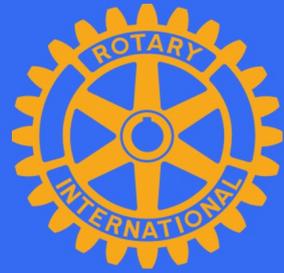




The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



June 2019

Gatehouse of Fleet – Our Away Weekend

21 Rotarian and their partners took part in our two days at the Cally Palace Hotel over the weekend of the 18/19th May. Leaving Hexham on the Friday, most of us met up at the Devil's Porridge Museum near Annan for a snack in their cafe before a tour of the museum itself. After an introduction by the chief guide, we were left to wander round and see how, due to a shortage of explosive for shells in WW1, a complete factory and assembly line for the manufacture of cordite was erected in just over 6 months. The factory stretched for 9 miles from Annan in Scotland to Longtown in England and was able to produce 800 tons of cordite – the propellant in shells and cartridges – a week. The workers were mainly women who mixed the “porridge” of cotton, nitroglycerine and other chemicals before this highly flammable mix was rolled out, kiln dried and cut into string like pieces – hence the name cordite – before being sent on to the filling stations elsewhere. A remarkable and interesting story. This small museum is well worth a visit if you are in the area.



We then made our various ways to the hotel at Gatehouse of Fleet. A beautiful building set in a large park with a lake and an excellent golf course. Some of us walked in the grounds before dinner, others went for a swim in the indoor pool before we assembled for pre-dinner drinks at 7pm. Dinner was served in the magnificent dining room, where we sat at two long tables separated from the other guests by a grand piano. Whilst gentle music is acceptable, this piano was much too loud and intrusive and detracted from an otherwise splendid meal of four courses. The venison was especially tender. Coffee and tea were served in the spacious drawing room before we retired for the night.



After an excellent breakfast on the Saturday morning, some elected to play golf or do their own thing, but most of us went for a walk led, as usual, by John Robinson. The walk took us through woodland down to a sheltered bay on the beach and back through a winding lane past a ruined church, under the A75 and back through the woods to the hotel. After the 6 mile walk, the afternoon was

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Technology Tournament

Two Rotarian's attended, judged and facilitated the excellent Rotary Technology Tournament on 22nd March 2019, in Sunderland. This huge task was organised by Chris Baylis and his team from Hadrian's Wall Rotary Club.

The over-riding message of this event was to have fun and enjoy doing something that is stimulating yet requires some fundamental skills of teamwork, leadership, planning, recording of actions and should tie in well with the STEM principles of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



The concept of the challenge was remarkably clear but was however very challenging to address successfully.

“A crane model needs to be built that can remotely lift a “radioactive” container from a derailed railway truck. It then needs to be brought down the line through a bridge and deposited safely”.

The event management required 6 judges across the 3 age groups, and there were 8 marshals for general coordination of the 21 schools. These were all Rotarians, and some of those were STEM Ambassadors. All the teams of pupils had their teachers present, but they were not permitted to assist. In fact, the teachers were encouraged to get together and do the challenge themselves!

All schools rose to the challenge and although only 3 teams could win there was much evidence of good teamwork and some very interesting concepts and innovations. Hexham's Q.E.H.S. won the first prize for the intermediate age group. Well done!

Jane and Neill

(Continued from page 1)

spent following more leisurely pursuits. Dinner was again at 7pm, another very good meal but accompanied by the piano until our complaints were heard and it stopped playing.

Sunday started with a leisurely breakfast, before we booked out of the hotel to make our various ways back to Hexham. A number of us took the opportunity to visit Threave Gardens at Castle Douglas. The gardens were in their springtime glory and well worth the stop.

An excellent weekend, helped by the weather which, although not very sunny, at least stayed dry. Our thanks to Roger and Andy for organising the hotel and all the activities.



JLD

Cleaning up Hexham

Hexham Rotary took part in the "Take Pride in Hexham – Clean Up" organised by the Hexham Community Partnership. Six of us took part, lead by Peter Trevelyan on the 2nd April. We were tasked with cleaning Beaumont Street and St Mary's Wynd over two and half hours starting at midday. Prior to meeting up, we had been given a very comprehensive Health and Safety Instruction together with information on protective clothing which would be issued to us. We assembled just before 12 at the Bowling Green and put on our yellow waistcoats and protective gloves. We then chose our implements which ranged from hand pickers, brooms, dust pans and brushes to trowels, scissors (for cutting notices off railings), sponges and buckets. We were also given a voucher for a cup of coffee at the Deli at No 4 and a badge in case we got lost!



We started at the top of Beaumont Street and worked our way down – mainly leaves and twigs on the Park side and cigarette butts on the other. St Mary's Wynd offered the biggest challenge and a large amount of litter was cleared up from there. We noticed a large number of litter bins on our way round and how careless people were of using them!!

We finished our stint in just under two hours and those of us with time to spare enjoyed our free coffee from the Deli which we drank sitting on a bench in the sun by the abbey church. (we carefully disposed of the cups in the adjacent bin.) The weather was quite kind to us – it only hailed once during the picking and once more as we finished our coffee.

JLD

Hexham Middle School (HMS) Careers Updating

Hexham Rotary was once again involved in a careers event at HMS to allow pupils to hear first hand about our careers - why did we choose them, what qualifications and skills did we need, what had we studied at school and why did we enjoy them?

We met 4 classes of pupils and spoke to 4 groups in each class - that's 16 groups in 2 hours! It was tiring but great fun. Thank you to Peter Oliver, Terry Robson, Neill Wylie and Jane Chalmers who took part.

Jane Chalmers

Kaye Mullen

We were delighted recently to welcome Kaye as a Rotarian into our Club.

Kaye has been married to Paul for 15 years, and they have a son Ben who is 13 and a keen cricketer and footballer. They have been living in Ryton for the last 10 years and have a dog, Bobbi, who is a 6 year old Boxer. Kaye's interests are reading, cooking and keeping fit – both in the gym and by dog walking.



Professionally, Kaye has been in financial services for over 30 years having joined Standard Life in 1988 and qualifying as a financial adviser in 1994. From 1998 she worked for Aviva based in the Newcastle Building Society branch offices for 5 years after which she and her husband set up their own practice, which they managed for 3 years. Paul was then offered an opportunity to work in Portugal whereupon they sold their business and moved abroad for a few years. Kaye took that time to look after their son Ben who was 2 years old when they left the country.

When they returned to the UK, Kaye also returned to financial services with Newcastle Financial Services working for 7 years in the Hexham branch of the Newcastle Building Society. Two years ago, she joined St. James's Place Sage Wealth Management and manages their new office in Priestpottle, where she covers all aspects of financial advice but specialises in retirement and inher-

itance tax planning.

B Massey

Rotary Walk – 25th April 2019

The plan was for a five mile walk, starting at 4.15pm; however, after over two weeks of sunny and settled weather, the forecast was for this to break at exactly 4.00pm on the 25th! Consequently, I suggested a delayed start for a shorter walk – the forecasters were one hundred per cent accurate as the heavens opened at precisely 4.00pm. Fortunately, the clouds cleared fairly quickly and when we met at the north end of Wall village later on, the sun had re-appeared.



Sixteen Rotarians and partners set off towards Brunton House and then up towards Planetrees, visiting a section of Hadrian's Wall, at the point where the width of the Wall clearly changes from three meters to two; then a steep uphill section to Crag House and on to the open plateau above Fallowfield with good views of Hexham and the Tyne valley. We circled round to Fallowfield farm and then down through the fields and the old lane back to Wall – a three and a half mile circuit – just as the rain started to fall again.

We met four more members at the Crown at Humshaugh where we all enjoyed an excellent meal.

John Robinson.

District Assembly Part 1

(when we hear what District plans for next year)

This year the District Assembly was split into two parts. The first part covering Foundation, International, Community and Youth was held at the Dryden Centre in Gateshead on the 2nd May. Andy Rigg, Sandy Rutherford, Neill Wylie and John Dumbrell attended from our Club. After an initial introduction by the current District Governor, Stewart Aitkin, the meeting was handed over to Jacqui Molyneux, the DG for the year starting on the 1st July.

Jacqui introduced the District Assembly and reminded us that it was important to have a representative at the second part on the 18th May when Membership and PR would be promoted. She then outlined her objectives for the year ahead, saying it was important for clubs to work more together and develop a team mentality. We should make more use of the RI Brand Centre to increase our impact with the public, expand our reach for new members, enhance our participation in events and adapt and innovate to meet our changing circumstances. Meanwhile we have much to offer potential younger members in networking, integrity and leadership. We have a new facility with a professional PR man available to help and it is important to let him know, well in advance, of suitable activities so that he can obtain PR cover. Every club should also strive to obtain a Presidential Citation in this coming year. The Citation comes from the President of RI and recognises the club's achievements over the year. We were also encouraged to make use of District help and to attend the 3 District Councils in the year.

We then had presentations given by the team leaders on International (Nitin Shukla), Community (given by Jacqui as Phil Hopper was away) and Youth (Lynne Ackland).

International. The main District emphasis is to support ShelterBox and the Wheelchair Foundation. On the latter, District hopes to fill a container with wheelchairs, (each cost £75) and ship them to a Rotary Club in Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa where they will be assembled and handed out to those in need. Milton Frairy is the leading light at RIBI on Wheelchairs. The assembly process also brings much needed job opportunities to the region. We were also offered help from a ShelterBox speaker who gave a short presentation on ShelterBox but emphasised its links with Rotary.

Community. The main focus is on "Humanity" and in particular the "Lets Hear" project where volunteers from local Rotary Clubs test the availability of loop systems for hearing aids in shops and public buildings in their area. An easy and cheap way of local involvement. We were also encouraged to be Community Volunteers with the Red Cross, help with the Games for the Disabled, Rotary Ride promoting Prostate Cancer awareness, and to help buy Defibrillators and support Young Careers.

Youth. We were encouraged to look at possibilities for starting Rotakids (ages 7-12), Interact (12-18) and Rotaract (18-30) Clubs; support Big Bang Fairs and look at Peace Advocacy. Peace work could consist of simply helping to heal conflict or bullying in schools not necessarily working at international levels. Keith Best is available to talk on this (he is very good). We were also encouraged to support RYLA and a very good presentation on RYLA was used to conclude the proceedings.

JLD

Hexham Queens Youth Theatre Production of "Salt" at Northern Theatre, Newcastle

A brilliant and talented group of teenagers performed the play "Salt" by Dawn King at Newcastle's Northern Theatre on 9th May 2019. Rotary made a donation to help this happen and Jane Chalmers and Neill Wylie went along as chaperones between the rehearsals and the performance. We were impressed by the standard of the acting and found ourselves totally drawn in to the story. The quality of the performance was excellent and entertaining, in absolute terms, not just because we were involved. Well done Queens Hall Youth Theatre and good luck in the selection to perform in London.

Jane Chalmers

RIBI Conference 2019

The weekend of 11/12 May was a busy one in Nottingham for RIBI. The annual Conference was held there from the Friday to the Sunday in the Royal Concert Hall. Jean and I booked in for the two days. Friday afternoon was taken up with registering and having a first look at the “Rotary Showcase”, an exhibition that used to be called “The House of Friendship” but the Showcase is a much better description as it highlights the work that Rotary has done round the world. The stands were mainly charities with the odd commercial stand selling Rotary items. The only snag with the Royal Concert Hall was that the Showcase was spread over three levels using the space outside the main auditorium where the plenary sessions were held. As the ceilings were not particularly high, it was difficult to get a picture that did justice to the event. Many of the stands boasted of their connections with Rotary and many had been started by Rotary Clubs. ShelterBox was there together with many other “Box” charities – Aquabox, Water Survival Box, Literacy Box, Shoebox, TradeAid and several others. Mercy Ships and the Wheel Chair Foundation were there together with Sand Dams, Disaster Aid and Life Straws with many stands showing the advances in water filtration. End Polio had a stand selling many items of clothing emblazoned with their logo and Matthews had a stand selling other Rotary items and badges. (Matthews are a commercial firm from Kent). Rotary itself was well represented with many free items available to promote membership and leaflets on New Generations, a Young Opportunities Pack and various handbooks.



On the Saturday morning we were in the main auditorium to hear Mercy Ships explain the work they do. Their hospital ship – African Mercy- anchors off an African Country and stays there for about 9 months providing a full hospital service to the locals and not only treating a wide range of conditions but also training the local doctors in the latest techniques. A short video brought home the excellent work done by the volunteer doctors, surgeons, nurses and helpers. This was followed by an equally good presentation by ShelterBox who emphasised the help provided by their Response Teams – also volunteers- and the training they receive. ShelterBox provides not only the ubiquitous

Box but also tailormade solutions for particular situations. They supplied Water and Shelter Kits for Malawi following the cyclone as they could not get into Mozambique.

The afternoon was spent listening to Polio Survivors and their difficulties today with PPS – Post Polio Syndrome – where many years after the initial attack, the virus causes more problems. We also heard the good news that we are still on course to eliminate Polio and innovative solutions are being used. For instance, on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border the migrant children are being inoculated every time they cross the frontier. The other good news is that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have extended their offer to match donations 2 to 1 for another three years, so this will continue to 2023. So far there have been only 18 cases this year compared with 350,000 in 1985.

Sunday morning was mainly concerned with Youth and featured the Senior and Intermediate Youth Speaks finals and the presentation of various awards before the Conference ended at lunch time. It was a good event and we were impressed with the presentations and the enthusiasm of all concerned.

JLD

Elspeth Straker

receives a Paul Harris Fellowship Award

On Monday, 13th May, we were entertained at lunchtime by Elspeth Straker who talked on her life in Northumberland. Her talk was titled "A Canadian Northumbrian or a Northumbrian Canadian".

Elspeth was, or is, a Canadian and met her English husband by chance in Canada. They settled in England and eventually moved to Corbridge where she has now lived for many years. Working with her late husband Henry who suffered from M.S., Elspeth raised funds for many charities that support disabled people. In 1990 she travelled to the North Pole to meet explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes. This trip helped raise cash for the Calvert Trust, which provides activity holidays for disabled people. Since her husband's death shortly afterwards, Elspeth has devoted a great deal of her time to raising funds for the British Red Cross. She has been a volunteer for the Red Cross for the last 25 years and after 4 years as chairperson of the Hexham committee took up the post of British Red Cross President for Northumbria in 2011.



In her role as President she has raised over £100,000 by personally organizing major musical events. On an even more personal level she has, with sponsorship, abseiled off the Tyne Bridge and zip lined across the River Tyne from the roof of the Baltic. Elspeth has built up many new relationships and nurtured existing relationships for the benefit of the Red Cross. She is held in very high esteem by all who know, both the outstanding performance of the Hexham committee and now the ongoing results in her role as President. I am profoundly grateful for the tremendous efforts Elspeth has made on our behalf. It is not only the financial assistance we value but also her ability to inspire others to become involved in the Red Cross.

At the end of her talk, our President presented her with a Paul Harris Fellowship Award in recognition of her outstanding voluntary work.

Calendar Girls Film Experience

The Rotary Club of Hexham offers the unique opportunity of listening to Tricia Stewart, one of the original Calendar Girls, on whose story the film is based, talk about her experiences, the subsequent play and now a musical, followed by a showing of the Calendar Girls film, starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters, together with a well-known cast.

There will also be an opportunity to ask Tricia questions. The event will take place at the Forum Cinema in Hexham on Friday June 21st at 6.15 pm (doors open at 5.30). Tickets are £15 each from Roy Dallison, tel 01434 608272; Hedley Novis, tel 01434 600992 or the Forum Cinema website.

Tickets are likely to be in short supply—our last event at the Forum sold out well before the performance—so book your seat early.



Future Events

We have an interesting speaker at most of our meetings and a full programme of events is published on our website at <http://www.hexhamrotary.co.uk/Future%20Events/Calendar-2.html>. The table below is an abridged version listing the main items of interest.

The programme for the next Rotary Year, which starts on the 1st July, for the first three months is shown below. Don't forget the talk and film on "Calendar Girls" and do book early.

Calendar Rotary Year 2019/2020

Our Calendar is listed below. The places a meeting is held is shown B= Beaumont Hotel, A=Abbey Restaurant. Items in **RED** are **Business or Special Meetings**, Items in **GREEN** are **outings or special events**. Items in **Blue** are **District events**. E is an evening meeting 6pm for 6.30 at the Beaumont or 7pm for 7.30 at the Abbey unless otherwise stated. Club Councils are held at the President's House at 5.30pm. Normal meetings are at lunch time at the Beaumont Hotel -12.30 for 12.45pm each Monday.

Month	Date	Speaker/Event	Subject/Remarks	Host
July				
	Monday 1	President's Handover		
E	Monday 8	Lambshield Garden	Private tour of followed by a pub supper	Brian Massey
	Sunday 14	District	Games for the Disabled, Eston Leisure Centre.	
	Monday 15			
	Tuesday 16	Club Council		
	Monday 22	Business Meeting		
EA	Monday 29			
Aug				
	Monday 5			
	Sunday 11	BBQ	Andy Rigg's Garden	
EB	Monday 12			
	Wednesday 14	District Council		
	Monday 19			
	Monday 26	No Meeting		
	Tuesday 27	Club Council		
Sept				
	Monday 2	Business Meeting		
EB	Monday 9			
	Monday 16			
	Monday 23			
EA	Monday 30	Michael Taylor	Seven Bridges on the Tyne	Michael Saxon
Oct				
	Friday 4-Sun 6	District Conference 2019	The Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton	

We Need Your Views

To keep our magazine alive and up to date, we need more articles from club members. It is your magazine - articles can be on any subject, local stories, review of a meal out or an interesting visit. Stories, especially with pictures, are most welcome. It is better to email the pictures but actual photos can be accepted and will be returned after being copied.

As you can see in this issue, there are topics ranging from a Food Bank to Star Gazing and the latest on Polio Eradication but the number of writers can be counted on one hand. We desperately need more articles on a diversity of subjects. Why not write about your favourite charity or your hobby or even suggestions of how the club might improve. We even accept articles from non—Rotarians.

We also need write ups of Rotary events, if you are involved in any aspect of Rotary, then let us know what you are doing. It might be helping children in school, giving time to a local charity or tidying up the town.

Send any items to me at dumbrelljl@btinternet.com.

John Dumbrell, Editor