

DISTRICT 1120



Rotary
Southeast and Gibraltar

Magazine

May 2024

Use your
Wheel power!

Folkestone charity
10 kilometre
coastal walk

Channel Rotary
supports Hi Kent

Senlac Rotarian
receives top
Civic Award

Issue Thirty Three

Cover image: Hythe Beach

USE YOUR WHEEL POWER!



The On Your Bike charity cycle ride on Sunday, 19 May, will bring the team from Gravesham with Ebbsfleet Rotary to the Riverside Leisure Area in Gravesend from 6:00 am.

The scene of wheels, helmets and 400 participants, (including usually over 100 unexpected riders to greet and register) sets the stage for an event that spans almost ten hours of excitement and camaraderie. Riders head out to complete 15, 30, or 45-mile routes, returning throughout the day to music, cheers and support.

Planning for On Your Bike 2024 started in 2023 when the organising team laid the groundwork for the event. From navigating official requirements to securing sponsors, every detail has to be reconsidered to ensure the best outcome for charitable causes.

For 36 years, Rotary has spearheaded On Your Bike, raising half a million pounds for charity. The evolution of the event reflects changes in society, transitioning from traditional methods of communication to streamlined online registration and fundraising platforms.

A big change this year has been directly challenging riders to raise further sponsorship with friends and family. Registration is now online through expert organisation RaceNation who also have the SportsGiving page system for riders to raise sponsorship and they even follow through on claiming Gift Aid.

But as entries begin to flow in from February/March there is nothing to beat a traditional envelope stuffing evening to prepare the rider packs by the hundred. Leading the organising group, Simon Lancaster, highlighted a collaborative effort involving every club member, local organisations, and volunteers to ensure a seamless and safe experience for all participants. Gravesend CTC provides the cyclists' view.

Neighbouring Rotary groups help with providing marquees and people for check points. The RAYNET radio network volunteers provide instant cover over many square miles and charity volunteers add help on the day. "When you create and invite riders to a cycling event you take on a big duty of care," he said. "A rolling start of over 400 riders is a great sight but then we must be ready for anything really.

"We can track their progress around the routes and through the eight check points and if they need support we have vehicles and St John Ambulance ready to move. All instantly in contact by radio. Plus we have contact details for all riders immediately to hand on a database."

Risk assessments, applications to the local Safety Committee and liaising on social media posts with main beneficiary charity Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services (ADSS) are the scene now. Compared to the letters to the Council and lots of poster distribution, mail posting and telephone calls of those years ago. On Your Bike has evolved as life has changed.

Club President Arlene Orr highlighted the vital role of ADSS in providing essential care and support in the community.

"This is showing the real and growing demand for more ADSS memory cafes, wellbeing groups plus home support and long-term advice. "Their co-ordinators are already making a significant difference to dementia care.

Helping make that happen is what Rotary is about."

The On Your Bike event is not just a cycling event; it is a day of co-operation and generosity. Everyone coming together to make a difference.

Join us at On Your Bike! Full details are at:
www.onyourbikegravesend.org.uk



'Kaminabend' (evening at the fireside)

A small number of members of the Rotary Club of Canterbury Sunrise recently joined a similar number of Rotarians from their contact club Aachen Land in Germany to join in with Kaminabend, loosely translated as a chat or evening at the fireside.

Use of Microsoft Teams and a 'meeting owl', in a Sunrise member's home, made it feel like we were almost in the same room sat around the same fireside together.

This was an initiative developed by RC Aachen-Land who wanted to give the opportunity to develop friendships, particularly newer Members. Like us, their meetings are taken up with Rotary business and speakers and this initiative is designed for "development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service" by having an informal get together in each other's homes over some snacks and a drink. Numbers of each 'Kaminabend' are deliberately kept low to keep all participants engaged. Additional members from the Aachen-Land Club were meeting in other small groups.

There is no fixed agenda and the relaxed atmosphere encourages an exchange of views, ideas, family news, in fact anything that takes our fancy. And, yes we did

compare notes on the political scene in our respective countries. Fascinating the similarities between our respective countries and towns / cities. Thinking back, Rotary formed a minor part of our chat, although nothing is off limits.

Covid lock-down encouraged us to get smart with systems like Zoom or MS Teams so meetings like this with our contact club are relatively straightforward.

During Covid lock-down we agreed to meet virtually, annually, and these meetings have a subject, mutually agreed and led by one or other of the Clubs. When lock-down eased and we were able to resume visits, we continued with the annual virtual meetings when we have discussed a range of subjects, not only Rotary.

Kaminabend is different and equally enjoyable, it really was like being in the same room and having a chat for a couple of hours over a convivial drink or two – thoroughly recommend it.

**Chris Barnett,
RC Canterbury Sunrise**



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

Sainsbury's

THANET SCHOOLS YOUNG ARTISTS FESTIVAL 2024

"INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE"

"The Whale" by Tara Gill, 13yo

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.



Sponsors:



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

CHANNEL ROTARY SUPPORTS HI KENT

President Geoff Milsted presents Channel Rotary Club's cheque for £1000 to Zoe Holder of Hi Kent, who manages the branch office in Canterbury. She has worked with Hi Kent for 14 years and trained as an audiologist and ear wax removal specialist during Covid.

Channel Rotary Club is delighted to donate once again to Hi Kent, a Kent-based Charity providing sound support for people living with hearing loss. One in five people is deaf or severely hard of hearing, so help and advice is offered through local clinics and outreach services throughout the County, particularly via regular sessions at Age UK branches, senior citizens accommodation, care and residential homes.

Help on offer includes assessing people's eligibility for free equipment, providing free IT support to enable them to get the best out of their equipment, counselling,

social activities, hearing aid service, education and information sessions, Tinnitus support groups, lip-reading classes and ear wax problems – a service no longer provided by GP Practices.

Hi Kent depend on volunteer support and hope to further extend their outreach into personal visits to those unable to attend their regular clinics and local sessions.

Zoe was delighted to receive the donation "This will help to support our service in Folkestone and enable the Charity to continue to assist the deaf and hard of hearing in our area during a time of cut-backs and rising costs."

PHOTO SHOWS:

Folkestone Channel Rotary president Geoff Milsted and Zoe Holder from Hi Kent.



Senlac Rotarian receives top Civic Award



A Senlac Rotarian has been given a top civic award. Jimmy Carroll, a Rotarian for over 25 years, has devoted much of his time to improving the area in which he has worked for over 50 years.

At a ceremony on 16th March 2024, Bexhill on Sea town council conferred the title of Honorary Freeman to Jimmy for his exceptional service to Sidley and the wider area of Bexhill. "I was so surprised, I was escorted by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Bexhill, the Little Common British Legion Brass Band played and the Town Crier proclaimed the award."

Jimmy, who moved to the area some 50 years ago with his family from south-east London, is a retired wholesale and retail greengrocer and had a number of premises locally including one in the village of Sidley, part of town of Bexhill.

He served as a councillor in Sidley for over 16 years; he has also served as Bexhill Town Mayor and Chairman of the Rother District Council. Jimmy has been a community champion over many years helping to improve the

facilities and environment for the local residents in what is designated a deprived area.

Sidley was one of 150 areas around England to be awarded £1million through the Big Local Trust to make a "massive and lasting positive difference to their communities". Heart of Sidley was set up in 2014 for a ten year period with the aim of improving and regenerating Sidley village and its surrounding area by working together as a community; this is a project very dear to Jimmy and he has and continues to take a prominent role as do his sons.

"We've done a lot but we've still got a lot to do and we must keep trying to improve life for our community." Jimmy concluded.

The photograph shows Jimmy with his award and Andy Cruttenden, President of Senlac Rotary, left, and Bryan Hunter, President of St Leonards Rotary, right. The two clubs are now holding joint meetings as a prelude to a merger from July, the start of the new Rotary year.

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

Email: channelrotarygolf@outlook.com

Folkestone charity 10 kilometre coastal walk

Saturday 4th May 2024 10.30am

start from Leas Bandstand

Organised by Gurkha Memorial Fund in support of Computer, Technology, Education Project for Rural Schools in Nepal.

We would welcome your participation in this event and invite you and your wife/partner/friends to join us for this walk (it is not a race) to help our fundraising efforts to support our third Computer Technology Project to schools in impoverished areas of Nepal and the local community and to support links with UK schools.

Our target is to raise £14,000 and we have already reached £5,500 towards this.

We are asking for a donation of £10 to participate, paid on the day, by cheque or BACS to Folkestone Gurkha Memorial Fund; sort code 52-41-42; Account Number 47201290 – card payments will also be accepted on the day.

A wristband and water will be provided to all participants. The walk will start at the Folkestone Bandstand CT20 2EB and will take you down to the seafront for a refreshing and flat walk along the seafront past Sandgate and on to the eastern end of the Hythe Imperial golf course where there will be further stewards to direct you back to Folkestone.

If you plan to join us it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers. Please inform Dhan Gurung by email gmdhan@gmail.com or mobile 07861 697606 or John Barber barberjd49@gmail.com 07967 345901. Cheques should be made payable to "Folkestone Gurkha Memorial Fund" and sent to John Barber at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Dhan Gurung - Chairman

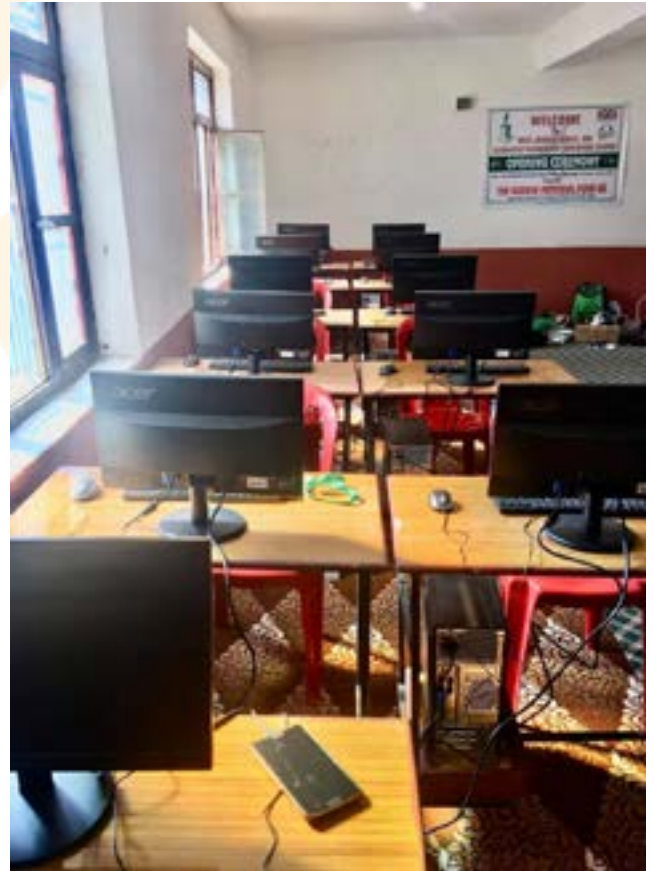
The Gurkha Memorial Fund UK

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

Mr John Barber,
34 Julian Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5HW
Email barberjd49@gmail.com
Tel: 07967 345901

or **Mr Dhan Gurung**
email: dgurung5@hotmail.com
Tel: 07861 697606

or **Mr Ray Johnson**
email: rdjohnson2020@outlook.com
Tel: 07968 290352.



FOLKESTONE CHARITY
10 Kilometer COASTAL WALK

DATE : 4th May 2024
On Saturday at 10:30AM
Location : BANDSTAND The LEAS,
FOLKESTONE, KENT CT20 2EB

Organised By
THE GURKHA MEMORIAL FUND
Folkestone, Kent(UK) | Estd : 2009
UK Registered Charity No. 1137393

In Support of the provision of
Computer Technology Education
to schools in impoverished areas
of Nepal and Local Community.

Please Show Your Support & Contact
Mr. John Barber | Email : barberjd49@gmail.com
Mob. 07967345901
Mr. Ray Johnson | rdjohnson2020@outlook.com
Mob. 07968290352
Mr. DHAN GURUNG | gmfdhan@gmail.com
Mob. 07861697606

Donation £10

You can donate By Cash, Cheque or BACS to
The Gurkha Memorial Fund, NatWest Bank
Account No. 47201290. Sort Code : 52-41-42

"Card payments will be accepted on the day".
A wristband and water will be provided to all participants.

Login
www.gurkhamemorialfund.org.uk

Update on the race:

I am absolutely thrilled to announce that the Folkestone Coastal 10K has been honoured with the prestigious title of Best Charity Sports Event 2023 – South East England in the esteemed Corporate Visions Global Business Awards.

<https://www.corporatevision-news.com/winners/folkestone-coastal-10k/>

This recognition is a testament to the unwavering dedication to making a positive impact in the community through sports and charity.

Event race Director and organiser Ray Johnson said, "I am deeply grateful for this recognition and truly delighted of the remarkable achievement, which reflects the hard work and passion of everyone involved. It's an honour to see the event making a difference in the community, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to support worthy causes through sports."

Visit our website to find out more about this award winning event.

www.folkestonecoastal10k.co.uk

Local winner of Rotary Young Chef continues to show flair and creativity in other competitions

Stanley Stafford, who attends The Harvey Grammar School, won the Local Heat of Rotary Young Chef for the second time in November 2023, despite only being in Year 8 and amazed the judges with his skills and talents in the kitchen.

This win meant that Stanley would progress to the District Competition in January and represent Folkestone, Channel, Hythe and Romney Marsh Rotary Clubs in Canterbury, where he once again displayed excellent technique, coming third.

This place on the podium ensured Stanley's progress to the South East District Cluster competition held in Havant, Hampshire recently where he gained 5th place against strong opposition.

His menu choices were, Hidden egg yolk ravioli with 'Nduja oil . Grapefruit drizzle cake with Chantilly cream.

Stanley continues to show flair and creativity beyond his years and the four local Rotary Clubs are incredibly proud of all that he has achieved , and we are also grateful that he represented us to this high level of competition. *Well done Stanley.*



James still peddling 'the long ride' for charity

Bexhill Rotary's President James Slinn (pictured) is still peddling away on 'The Long Ride' to raise money for DISC Dementia Support and The Sara Lee Trust with the aim of achieving 2,500 miles on his bike by the end of June this year.

In this quest he added another 90 miles on the 8th, 9th and 10th of March when he visited South Lincolnshire. It was bright and breezy when James rode out from his hotel in Spalding on Saturday the 9th over to the house of Graham Dawson, a Bexhill Rotarian until recently, a distance of 13 miles. James and Graham did a 24 mile round trip towards the Wash, with James returning later to his hotel completing 50 miles for the day.

It was a cold and rainy Sunday the next day when, as James puts it, "Any sane person would be engaged in activities indoors, but having journeyed to the flatlands of South Holland to cycle, that's exactly what I and some fellow cyclists did." Another 40 miles was completed despite the awful weather to round off what turned out to be a memorable trip.

In summing up James said, "Donations were pressed in my hand when I visited Spalding Rotary Club's Charter Night on Friday the 8th, and adding more miles to my total in an interesting and colourful part of the country."

At the end of March James has put 1,350 cycling miles behind him and raised in the region of £1,500 of valuable funds for DISC Dementia Support (www.discdementiasupport.org) and the Sara Lee Trust (www.saraleetrust.org) – both local charities



perform incredible work giving families of people suffering from life ending conditions of dementia and cancer.

PLEASE DONATE TO HELP JAMES RAISE MORE FUNDS
(details below)

James's fundraising initiative has already reached a healthy total BUT James still needs much help, 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'

Whilst James is peddling away, he really is grateful for any donation you can make as ALL monies collected will go to DISC Dementia Support and The Sara Lee Trust.

BLEED CONTROL KIT INSTALLATION

Potentially life-saving equipment has been installed on Sidley High Street, Bexhill.

Working with Carl Scott of Project Youth (www.projectyouth.co.uk) the Rotary Clubs of Senlac and St Leonards have jointly funded the installation of a Bleed Control Kit which, in an emergency, can be used to stem the control of blood until professional help arrives.

The kit is designed to be used following a stabbing incident but can also be used following any incident which results in a loss of blood. The cabinet is key-pad controlled and the code is available from Sussex Police and local business premises. Carl Scott, the founder of Project Youth, said, "Project Youth is an intervention project that works with vulnerable children. We mentor and run school workshops targeting subjects which young people face on a daily basis whether that be county lines, gangs, knife crime, bullying and safer use of social media.

Alongside this we were the first in Sussex to install catastrophic bleed control cabinets which we went into partnership with via Sussex police Op safety. Up to date we have installed 15 cabinets across the whole of Sussex with many more to come over the next year.

We'd like to thank Rotary for their support through purchasing a cabinet which we have now installed in Sidley High Street. We hope that none of these kits are ever used but in the case that they are they could potentially save someone's life."



Carl Scott, 2nd right, with members of Senlac and StLeonards Rotary Clubs



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



Rotary on a recruitment drive to serve its community



Retired chef Geoff Shorman has joined the Rotary Club of Eastbourne, as it embarks on a new recruitment drive.

Geoff, pictured left being welcomed by club president Alan Langley, is the latest recruit to a group hoping to expand membership following the closure of sister club, The Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour, after more than 12 years serving its area.

Rotary is an international organisation whose purpose is to bring together like-minded people to provide humanitarian services within the local community. Rotary has come a long way over the years and is no longer a formal organisation open only to businessmen. All are welcome to join and there is little formality, no dress code and no attendance expectations.

Since 2017, the Eastbourne club has raised £60,000 which has been distributed to organisations, all of whom help to improve the lives of local people. Additionally, in its centenary year in 2022, members raised £100,000 to help the homeless. The club's biggest annual event is Alone at Christmas, where a free lunch and party is provided

for up to 100 people who would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone.

There is a busy social side to the club, too, with members enjoying wine tasting events, tenpin bowling and quiz nights, alongside the newly inaugurated Eastbourne Skittles Championships, held at Saffrons sports club.

"It is disappointing that an area such as Sovereign Harbour no longer has a rotary club on its doorstep," said membership chair, Chris Dye. "But we have already taken over the role of sponsors and mentors for the RotaKids Club at Haven Junior School and are exploring projects with St Catherine's College. We are keen to expand that involvement and are currently looking to outreach further into the area."

If you would like to attend or have any questions about the worldwide rotary movement, please email christopherdye180@gmail.com or check out www.eastbournerotary.org.uk



FAVERSHAM FAMILY BIKE RIDE

a Rotary Club of Faversham event

Sunday 12th May 2024
Start 10am



Kesson
PHYSIOTHERAPY

@favershambikeride
favershambikeride.org



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

ROTARY CHARITY CONCERT ANNOUNCED

Ashford Rotary's President, Renate Beerling says: "I am delighted to announce that one of my fundraising initiatives this year will be a concert in Ashford on 22nd June in aid of my chosen charities. I am a great supporter of the Ashford Samaritans and of the cancer charity Myeloma UK.

"The whole Club is supporting the event as will other local Clubs and many of our friends and families. St Mary the Virgin Church in Ashford town centre is a beautiful venue for our three talented musicians."

Performers

Mark Underwood graduated with a first from the University of Sydney, later settling in England after further flute study in London. He has performed internationally as a soloist and ensemble musician.

Carol Anne Wells studied piano, oboe and singing at the Royal College of Music, winning prizes and several scholarships for further piano study prior to an international career.

Bryan Gipps has been Director of Music at St Mary's Church for 8 years. He has played for services in Lincoln, Canterbury, Gloucester, St Albans and Salisbury Cathedrals. He is a Tutor for the Royal School of Church Music.

Music performed includes pieces by Faure, Chaminade, Bartok and Irish Dances and Folksongs.

Booking:

www.jumblebee.co.uk/ashfordrotarycharityconcert

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

Rotary International is one of the largest service organizations in the world with over

1.4 million members whose motto is "Service before Self" If you would like to be involved in support of good causes locally and internationally, search for our website www.ashford-kent-rotary-club

Contact email: ashford.rotary.1120@gmail.com



Presents a Charity Concert For Ashford Samaritans and Myeloma UK

Saturday 22nd June 2024 at 7.30 pm
at St Mary The Virgin Church
Ashford Town Centre TN23 1QG



Three fabulous artists in the stunning surroundings of St Mary's Church will perform on flute, alto flute, piano, piccolo and organ



Mark Underwood graduated with a first from the University of Sydney, later settling in England after further flute study in London. He has performed internationally as a soloist and ensemble musician.



Carol Anne Wells studied piano, oboe and singing at the Royal College of Music, winning prizes and several scholarships for further piano study prior to an international career.



Bryan Gipps - Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Ashford since January 2017. He has played for services in Lincoln, Canterbury, Gloucester, St Albans and Salisbury Cathedrals.

Booking: £20 per head

Book online: www.jumblebee.co.uk/ashfordrotarycharityconcert
or use QR code

Email: ashfordrotary1120@gmail.com

Enquiries: 01233 712150

Licensed bar provided

The Ashford Rotary Club Trust is a registered Charity in the United Kingdom number 1011388



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



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

ALAN IN AUSTRALIA



Alan Young, 76, from Eastbourne is scared of heights...

But he has conquered those fears to complete the Burrawa Climb over the Sydney Harbour Bridge. That's 440ft above sea level.

Alan was in Sydney with his family to meet his daughter who is on a Gap year travelling around SouthEast Asia and Australasia.

His incentive was to raise money for charity, sharing the monies raised between Macmillan Cancer Support and Rotary's Polio Foundation.

Both are close to Alan's heart. He is a volunteer car driver with South Central Ambulance Service taking patients to and from hospital, many of whom are going for cancer treatment.

And his grandmother suffered from Polio. Alan is a member of Eastbourne AM Rotary Club, and Rotary's mission is to eradicate polio.

Alan said: "It is an experience I will never forget. I am absolutely terrified of heights but I was determined to do this with my family.

"I had to seek medical approval because of my age but once I was up there it was the most amazing experience of my life. "I'm very proud of what I have achieved - and most importantly, I am helping two very deserving charities." Anyone can be a part of the fight to end polio and have their donation to Rotary matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

So far, Alan has raised more than £1100. You can still donate - go to www.justgiving.com/page/Alan-Young-170954587997

Edenbridge & Westerham Rotary

Inaugurated by Westerham Rotary Club nearly twenty years ago, the Westerham Fair on the Green immediately became a popular and well-attended annual event.

It was the brainchild of Rotarian Peter Stapleton, who set it up and ran it almost single handed for the initial years. It is now a joint project organized by Zena Belton (pictured at last year's Fair) on behalf of Rotary in conjunction with Visit Westerham and The Westerham Society. The event incorporates "Beating the Bounds" - an ancient tradition based on the need for inhabitants to know the extent of their land, before the days of maps. A spokesperson for The Westerham Society and Westerham Town Partnership says "We are delighted to welcome families, groups, friends and visitors to join the residents of Westerham in checking our boundaries are still in place! Residents and visitors can explore our wonderful countryside and enjoy the views and the spring weather."



This year the Fair will be held on Westerham Green on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May. It will feature all the usual favourites – lots of produce and charity stalls, live music throughout the day, games for the children and of course the ever-popular Punch and Judy.

Good and interesting speakers are the mainstay of traditional Rotary Clubs who favour a meal followed by an interesting talk once or twice a month. Edenbridge and Westerham Club did not need to look far for their last guest speaker; he lives next door to Rotarian Mike Cottrell. Mike brought Kit Kaberry (pictured with President Brenda) along to tell the club about the charity which he supports as UK fundraiser – Rhino Ark. Based in Kenya, the charity's aim is to balance the needs and protection of endangered species while ensuring that native animals do not harm the livelihood of neighbouring farmers. The installation and monitoring of



electric fencing is one project undertaken on a very large scale, such that wild animals enjoy a long and natural life while local residents live in peace with nature.

"Keep it local" has been the fundraising mantra for President Brenda Risdon in her year of office. Although significant donations have been made to Rotary Foundation, The Ripple Effect, Rhino Ark and others, notably to help Ukraine at war, more attention than normal has been made to supporting local charities, including Citizens Advice, Porchlight, West Kent Debt Advice and social café The Bridges Centre. "The problems associated with loneliness, homelessness and debt are all around us," said Brenda.

"Let's do everything we can to help our local community." With a couple of months to go Brenda is pleased to see that her personal target of £5,000 in donations will be easily exceeded by the end of the Rotary year in June.



Recognising community support for the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh



Earlier in January this year the Club held a celebratory event as a gesture of thanks to the many volunteers who helped out with our successful sleigh runs in December 2023.

Recently the Club recognised two of those volunteers who made a special contribution. John Angliss of JPA Services donated a lot of his expertise and time to completely refurbish our sleigh. During the sleigh runs both John and Dean Miller, who runs The Plough, New Romney, were willing volunteer drivers to ferry the sleigh and Father (and occasionally Mother) Christmas around the Romney Marsh area.

John and Dean were accompanied by their respective partners, Pam and Becky, to the special evening where they were presented with certificates commemorating their induction as Friends of the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh.

The picture shows Club President Mark Singfield flanked by Dean (on Mark's right) and John (on Mark's left). The Club is very appreciative of the contributions made by John and Dean as without their support we would not have been able to have our successful sleigh runs.

The celebration event also marked a visit by fellow Rotarians from the Hythe Club. We were pleased to welcome David Paton and six of his fellow Hythe Rotarians for what was a very enjoyable evening of fellowship.

Quiz night - on Saturday 13 April 2024 the Club held a quiz at the New Romney Bowls Club, the proceeds of which will go to supporting local charities in our area. The event was organised by Trevor Harrison, the Club's Treasurer, who was

ably supported on the night by his wife Penny.

The event was well attended by 88 contestants making up 16 teams consisting of Rotarians, family and friends. The event was closely contested with the winning team Marshmallows (115.5 points) pipping Rotary Mower to second (114.5 points), Full steam ahead came a creditable third (111 points).



The winning team receiving their prizes from Club President Mark Singfield.

The Club would like to thank all those that attended the evening and also New Romney Bowls Club for providing the venue and staff who looked after everyone on the night. The event raised £700 which the Club will use to support local charities.

News from Tonbridge Rotary



Volunteers taking part in a litter picking operation in the centre of Tonbridge on 4th April included Tonbridge Rotary Club Members, Friends and helpers supporting the club.

Organised by the Environment Agency and the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP), the event was scheduled to be a river cleaning operation, but despite being lowered for the occasion by the Environment Agency the Medway was in flood and rendered inaccessible by recent heavy rainfall. Nothing daunted, over 30 volunteers including members of Maidstone Canoe Club, Sainsbury employees, helpers from MVCP, and a party of 10 put together by Tonbridge Rotary collected copious amounts of litter from the Medway River bank near Tonbridge Town Lock, the Sovereign Way area, and land by the Botany stream.



Wes Dadson was welcomed by the club when he was admitted to membership on 14th March. The Objects of Rotary were read by Valentina Waters, who was one of the three people to join the club in February. Wes has wide experience of the building trade, to which he provides multi-skilled services. Tonbridge Rotarians also welcomed the third married couple to join the club when they were invested on 11th April. Paul Buttery is Site Manager at Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School and his wife Jackie is Human Resources Director at London law firm Travers Smith LLP. The Principles of

Rotary were read by Ian Waters and President Peter Conetta conducted the investiture. Six new members have joined Tonbridge Rotary Club in the past few weeks, and further arrivals are expected.



Over £2,000 has been donated by Tonbridge Rotary Club to the Air Ambulance Kent Surrey & Sussex Charity's "Buy it for Life" fundraising appeal for the purchase of a helicopter to help save even more lives across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Up to now KSS has leased its second air ambulance, but the charity has calculated that owning, rather than leasing, will save almost £500,000 per year and enable the service to fly an extra six hours per day. Launched on 2nd April, the appeal is aiming to raise the final £1 million needed to buy the helicopter by the end of May. KSS is offering supporters of the appeal donating more than £100 the chance to have their name carried on the underside of the helicopter, and the £2,150 given by Tonbridge Rotarians has secured a place for their club on the new air ambulance.

Tonbridge Rotary Club has decided to donate the proceeds of their Quiz Night on 11th May to assist a fellow Rotarian buy a second-hand Ambulance and drive it to Ukraine to help the war effort.

The Ambulance will be packed with medical supplies many of which have been donated. He will travel in a convoy of 4-5 UK ambulances and once delivered the drivers will return to the UK by bus and plane. Because the trip is imminent and bookings for the Quiz night now exceed 100, the governing council of Tonbridge Rotary has already transferred £500 to the cause as an advance payment.

An update from Lula Belinfante, Possibilities Lead, SeeBeyondBorders, Cambodia.

"I am delighted to share some photos of the tablets and projector screen in action.

Earlier this month, 4 Master Mentors and 12 Mentors participated in a workshop in Srei Snam District, Siem Reap Province. During the workshop, they learned how to use digital mentoring resources and technology to provide effective maths and literacy mentoring to 40 teachers from 11 primary schools. Thanks to generous support from the Tonbridge Rotary Club, we equipped 3 mentors with brand-new tablets. We provided a projector screen for our teacher development centre where training regularly occurs. These tools are making a huge difference!"



Porchlight is one of President Peter Conetta's chosen charities for his Presidential year. Following a donation of £1,000 in January 2024 it was a pleasure for the club to send a further £2,000 to Porchlight.

Kate Boulding, Porchlight's Community Fundraising Manager said: "This gift is very timely as we have just launched a Housing First project in Tonbridge. Housing First is helping to break the cycle of homelessness among people with the most complex needs by moving them straight into a home of their own. With stable accommodation and wraparound support, they will, in their own time, start to recover and make positive choices about how they live their life.

This generous donation from the club will contribute towards the Housing First welfare fund, which aims to:

- Set up and furnish the accommodation to help clients feel safe and settled as quickly as possible.
- Support clients to further their career or education and ensure they secure a sustainable income whether this be through benefits or work.
- Tackle isolation with fun and healthy activities and provide clients with the opportunity and encouragement to create new support networks when they move on from Porchlight's services.

The fund could provide a variety of items, including:

- Essential furnishings such as carpet, white goods, electrical items and furniture for clients moving into a new, empty property from the street or sofa-surfing
- A welcome pack of basic household necessities such as food, crockery, toiletries, cleaning products, bedding, towels and clothes to help clients settle into their new home
- A birth certificate (or other proof of identity) which is needed to access benefits or to register with a GP
- Training courses, and additional books, stationery or other resources to help clients further their education and gain qualifications
- Travel passes for job interviews and medical appointments
- Recreational activities, such as gym or sports memberships or cinema trips, helping clients improve their health, wellbeing, confidence and social skills

The Housing First team are currently working with 10 clients in the area and will be so grateful for the fund so they can assess what essential items the clients might need and source them."

Captain Peter J.D. Russell – An Appreciation

The Members of the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh were saddened to hear of the death recently of Peter Russell, one of the Club's founding Members. We shall miss him.

Peter was born in Folkestone in 1934 and when not at sea, lived most of his life in the area including Dymchurch where both Peter and his late wife Sally became well known and enthusiastic members of the community. They took part in many local and national fundraising events including R.N.L.I. lifeboat appeals and the biannual Day of Syn at Dymchurch. Peter was one of the founder members of the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh formed in 1968 becoming club President for the first time in July 1973.

During the first half of 1982 Peter and Sally took a group of four young people on a Rotary Group Study Exchange to Idaho, USA. On his return from the exchange Peter was plunged straight into being President for a second time. He always supported the many events that the Rotary Club took part in and when the contact with our friends at Gelsenkirchen Buer Rotary Club was established Peter was an enthusiastic supporter and visited on many occasions. He was a strong supporter of ShelterBox and club members remember watching in awe as he along with others tried to assemble the ShelterBox itself for the benefit of many interested members of the public as well as ourselves! Peter continued to be a very loyal member of the club until his health started to deteriorate in the late 2010's. However, his loyalty to the club was no better demonstrated than when Covid came along preventing face to face meetings when Peter was one of those who regularly attended meetings on Zoom.

For many years Peter was a pilot for Trinity House taking ships to and from Dungeness to Gravesend. He would often mention that when the shipping lanes were such that the



large ships came in close to Dungeness beach he would go out in the pilot tender and have to scale up a ladder at the side of the ship to get on board and take over as pilot. Oh how Health and Safety would have changed that. Outside of work he was a very talented artist especially his many marine portrayals of ships and shipping which formed so much of his maritime life. He also had published in 2011 his autobiography "Unplanned Passage" which many of us have read. When he retired he maintained his maritime interest including being a member of the Maritime Society and a supporter of the Sea Cadets and of course his membership of Rotary International.

Peter's family have asked that any donations should be sent either to the Marine Society and Sea Cadets (MSSC); The Mission to Seafarers or The Rotary Club of Romney Marsh.

The links to these pages are shown below

MSSC <https://www.ms-sc.org/donate>

The Mission to Seafarers

https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/donate

Romney Marsh Rotary

https://www.romneymarshrotary.co.uk/donate

More news from Faversham-Car Treasure Hunt



A total of 33 members, family & friends recently enjoyed a car treasure hunt arranged by Mandy & Alan. Although not designed as a fund-raiser, a surplus of £76 will be donated to Foundation, the Rotary Charity.

Thanks to David KM for the maps which participants were given. There were 12 highlighted villages and various questions

about each village, but first the anagrams of the village names and to be unscrambled! For example, "did not dong" became Doddington and "grin we ate leg" turned into Wilgate Green. Only then could they decide on the route to take.

Questions ranged from the straightforward – How many windows are on the front of the windmill in Throwley Forstal? Answer 5 – to the obscure – Which number will stop you skidding in Painters Forstal? Answer SW 307 (on the KCC grit box).

And then there were the bonus questions which we were assured we would find the answers to en route! For example – When should you be aware of toads? Answer – January to April (see traffic warning sign at Kennaways).

Not everyone took the most direct route between the villages. Some were heard to say that they'd driven down lanes they'd never seen before, but all returned safely for a well-earned cup of tea and cakes.

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.

An event for everyone 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/
Entries are also welcome on the day.

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



Maidstone Riverside Swim Relay exceeds fundraising expectations



The Riverside, Demelza and volunteer team

Sunday 17th March saw the running of the 4th charity Swim Relay event by Rotary Club of Maidstone Riverside beat expectations to raise over £25,000 for local charities.

After a covid-induced gap of 5½ years since the previous event it felt very much like starting all over again with the last of the previous 3 events having run in 2018 and the need to re-introduce the concept and try and re-ignite interest from the many teams who had previously taken part.

Swim Relay was the brainchild of Rotarian Clive Bradburn back in 2015 and was originally run in support of the Children in Need campaign. Like all success stories, it was a simple idea that just needed an organised and motivated approach. It involved taking over the swimming pool in Maidstone Leisure Centre and recruiting teams from local charities, schools and sports clubs to take it in turns to swim as many lengths as they could in relay over a 30 minute period.

Teams and individual swimmers raised money through sponsorship with half of the money going to the Children in Need appeal and the remaining half being retained by the participating teams for their own charities or club funds. That initial event went well and, having established a successful formula, it was decided to run it regularly in future years. So 2016 saw the second iteration followed by a gap and then a third event in 2018. The 2018 event saw a record 42 teams taking part. Back then, Just Giving was a relatively new concept and sponsorship was done in the traditional way with paper sponsor forms and competitors having to physically collect the money pledged from their donors, report it and transfer it to the Riverside account for distribution to the charities.

Overall these first 3 events raised in the region of £20,000 collectively, although the exact number would never really be clear.

Fast forward 5 years and it was agreed that a new team would support Clive in re-introducing the event but that, whilst the concept still held good, it would need some changes to bring it up to date and make it more manageable.

With the decision taken in May 23 to proceed with it, a Spring 2024 date was agreed on. That counted out Children in Need, which takes place in November and so it was agreed to approach and partner up with local charity Demelza Children's Hospice who readily accepted the suggestion. As well as giving it some local focus, Demelza also brought some much-needed expertise in terms of setting up teams through Just Giving pages to make the fund-raising effort more accessible. They also pledged some volunteer support; important as the 5 year gap had seen club membership numbers dwindle.

With planning starting in May and a website developed and eventually being signed off in the early autumn the team were in a position to start marketing with everything being channelled through the website. Using existing relationships with local charities, schools, sport clubs, businesses and other organisations the event started to take shape as Christmas approached although very little



Lane recorders counting lengths

was confirmed. So, we went into January 2024 full of hope and the weight of having committed to a big event but with no money yet raised and a small handful of teams having expressed an interest. The following weeks saw an intensive effort to attract teams. Once the teams were signed up they could then be supported in setting up their own Just Giving fundraising page through the event website and then money would start to come in. At least that was the plan... It took a few weeks for things to really start rolling but when they did they accelerated and by the end of February we actually started to believe that we might be able to get somewhere near the 42 team record from the previous event.

As the event drew closer it became clear that it was going to be a real success and on the day, with almost all club members attending and the support of Demelza and club-generated volunteers we were able to run an event that not only raised considerable sums for local charities but also provided the opportunity for individuals to face some personal challenges, not least of which was a 7 year old doing her first ever length of a full-sized pool and raising over £1000 singlehandedly. What was most striking was the diversity of swimmers, from young and old, disabled, some needing assistance, to families, clubs, and schools. Every swimmer was awarded a medal and a competitive element was included with trophies for the most lengths swum by a single team and the most money raised by a single organisation. Apart from the competitive element, the joy of just seeing the smiles on the children's faces when they complete a length was reward in itself.



The Sutton Valence School winning 'Most lengths Swum' team with Trophy and Helen Grant MP

We ended up with 47 teams, just 1 short of the maximum capacity, over 200 swimmers representing 23 local charities, schools, clubs and other organisations and over £25000 raised. Finance to cover the running costs was raised through sponsorship by a range of local businesses leaving all of the event sponsorship proceeds available for charitable distribution. The event was opened by Cllr Gordon Newton, the Mayor, and trophies were awarded by Helen Grant MP at the end.

Decisions are yet to be made regarding timings and frequency of future events but, as in the original 2015 event, now that we know we have a winning formula it will be relatively straightforward to run it next time we do. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, donors, swimmers and everyone else who helped make the event such a success.



The Sutton Valence School winning 'Most lengths Swum' team with Trophy and Helen Grant MP

Bexhill Rotarians learn about levelling up

Bexhill Rotarians were treated at their meeting on 2nd April to a talk about the Levelling Up funds that Bexhill as a town is going to receive from guest speaker, Dr Anne Rathbone (pictured), who is the Levelling Up Partnership Manager at Rother District Council.

In a fascinating presentation Anne described the several different funds that we in the town will be hearing about. These funds come through the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The main funds are:

1. The Levelling Up Fund granted funding to the De La Warr Pavilion and Sidley for building improvements and a community centre in Sidley.

2. The Levelling Up Partnership projects funding was reported in social media and local press recently. This is for a range of projects in organisations, support for business development and tourism.

3. 'Long Term Plans for Towns' is a 10 year funding scheme of up to £19 million for Bexhill, but what this is actually spent on will be decided by a Town Board consisting of the local MP, and representatives of the County, District and Town Councils, the Police & Crime Commissioner/Sussex Police, the health sector, and the education sector.

Anne went on to say that the DLUHC aim for the Long Term Plan for Towns is to support improvements in three main themes – Safety & Security, High Streets and Heritage and Regeneration, and Transport & Connectivity. Total



capital funding provisionally allocated to Bexhill amounts to £14,936,000 over the 10 years on an endowment basis. Bexhill Town Board will be responsible for making decisions on a 10 year vision and the first 3 year investment plan by 1st August this year. Rother District Council will be the accountable body for the funding responsible to DLUHC for legal and finance compliance, and managing the finances and contracts as decided by the Town Board.



Anne finished by answering a wealth of questions which certainly showed that the Rotarians were truly absorbed by this subject and how it will benefit Bexhill. This was followed by a vote of thanks from Bexhill Rotary's President James Slinn.

A Quiz for Mary's Meals

Faversham Rotary Club recently held a quiz evening at Faversham Golf Club to raise funds for Mary's Meals.

The quiz had a musical theme, involving identifying pieces of music as well as recognising images of "musical" people. For the final round, the participants had to name several different singers who had all recorded 'A White Christmas'. That round is still being talked about!

The amount raised was just over £400, which will provide a daily meal for 20 children for an entire school year.

Many Rotarians will be familiar with Mary's Meals, a charitable organisation that operates in 18 countries world-wide providing meals to more than 2 million children.

It sets up community-run school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

The idea is a simple one that works. The projects provide one daily meal in a place of learning to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty. There's lots more information at www.marysmeals.org.uk



VISIT FROM THE RNLI

On Wednesday 10th April, Senlac, St Leonards Rotary Club had a visit from Annette and Paul from the RNLI Association who gave an excellent talk about the RNLI.

They discussed the formation of the RNLI and what it had achieved over the years and what its plans are for the future. The talk was well presented and everyone enjoyed it, and many of us learned something new.



Sidcup Rotary Club Sponsors a van for Bexley Music

The contribution of music to language development in infancy and to mental and physical well-being throughout life is well recognised.

Whether it is by providing bursaries for disadvantaged children, donating instruments, supporting mentors for young musicians on tour, collaborating in the production of charity concerts and the biennial Rotary Young Musician of the Year locally, or the personal involvement of members in music education, Sidcup Rotary Club has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the Bexley music service and in particular with Bexley Music, the current music hub for Bexley London Borough and beyond.

On Wednesday 21st February, Julie Stanning, Head of Bexley Music, visited the Club and gave an enthusiastic presentation about the current work of the music service and likely future developments in response to the current government's desire to reorganise music hubs into larger regional entities.

Julie also showed members the video of the thrilled young Bexley Music Primary Choir members invited to sing at Buckingham Palace on the occasion of the King's speech at Christmas in 2023.

One element lacking in the armoury of Bexley Music, however, has been a dedicated vehicle to transport the instruments and equipment needed for daily teaching in schools and for the many performances of its choirs, ensembles and orchestras to different venues and on tour.

With the much-valued assistance of Steve Weal of Saunders Abbott who sourced and serviced it, Sidcup Rotary Club was able to help sponsor a van for the purpose. Julie expressed herself delighted with the acquisition which was already proving indispensable. She proudly showed members the vehicle sporting the Bexley Music livery and acknowledging the support of the Rotary Club of Sidcup.



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

Disclaimer

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