobby, with the final scene being played out at Hever Castle we were told. A hilarious romp sublimely acted out, and no less probable than that famous fairy tale of old.

Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary President Brenda Risdon (pictured right) is entering the last month of her term of office. She will be handing over the reins to Vice President Peter Smith, who will take office in July. "It has been a great year, and the backing I have received



from members has been fantastic" she told us. "I should like to thank them for that, but most of all I should like to thank the members of the public who have supported us along the way. Our Dance and Quiz sold out within days, and they have helped us raise nearly £6,000 for charity.

Even at the Westerham May Day Bank Holiday Fair on the Green, which was all but rained off, the public were friendly and overwhelmingly generous." She added that new members are always welcome – call Rotarian John Martin on 07593 887588 for details.





# Two awards at Minster on Sea

**Two legends were honoured and totally surprised by the accolade bestowed on them at the Presidents Ball for the Rotary Club of Minster on Sea**

President Dawn Brown presented our AG Kevin Fielding with a sapphire Paul Harris Fellow. Kevin has been an amazing support to our club, he has attended nearly all our functions and events. He is never just content to sit on the sidelines he always join in and gets involved.

Due to a district reshuffle we will very sadly be losing Kevin as our AG. But a friend made in Rotary is never lost I'm sure we will stay in contact.

President Dawn also awarded a double sapphire PHF to Mike Brown also known affectionally as "Dad" to all our club members.

Mike is a very keen, committed member, always first to put his name forward when help is needed. Over Christmas we were out for 14 nights in all weathers collecting for the local food banks. Despite being 81 years young Mike turned out for 13 of those nights.

His experience and advice is invaluable he is a much loved and respected member of our club.

We all love "Dad".



Mike, Dawn and Kevin

President Dawn and Kevin

Mike Brown aka "Dad"

# Egg-citing time in Sussex

**TEAMS from Bexhill, Eastbourne and Hailsham competed in the Rotary Great Egg Race at The JPK Centre in Old Town, Eastbourne.**

This year's challenge, set by Chris Laughton from St Andrew's Prep School, was to build two structures to hold marbles, one as tall as possible and the other extending out from the edge of a table as far as possible. The winners were the team who managed to achieve the greatest combined height and distance. Each team had an hour to complete the task and were supplied with only 20 pieces of A4 paper, 1 meter of string, 1 meter of gaffer tape, sellotape and 2 marbles!!

A thoroughly good time was enjoyed by all, including a fish and chip supper supplied by Trident Fish Restaurant, culminating in a declaration that Hailsham Rotary Club had won the coveted trophy, with Eastbourne Club awarded a silver salver for constructing the most aesthetically pleasing structures.

A raffle raised £270 for The JPK Project, a wonderful charity providing opportunities for people with learning disabilities in Eastbourne and the surrounding area.



# ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

**Time for the Lighthouse Walk again - are you up for the Challenge?**

THE annual Lighthouse Challenge fundraising walk will take place on Saturday July 6.

It's an incredibly popular event - for those who have not previously undertaken the Challenge, it essentially involves a walk to and around the Beachy Head Lighthouse and then back, in exchange for a modest entry fee which is donated to local charities.

This is only possible on certain days of the year and has proved very busy with at least 1,000 walkers taking part each year.

Each participant receives a commemorative certificate at the finish.

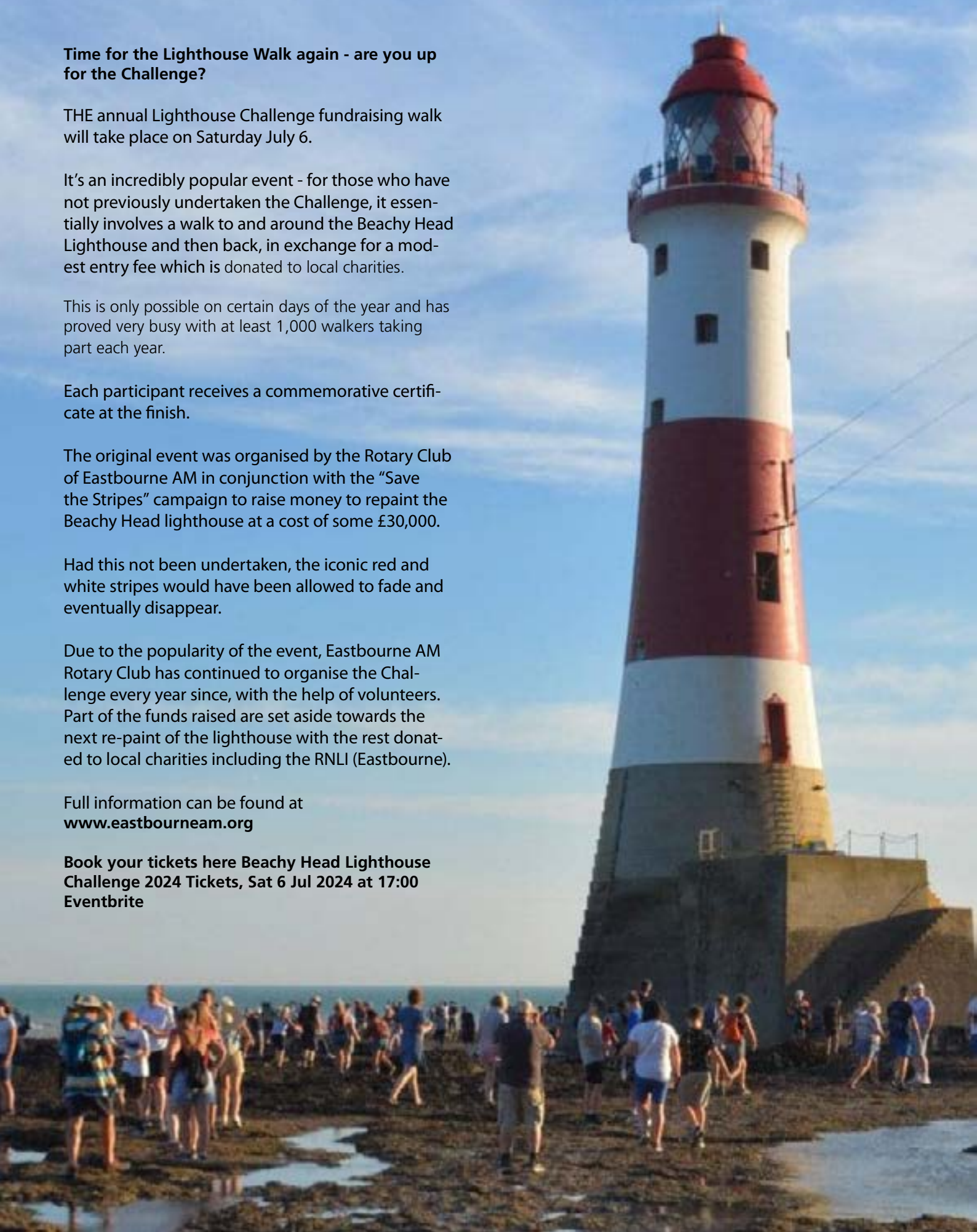
The original event was organised by the Rotary Club of Eastbourne AM in conjunction with the "Save the Stripes" campaign to raise money to repaint the Beachy Head lighthouse at a cost of some £30,000.

Had this not been undertaken, the iconic red and white stripes would have been allowed to fade and eventually disappear.

Due to the popularity of the event, Eastbourne AM Rotary Club has continued to organise the Challenge every year since, with the help of volunteers. Part of the funds raised are set aside towards the next re-paint of the lighthouse with the rest donated to local charities including the RNLI (Eastbourne).

Full information can be found at [www.eastbourneam.org](http://www.eastbourneam.org)

**Book your tickets here [Beachy Head Lighthouse Challenge 2024 Tickets](#), Sat 6 Jul 2024 at 17:00 Eventbrite**



# Ashford Pupil wins Writing Competition

Budding authors in schools in Ashford were asked to write an essay with the theme 'Rebuilding'.

The resulting works were judged by members of the Rotary Club, with Megan's topping the poll for the Ashford level of the competition. Her poem titled 'Scattered Strength' will go on to District and even National level, as will entries from Denis and Evi.

"We were so impressed with the quality and variety of the entries it was difficult to rank them." says Rotary President, Renate. "The encouraging aspect to these compositions was that their authors all showed a strong desire to express 'Hope'. If hope is in the minds of these young people, their future is bright." "We look forward to hearing if our local winners will be successful in District or National competitions."

Towers School Principal, Richard Billings, and English Lead, Jennifer Kendal, were also present to congratulate the winner and other students who took part. "We are very proud of our scholars in the English department who show great promise in their writing skills." Said the Principal.



Renate Beerling presents Megan Tasker with the First Prize Certificate

Runners-up:



Denis Luca



Evi Taylor



English Lead: Jennifer Kendal and Principal, Richard Billings join in the congratulations to Megan

# The Faversham Family Bike Ride

Organised by Faversham Rotary Club, this year's Ride took place on Sunday 12th May and for the third year running the weather was fine and sunny. More than 160 riders set out on the 12.5 km route, started on their way by Cllr Trevor Martin, Mayor of Faversham.

Starting and finishing at the Abbey School, the riders cycled through the countryside around Faversham. One cyclist was heard to say that she hadn't realised what beautiful scenery was so close to town.

Three generations of riders – children, parents and grandparents – were in some of the family groups. The youngest cyclists who completed the route under their own pedal power were just four years old. Well done! All that fresh air and exercise meant that the 1st Faversham Scouts were kept busy cooking for the cyclists when they returned.

## A total of 84 bacon baps were consumed!

Generous sponsorship from local businesses and trusts means that the event has generated funds for the Rotary Club, money that will be put to good use supporting local organisations. Thanks go to everyone involved, but particularly the cyclists who took part.



See you all again next year!

And finally, the last word must go to the young rider who told one of the marshals that he'd had a great time. He'd seen horses and a donkey, but the star of the show was a little mouse that had run across the road in front of his bike. "I just love all this nature."

# *Romney Marsh Rotary – enjoying fellowship and fundraising*

**Rotary abroad...**the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh has been partnered with the Gelsenkirchen Buer Rotary Club in Germany for over 50 years. Romney Marsh has just celebrated its 55th birthday and the link with our German friends has been going for 54 years. The Clubs take turns in visiting each other and this year it was the turn of Romney Marsh to venture abroad and spend a weekend in Germany.



The recent visit to Gelsenkirchen was just as memorable as the other visits over the years. Typically members of the 'home' club will host the arriving visitors in their homes and organise a fun program of events to create a very friendly and memorable experience. On this trip we saw much of the local history in and around Gelsenkirchen itself. Our hosts also took great care in dining us over the whole weekend. It is not surprising this special relationship has lasted so long. There is a mutual respect for each other and in turn this has helped us to exchange ideas on how best we can serve our respective communities.

Next year it will be Romney Marsh's turn to host these wonderful friends. Importantly, over the years Gelsenkirchen have been incredibly generous on their visits to Kent donating money to the Club for us to support good local causes. As well as the fundraising the visits have provided everyone to experience fellowship and fun – two of the main reasons why people join Rotary!

**Welcome visitors...**District Governor Ray Seager and his wife Caroline were very welcome guests at one of our regular weekly meetings in April 2024 (Ray and Caroline seen here with President Mark Sinfield). As well as providing an update on the fundraising activities in support of the Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex (AAKSS), Ray also made the draw to see which of the members was the lucky winner of the bottle of sparkling wine provided at the recent District Assembly to celebrate the District's 100 years. The lucky winner



drawn out of the hat was David Bateman, one of our longer serving members.

**Charity Golf Day...**the Rotary Club held its annual Golf Day on Wednesday 1st May at Littlestone Warren links course with 110 golfers, half of whom were visitors. The first players began returning to the clubhouse from around 13.00 hrs with the presentation of some small prizes taking place just before 18.00 hrs. The feedback from everyone playing was positive with the format being a particular plus.



During the morning we had a visit from Graham Perrin and two colleagues from SERV-Kent Bloodrunners, one of our club's preferred charities this year and the primary charity for the day. Graham and his colleagues came with sign written car and two bikes, such was the sight that a few members enquired what the incident was that demanded the emergency services! It caused a bit of a smile when we explained the real reason for their presence.

We have yet to finalise the eventual total but we are sure that we will have enough to support the servicing of two of the Bloodrunners motor cycles.

The winners of the golf were:-

Best gross score - Kevin Saunders, Bruce McDonald, Dan Brown and Derek Hitchman



Best net score and trophy winners - Richard Pearce, Dave Cowan and Pete Foster



2nd Net score - Jackie Arigho, George Harvey and Mitch Doran

3rd Net score - Guy Valentine-Neal, Gary Calver, Geoff Milsted and Courtney Collins

Nearest the pin - Derek Hitchman and Carole Royle

Longest drive - Bruce McDonald and Carole Royle

The thanks from the Rotary Club go to many people for their help and support in making the day a great success

- Kevin Saunders, Bruce McDonald and The Captain Howey, our primary sponsor
- The entrants who added a donation to their entry
- The Littlestone Golf Club and staff for looking after us
- The Club members who provided support in selling the raffle, silent auction or acting as "Starters"
- All the bidders in the silent auction
- All the entrants and golfers, many of whom have supported our day in previous years

Thank you everyone and, yes, we will be looking to do another day in 2025.

## Rotarians talk the walk as radio station's community people



Eastbourne Rotarians enjoyed an opportunity to talk about their club and its many activities, during an interview on Seahaven FM Radio.

Ian Huke (sitting) and club secretary Graham Parish

(right) were interviewed for the "Community People" slot by presenter, Len Fisher. Two of the club's highest profile summer events are its staging of an outdoor skittles competition and its support of a fundraising ball in aid of a school in Uganda.

# 1928 Paul Harris pictures unearthed by the Rotary Club of Canterbury

The Rotary Club of Canterbury recently did some spring cleaning of its archives as the boxes were moved to a new home.

One of the “treasures” found is a photomontage from 1928 when Rotary’s founder, Paul Harris, visited the Club, along with his signature.

The Club has kept its archives for many years at the local Kent & Canterbury Club, but the area was needed for other things so a number of its members got nice and dusty having a sort out!

One of the main “treasures” that they discovered, tucked among a lot of paperwork, is a framed montage of photographs from when Paul Harris, founder of Rotary International, visited the Club in 1928 – just a few years after the Club was chartered in 1922. The Canterbury Team also found Paul Harris’ signature.

Below is an extract from the Club’s history page that gives a little more information about the visit.

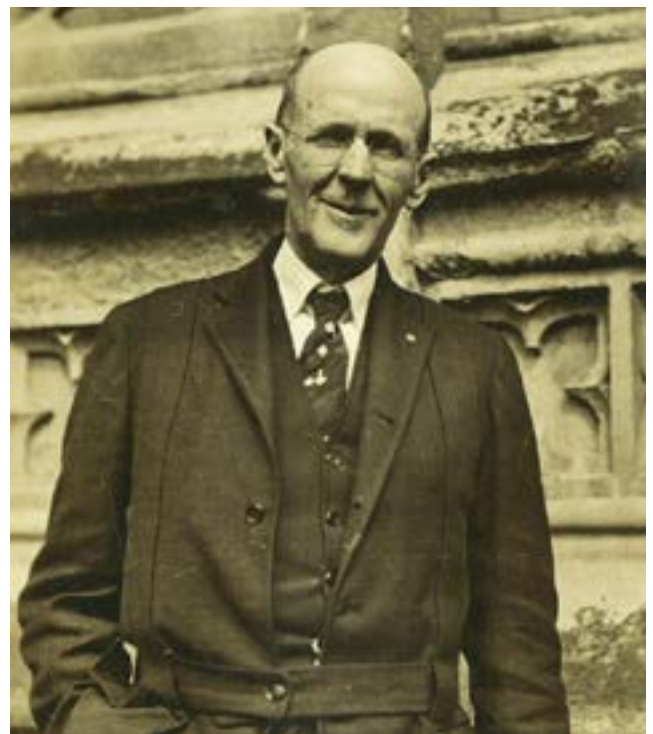
“In 1928 Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, visited Canterbury while on a tour of Europe and was welcomed by the then President Harold Young. Rotarians from eight neighbouring Rotary clubs joined the Canterbury Club in a gathering to meet him.”

The framed photo montage has the title: “Founder of Rotary – visit to Canterbury 1928”. There are 11 photos in all, including a picture with Paul Harris, Harold Young and Archdeacon Hardcastle (pictured in what looks like the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral).

“What an honour to have had Paul Harris visit our Club,” said one of the Club’s present members. “We wonder which other clubs he visited during the trip?” If you know, and have other photos too, please get in touch with the Club.



The photo montage from Paul Harris’ visit in 1928.



Picture of Paul Harris at Canterbury Cathedral.



Past Presidents of the Club, Mike Talbot and Martin Ward, enjoy a rummage around.



Picture of Harold Young – then President of the Rotary Club of Canterbury. (Not from the montage.)



# 'THERE and BACK'

**This is an invite to all wheelchair users and walkers of all abilities to enter the Bexhill Rotary Club Mobility Walk Challenge along the Promenade and Sea Front of Bexhill on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**The Rotary Club are organising this Mobility Walk to give an opportunity for People of all ages and abilities to undertake this challenge by wheelchair or walk to gain sponsorship for their efforts and raise funds for their own local organisations or charity**

## **The Walk is open to both Aided and Unaided Wheelchair Users**

- An official Bexhill Rotary Sponsorship Form will be emailed to all entrants upon registration.
- **Your £2.00 Entry Fee will be collected at the Start of your walk**
- There will be start & finish stations at both East & West ends of the Parade/Promenade Walk, All registered participants will receive an event Medal and Certificate on completion of their walk.
- Your walk can start from the West Parade opposite Richmond Road junction, or from the East De La Warr Parade by the Angling Club Building.
- Walkers can undertake a 1.6 Mile Walk one way either going East or West, or undertake to walk both ways making a total of 3.2 Miles.
- There will be prizes for the most sponsorship raised by an individual and by the most raised by an organisation.



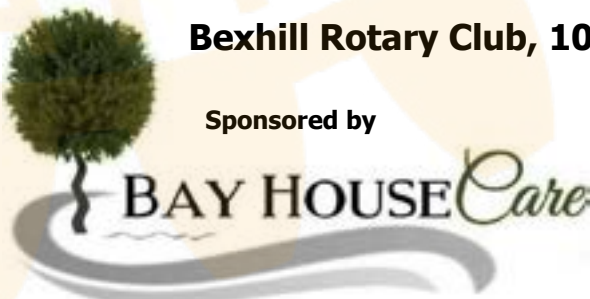
## **Fill in the Enclosed Entry Form to Register**

Scan and email to [bexhillrotaryclub@btinternet.com](mailto:bexhillrotaryclub@btinternet.com),

Or post to

**Bexhill Rotary Club, 10 Bidwell Avenue, Bexhill, TN39 4DB**

Sponsored by



**NB: You are responsible for your own health & wellbeing;**

**Please do not Walk unless you are fit enough to do so.**

# Tonbridge Rotary Club Centenary

Tonbridge Rotary Club reached its Centenary this year, and to celebrate the event two banners have been erected - one at the Castle side of the Watergate close to the High Street and the other facing Sovereign Way at Botany car park which adjoins Waitrose.



The banners will appear in different locations around the town centre from time to time during the year while the club works to serve the community through forthcoming events such as the RunKent Tonbridge Half Marathon, 10k and 5k on Sunday 29 September, and the Christmas Festival on Sunday 24 November 2024.

On Saturday 11th May Tonbridge Rotary held their annual Charity Quiz at The Schools at Somerhill. This year the Quizmaster and Scorer were members of the club and they both performed excellent roles. Over 120 people attended the event, assembled over 17 tables. They wrestled with answers to 10 rounds of general knowledge questions and eventually a group from Golden Green won. They aptly named themselves "Gold 'n' Green Forever". During the half-time interval, a lasagne supper was served, and a raffle took place. The event was a great success and raised over £1,250 towards sending an ambulance to Ukraine packed with medical supplies.



The club's annual Senior Citizens Oast Theatre outing took place on Friday 10th May at the Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club (the Oast Theatre), where 38 Rotary guests enjoyed a performance of "The Hollow" by Agatha Christie. Tonbridge Rotary members along with Past District Governor, Carol Vizzard and husband Bryan, from the Rotary Club of Maidstone Sunrise, chauffeured and

accompanied their guests to a superb performance. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the performance. This Community Service annual event is only made possible by the Oast Theatre, of which the club is an Associate Member, our volunteer Rotarians, and funds raised on behalf of the community to cover the performing rights. We are very proud as Tonbridge Rotarians to be able to put on such an event, which aims to take our senior citizens for a good evening out!



We are pleased to announce that Tonbridge Rotary Club in its Centenary Year will be sponsoring an award of £300 to help support local young musicians. It is one of six awards being offered by Tonbridge Music Club, with grants to be put towards musical costs such as the purchase of an instrument, instrumental or singing lessons, auditions or exam fees. Applications are invited by 5 July 2024 from young people at any stage of their musical life. Further details and an application form can be obtained from the Tonbridge Music Club website at <https://www.tmc.org.uk/awards/>

Competitors in the Tonbridge Triathlon on Bank Holiday battled heavy rain but the occasion was well supported as those involved took part in a variety of events on the day at Tonbridge School Centre. Volunteer marshals, including six members of Tonbridge Rotary Club, helped to supervise the standard event (800m swim, 50km cycle, 10k run), plus the sprint, relay, aquathlon and aqua bike events.

Six members enjoyed an entertaining evening as guests of Tunbridge Wells Rotary Club at the Royal Wells Hotel. The guest speaker, former airline captain Peter Taylor, recalled his life in aviation, and the hosts were thanked for their hospitality by Tonbridge President Peter Conetta.





# WORKING NINE TILL FIVE

President Dawn Brown from the Rotary Club of Minster On Sea is pictured with Sarah Jayne, the top Dolly Parton impersonator in the country.

They were raising funds and awareness for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

DPIL is a book gifting programme that posts free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, at no cost to the parents.

The club currently has 21 children at "Dawnies Darlings" nursery enrolled and benefitting from this programme. The plan is to get other nurseries in the area joining in with this scheme and more children enjoying books.



HASTINGS

# WHITE ROCK

“LETS SING”



## FINALS NIGHT JUNIOR CHOIR COMPETITION

Thursday 13th June 2024

Plus **“STAGECOACH Performing Arts”**

And Other Guest Performances

THE WINNERS TO PERFORM  
AT A CONCERT

on the  
21st Nov 2024

With



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**Bexhill Rotary Club is looking for school choirs of children between the ages of 7 and 11 years of age to compete in this year's JUNIOR CHOIR COMPETITION.**

The final is being held at the White Rock Pavilion in Hastings on Thursday 13th June starting at 6.30. The winning choir will receive a prize of £250 for their school and, on top of that, the winners will also get to perform with Tenors Unlimited at one of their concerts later this year, plus each choir member will be presented with a

winner's medal – to check out Tenors Unlimited's UK tour dates, go to [www.tenorsunlimited.com/tour](http://www.tenorsunlimited.com/tour).

The choir coming second will not be overlooked as it will be presented with a runners-up trophy, so there's a lot to play for.

To find out more details, best to contact organiser Sue Day right away - email [Sueday100@gmail.com](mailto:Sueday100@gmail.com) or call **07801 972830**.

# The Senlac Classic Car Show

The Rotary Club of SenlacSt Leonards has a treat in store for all the family on Father's Day.

Father's Day, Sunday 16th June, is almost here and with it the return of the Senlac Classic Car Show and Craft Fayre. The show, which is now over 30 years old, will take place in the beautiful East Sussex town of Rye, at the Rye Rugby Club, New Road, Rye TN31 7LS starting at 10am and finishing at 5pm.

Around 250 cars and 50 craft and charity stalls will be on display, and, for the youngsters, there will be children's rides. Refreshments, including a bar, are available throughout the day. With an adult entry fee of just £5 and programmes, parking and accompanied children under 16 all free, it makes a perfect Father's Days treat for all the family. There is still time to enter a car, either see the website [www.senlacrotary.org](http://www.senlacrotary.org) or email [carshow@senlacrotary.org](mailto:carshow@senlacrotary.org). Late entries for cars will be accepted on the day at a cost of £15.

All profits will be shared among local good causes and charities including Rye Relief in Need, Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice and Senlac Rotary's own charity, The Yellowmen.

For more information see the website [www.senlacrotary.org](http://www.senlacrotary.org)



**The Senlac Classic Car Show & Country Fayre**

**Sunday 16th June 2024**

**A great day out for all the family**

**Rye Rugby Club, New Road, Rye TN31 7LS**

10am - 5pm

300+ Classic Cars - Food Outlets - Bar  
Children's Rides - Craft Stalls - Charity Stalls

For further information email [carshow@senlacrotary.org](mailto:carshow@senlacrotary.org)

£5 Accompanied Child FREE

Father's Day

[www.senlacrotary.org](http://www.senlacrotary.org)

To advertise in the next issue of the magazine, email [petelindsey30@hotmail.com](mailto:petelindsey30@hotmail.com)

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