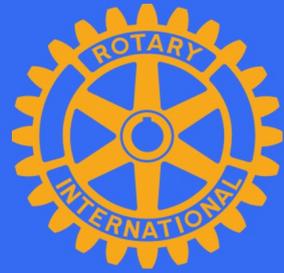




The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



August 2020

ROTARY ACTION GROUPS

Have you heard of Rotary Action Groups? This is a little known activity in Rotary but one that encompasses a great wealth of knowledge and experience.

Rotary Action Groups are independent, Rotary-affiliated groups made up of people from around the world who are experts in a particular field, such as economic development, peace, addiction prevention, the environment, or water and many other fields.

Action groups offer their technical expertise and support to help clubs plan and implement projects to increase our impact, one of Rotary's strategic priorities. This support includes helping clubs find partners, funding, and other resources. Action groups can also help clubs and districts prepare grant applications, conduct community assessments, and develop plans to monitor and evaluate their projects. Read more about these activities in the Rotary Action Groups annual report.

Anyone who wants to share their expertise to make a positive difference can join an action group, no qualifications are necessary. Only Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows can serve in leadership roles.

For more information go to www.rotary.org/actiongroups.

Contact a Rotary Action Group to:

Get expert advice on planning and implementing service projects, including those funded by Rotary Foundation district and global grants.

Connect with potential project partners, both within and outside of Rotary.

Get help fundraising and obtaining resources for projects.



Join a Rotary Action Group to share your expertise and make a difference in projects outside your club or district. To get involved, look at the link above and contact the action group you're interested in. Action groups cover over 25 different fields and, if there is not one that covers what you want, you can start your own. Almost all have their own acronym like "WASRAG" the Water and Sewage Rotary Action Group. A useful contact for any water project. All of them are extremely useful in finding partners for Global

Grants and any Global Grant is likely to cover the activities of at least one RAG.

JLD

Help the Hospice

Tynedale Hospice at Home is currently looking to recruit additional Volunteer Drivers to assist with its patient transport service. A description of what is required and an application form is online at <https://tynedalehospice.com/get-involved/become-a-tynedale-hospice-volunteer/>

If you have any questions about the role please contact Tynedale Hospice at Home directly on (01434) 600388. Thank you for your support with this – much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Cathy Bates MinstF(Cert), Senior Fundraiser

Not the Great North Run

On the afternoon of the 13th September, Hexham Rotary members are taking part in a walking marathon to raise money for the Tynedale Hospice and other Rotary causes. The event will comply with all the current social distancing and infection control measures and will take place on Tyne Green.

Those members of the club taking part will be seeking sponsorship from friends and relatives and it is hoped to raise over £1000. Anyone interested in sponsoring a walker should contact Hexham Rotary Treasurer on treasurer@hexhamrotary.co.uk

Given the high average age of the club, each walker is expected to walk for one mile. Start times will be staggered to ensure social distancing is maintained but it is hoped to complete the event well under the record time for a full marathon.

QEHS Building

Work continues apace on the renovation of the Hydro building and the construction of the new facilities behind it.

The tennis courts have been completed apart from the access path and the fencing but work has also begun on the massive retaining wall between the all weather sports pitches and the Hydro building. Here, due to the slope of the land, there is a large drop from the pitches to the ground level of the Hydro and 12m earth nails

have been inserted to hold back the bank which will be lined with stones and a retaining wall.

Work has also started on the Hydro building itself which is now swathed in scaffolding, while on its western side many of the adjacent buildings have been removed.

Work has also started on the entrance from Whetstone Bridge Road with an excavator starting to dig out the drive way to the eventual carpark.



We Continue Our Support to Local Charities Despite Covid 19

During Lockdown up to the end of June, £1,650 was raised by members through the Donations in lieu of Meals Fund. Club members donated the money they would have spent on Rotary meals and, as a result, donations of £550 have been delivered to each of three local charities: The West Northumberland Food Bank, Tynedale Hospice at Home and The Hextol Foundation.

All three welcomed the money as many of their other sources of income had dried up and all have thanked us. The note below to Brian Massey is an example of their responses.

“You kindly brought a cheque into the office for £550 representing monies raised by the Rotary Club of Hexham to support local charities which have suffered from the effects of the Coronavirus. Please pass on our thanks to the members at Hexham Rotary for supporting Tynedale Hospice at Home with this generous donation.

This has without doubt been a challenging time for the charity but the team at Tynedale Hospice at Home have pulled together and faced the challenges head on. All of our services have been available with minimum disruption since we went in to lockdown in March. We are building up good connections with local businesses who are stepping up to support events with sponsorship and helping us to raise our profile. Thank you again for your support - it is much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Cathy Bates (Senior fundraiser)”

Similar letters have been received from the Food Bank and Hextol

Well done and thanks to all our members who contributed their meal money

Help Required

We have received the request for help from the Hexham Community Partnership. Club Council would support closer liaison with them. We are looking for a club member to bring to life a relationship with HCP and make things happen. Can YOU volunteer. If so, please contact John Dumbrell.

“Volunteer energy is still needed to help the recovery of Hexham’s economy and all-round wellbeing and our collective skills are as useful and valuable as ever. Building on our experience with Hexham Community Together, we at HCP are growing a diverse range of volunteers - from 18 to 80+ who have skills to share and time to give.

We would like to work with you to attract more volunteers who might be happy to undertake a range of tasks throughout the town. For instance, at Hexham Community Partnership, we could not manage our large town events without the help of volunteers, many of whom also act as Town Hosts.

During the height of Covid we were busy across Hexham responding to requests for shopping, prescriptions, and various appeals for help. Our volunteers rose to the challenge magnificently and while the nature of the requests may change, we see the need for help continuing.

Our plan is to create an online Volunteer Hub that organisations in Hexham can ‘tap into’ when in need of volunteers. The hub will be a place where you can advertise all your volunteering opportunities and volunteers can search for volunteering roles, or simply contact you to offer their services going forward. So please let us know if you rely on volunteers, or if you are thinking about taking them on for the first time. It doesn’t matter whether you use volunteers regularly or occasionally, we’d like to help. If your organisation would like to be listed on the hub, please reply to this email with a contact name, number, preferred email address and details of what your organisation does/aspires to do and we’ll get back to you with the next steps.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Rachel Ladd, Communications and Tourism Officer, HCP

The Power of Rotary

I have been a member of my club for two years, but it was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that I learned what it truly means to be a Rotarian. When my state of Texas went into quarantine, our club president, Brandon Logan, set up a 'virtual happy hour' on Thursday evenings. It was amazing to see all of the friendly, smiling faces of my fellow Rotarians. We spent an hour catching up; and then our conversation turned to service, and what we could do to help during the pandemic.

Our club had adopted a local elementary school, the Martin Luther King Academy, for the 2019-20 Rotary year. We had already created a Rotary Reading Room at the school to provide a quiet place for the students to read and do homework. We also made improvements to the campus through a program we call Kingdom for Kids. We knew we could not abandon the school during this time of need. When we reached out to the school principal to ask how we could help, her answer was succinct. They needed:



Food

Access to food drives

School supplies.

It was in organizing an event to meet those needs that I learned about the power of Rotary. Our club had connection with the San Antonio Food Bank and the United Way. Within a week, we had a project confirmed and scheduled. We had offers of trucks, boxes,

and anything else we needed to run the food drive, and it all came from our members.

Three weeks later, we had 60 Rotarians, 10 other volunteers, and staff at the school ready for our first Saturday delivery. The plan included sorting food pallets dropped off by the San Antonio Food Bank in the parking lot of the school, creating separate stations for individual food items. Volunteers would then drive by each station while other volunteers loaded the items into vehicles.

We had a well-thought-out plan. But then 250 cars showed up, more than double the number we anticipated. Fortunately, our club has so many outstanding leaders that we were able to pivot in a short period of time and rearrange the drop off site, repacking food to feed as many families as possible.

Each family received meat, vegetables, fruit, non-dairy milk, bread, flour, and other staples. Through our third distribution, we have delivered over 100,000 pounds of food to serve approximately 5,000 people.

I knew our club was more than just a "lunch" club but I was amazed at how quickly we were able to come together to serve our community in such a meaningful way. I truly believe that when Rotarians unite in a mission, we can do anything.

Nathan Rizzo, Rotary Club of San Antonio, Texas, USA

A Short History of the Rotary Club of Hexham

This continues the story from our June edition

The Rotary Club of Hexham has always had close connections with the local paper, the Hexham Courant. Managing Director Ben Plummer was a founding member, his son Lynne is a Past President, as was his successor, Sandy Rutherford.

Two years for which the archives have produced a wealth of evidence are 1946 and 1947 as we have all the relevant Courant cuttings - and a lot of them there are! Smaller print and considerably fewer rival attractions allowed the paper to record local group's activities in greater detail than to-day. Incidentally the Courant's of the late 19th century's microscopic print reported Abbey Sermons and Local Council debates verbatim – a slowish reader could barely have finished one edition before the next week's landed on the door step! Back to 1946/47, every meeting was reported, with a synopsis of the talk and there were, at times, more than one a week. Originally the Club had met twice a month, but since 1939 meetings were held every Monday - a popular move from the outset.

There are several mentions made of a Rotary prize for “exemplary conduct and unselfish service, expressing the ideals on which the objects of Rotary are based” given to local school children. In July 1946, for example, Club President, R.W.Welch, with other Rotarians was at Hexham Modern School presenting the girls prize to Doreen Snowball for looking after her invalid mother and attending school assiduously. The 12th August meeting produced banner headlines “BLAME THE RATS FOR YOUR BREAD RATIONING”. The speaker, local Technical Officer, Roy Dedman of the War Agricultural Executive Committee inspired a long report of the damage done to our crops and food supplies by Britain's 40 million rats.

More banner headlines appeared in February 1947 - both above long reports. Both represent considerable 'coups' in securing prominent speakers. On the 10th, Mr. Harold Dunning of the Central Office of Information gave a “straight-from-shoulder” talk that there must be a breaking down of the present barriers to real co-operation between man and master throughout industry reading that “the workers must root out the communistic pockets of disruption, which, if left to grow, will destroy the workers themselves” must have produced an interesting mix of reactions among the Courant readers. A week later another Government official, Mr.T.I.Mardy Jones of the Ministry of fuel and Power lamented the drop in coal production; better conditions to attract more miners to the industry were essential to get back to peak production figures, as we still had reserves of coal for at least 600 years. One wonders what his thoughts might have been on observing the history of coal mining over the 60 years following his talk. After all this heady stuff, Rotarians were able to relax a bit on the 23rd with a talk on Transport in Malaysia!

1947 was also, of course, a momentous year for the Club as on 31st March it celebrated the 21st birthday since the foundation of the Interim Club. With a Dinner and Entertainment at the Abbey Hotel, which is now, of course, the Beaumont, so the 80th Anniversary of our Charter in 2006 saw us back at the “Abbey”. It was a pleasure to see Brown Windsor soup on that Dinner menu, as this tasty item has had its' unfair share of critics - some of whom might have felt that its' appearance on this occasion was taking 'Service Before Self' a bit too far. A beautiful souvenir programme was produced and the whole evening - 4 course meal, Dunelm singers and Charlton and Baty - Entertainers (names sound familiar?) cost 10s 6d.

To be continued

Sandy

Nature Corner

One of the advantages of Covid 19 is finding interesting places close to home for walks. We took advantage of one of the sunny days recently to combine some fishing in the South Tyne with a local walk. Despite the recent rain, the river was still very low and only yielded a couple of small trout! However the walk was much more productive and we stumbled on a stretch with hundreds of orchids. We are not experts but identified at least four different species, one of which is shown here.



We also spotted this butterfly or moth but have so far failed to identify it.

We also spotted this butterfly or moth but have so far failed to identify it.

JLD

Not What You Want to See



Himalayan Balsam is a pernicious imported weed that is destroying many river habitats. It is an annual that grows densely and crowds out the native plants. It loves damp river banks but as it is shallow rooted, it is easily swept away by high water allowing the flood to seriously erode the river bank. Native plants however have deeper roots and can bind the soil so it is not so prone to flood damage.

As Himalayan Balsam is an annual and shallow rooted, it can be easily be pulled up and destroyed before it has a chance to set seed. Is this an opportunity for us to help the local conservationists?

[If you are interested in joining a small social distanced working party please contact John D asap.](#)

When is a Bee not a Bee

Now is the time of year when there are plenty of bees in the garden. Many are the well known honey bee but there are also many other bees ranging from several species of Bumblebee to Mason Bees and Mining Bees and Cuckoo Bees but some are not quite what they seem to be.

There are several species of hoverfly that disguise themselves as bees like the one shown here.



Eristalis similis (Glass-winged Dronefly)

Pictures from the Past

George Robinson and fellow Rotarian Fred Tulip help out at the annual Duck Race held at Devil's Water Dilston.



Mike Saxon receives or presents the winners cup at the inter club sports night with Tynedale. But which year? and did we win?



Hexham hosted a Rotary Study exchange Group from New South Wales who visited the club in 1997

Stephen Middleton takes over from Peter Jewitt as club President but in what year?



INTRODUCING THE NEW AND IMPROVED **MY ROTARY** myrotary.org



An updated My Rotary that's faster, easier to navigate, and accessible on your mobile devices launches later this month. What can you expect from this improved site? Quite a bit.

Here are five ways the new My Rotary will make your job as a club officer a bit easier: Streamline accounts with ease. The updated registration process makes it possible to match existing records and eliminate duplicate accounts for the same person.

Quick access to your club pages. When a member signs in, their home menu will provide access to pages that display information about their club, including its finances, goals, and reports. As a club officer, you can easily update meeting information, add club officers, and make changes to your club's roster right from your homepage.

Add detailed meeting information. Not only can you add the time, place, and format of your club meetings, you can also list the many ways your club interacts. This level of detail makes the new meeting search capabilities more robust.

Find members and clubs quickly. Looking for a Rotarian you met at the Rotary International Convention? Thinking of visiting another club's meeting during your vacation? You can use My Rotary to search for a member or club. Member profiles may include a person's name, club, role, and contact information, depending on their settings. Club profiles, which are displayed on a map, include meeting times, locations, and the meeting language.

Secure your personal information. When you create your member profile, you determine what information you want to share and with whom.

Next week, the My Rotary: Club Administration course in the Learning Center will have how-to guides that will help you use the new My Rotary. If you don't already have a My Rotary account, create one now.

General Secretary John Hewko <RotarySupportCenter@rotary.org>

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, a walk 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 International visits to history but the 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. **Deadline for our September issue is the 24th August.**

John Dumbrell, Editor