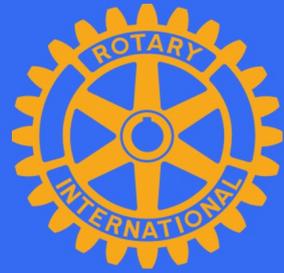




The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



June 2021

Hexham Rotary Helps Provide Oxygen for India

Hexham Rotary's Disaster Fund has rushed to help the appeal for oxygen in the Indian Covid-19 outbreak. An immediate £500 was sent to the British Asian Trust 'Oxygen for India' Emergency Appeal and this was followed up over the weekend by a further £1300 donated by Club Members.

The British Asian Trust, a Prince of Wales' Charity, has an emergency appeal 'Oxygen For India' to aid the deepening COVID-19 crisis in India. Rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths in India are rising at a hugely alarming pace, with India setting new world records for the daily rise in number of cases. India's hospitals are overrun, have stopped admitting patients and are running low on vital supplies and equipment including oxygen, leaving people helpless as they watch their loved ones die on stretchers outside the hospital doors. They have responded by thanking Hexham Rotary for their help.

The money will be used to send Oxygen Concentrators to India and our picture shows these being packed ready for despatch. Hexham Rotary is able to quickly respond to disasters around the world as they have established a Disaster Fund that holds money ready for any emergency and the ability to make quick decisions on how to provide aid. Anyone can contribute to this fund through our website at www.hexhamrotary.co.uk.

Over the past few years, the Disaster Fund has responded to floods, fires and other disasters, both natural and manmade around the world.

The fund has not only been used internationally but has also provided aid to disaster areas in the UK.

URGENTLY NEEDED



£830

HIGH-FLOW OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR TO HELP 550 OF THE MOST SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS



£450

LOW-FLOW OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR TO HELP 900 PATIENTS WITH BREATHING DIFFICULTIES



£50

WILL PROVIDE OXYGEN FOR 40 PATIENTS STRUGGLING TO BREATHE



Oxygen Concentrators being packed for shipment

Hand Cream to help Hexham Hospital (and beyond)

To thank the NHS for their work during the pandemic, we donated 200 jars of hand cream to the staff at Hexham Hospital.



Rotarian Brian Massey hands over the hand cream to Sister Helen Buxton and Lindsay Harrison

Hexham Rotary wanted to recognise the efforts of the staff at Hexham Hospital during the Covid -19 pandemic. Brian consulted with the staff and they suggested that the provision of jars of hand cream would be appreciated particularly because of the repeated hand washing.

This was taken on board and members donated enough money to purchase 200 jars of hand cream which our picture shows being handed over in the hospital - social distancing being carefully observed.

The generosity of our members exceeded ex-

pectations, so it was decided to extend the donations to local care homes and a further 230 jars were distributed by Rotarians to the Charlotte Straker Hospital, Close House Nursing Home, Carntyne and Overtone Care Homes.

As the letters on our "Thank You" page show these were all much appreciated.

Many of our Rotarians have had family members who have suffered from Covid and their generosity has allowed us to acknowledge the part played by the frontline Hexham Hospital staff and the equally dedicated staff of the care homes. Club members contributed to the cost of the hand cream from money they would have spent at Rotary meetings and this included one very generous gift of over £500.



Brian Massey

MORE MATERIAL NEEDED

The Arch has had to revert to an issue every two months as there are so few contributions coming from readers. Of course Lockdown means that many activities are curtailed but equally other opportunities have arisen. Please let us have some of your stories—have you read any interesting books, taken up a new hobby, researched your family tree or found a new walk? Do you have any suggestions for future activities? Taken any interesting pictures or helped your neighbours?

There must be scores of interesting tidbits out there, so why not contribute to our newsletter.. If you are shy, we don't need to publish your name. Our next issue will be out on August 1st, so send any contributions in by the 20th July to dumbrelljl@btinternet.com and let's make the August issue a bumper one

John Dumbrell, Editor

Dr Bob Scott talks to District 1020 on Polio

Bob Scott has been involved with polio eradication for the last 35 years and explained that we still have a little way to go to fulfil the promise Rotary made in 1985 to eradicate Polio. He explained that Covid-19 and Polio had many things in common but also had differences but the work Rotary does with Polio is also being used to combat Covid in many countries. This is because the expertise in inoculating populations against Polio can be used to vaccinate people against Covid.

He went on to describe the various types of polio in circulation and the vaccines against them, they are;

WPV – the wild polio virus which has three mutations – WPV1, WPV2, and WPV3. Of these only type 1 is left as WPV2 was eradicated in August 2015 and WPV3 in October 2019. There is also CVDPV2 which stands for Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus 2. This is where the level of vaccination has not been high enough in a weakened population that has undernourished or unhealthy children. Here the weakened oral vaccine has allowed derived cases of polio to occur. This can occur in central Africa and in South America but is swiftly isolated and dealt with.

The vaccines in use against polio are OPV, a weakened polio virus vaccine that is administered orally. This is the one that can give rise to the CVDPV2. The other is IPV which is an inactivated polio virus vaccine but this is more expensive. There is also nOPV2 which is a new oral vaccine that is specific for the CVDPV2 outbreaks. As we know the WPV is now limited to Afghanistan and Pakistan only.

The cases of wild polio so far this year have been 2 against a total of 140 for 2020 and of the CVDPV2, 13 this year against 1067 for 2020.

The polio campaign since 1985 has resulted in 19 million fewer deaths and 3 billion children not being paralysed. Last year 1.2 billion doses of vaccine were administered.

Bob Scott has visited Pakistan where dedicated Rotarians are administering the vaccine despite the serious threats against them. He showed a picture of a worker who, less than a month later, was among 11 Rotarians murdered while working against polio. Foundation has set up a Polio Eradication Heroes Fund to support dependants of the murdered workers.

Bob Scott finished his talk by contrasting the 5 years it took to develop the latest polio vaccine against the 9 months for the Covid-19 vaccine. But the polio teams continue their work and also help with many other infectious diseases such as Ebola, Sars, Measles and of course Covid-19. Rotary needs to raise \$50m annually, matched by \$100m from Bill Gates, to eliminate Polio. This is about \$45 from every Rotarian world wide. We can also vote up to 20% of our DDF to the polio campaign.

5 REASONS WHY WE MUST ERADICATE POLIO

1 YOUR GIFT WILL IMPROVE LIVES.

Today, 19 million people who would otherwise be paralyzed by polio are walking, and 1.5 million people who would otherwise have died are alive.

2 YOUR GIFT WILL INVEST IN THE FUTURE.

If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year. A polio-free world will be a healthier world for children everywhere.

3 YOUR GIFT WILL IMPROVE CHILD HEALTH.

Polio surveillance networks and vaccination campaigns also monitor children for other health problems, like vitamin deficiency and measles, so we can address them sooner.

4 YOUR GIFT WILL LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS.

The global effort to eradicate polio has already saved more than \$27 billion in health care costs since 1988, and expects to save \$14 billion more by 2050.

5 YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE HISTORY.

Polio eradication will be one of history's greatest public health achievements, with polio following smallpox to become only the second human disease eradicated from the world.



At the end of the 1980s, more than 350,000 children were paralyzed by polio every year. Today, Rotary and its partners have reduced the incidence of polio by 99.9 percent. However, until we see the last of the poliovirus, eradication efforts need additional funding to:

IMMUNIZE

more than 400 million children against polio every year

IMPROVE

disease surveillance systems to detect any poliovirus in a person or the environment

HIRE

more than 150,000 health workers to go door to door to find every child

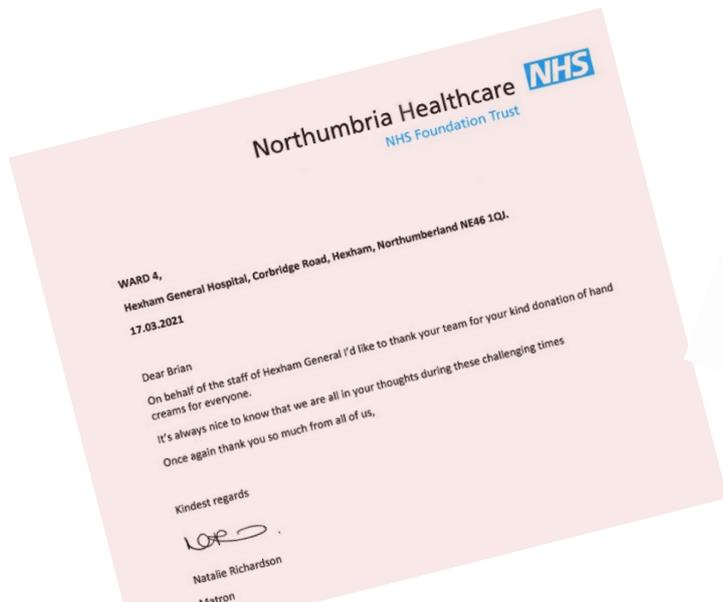
Donate now at endpolio.org



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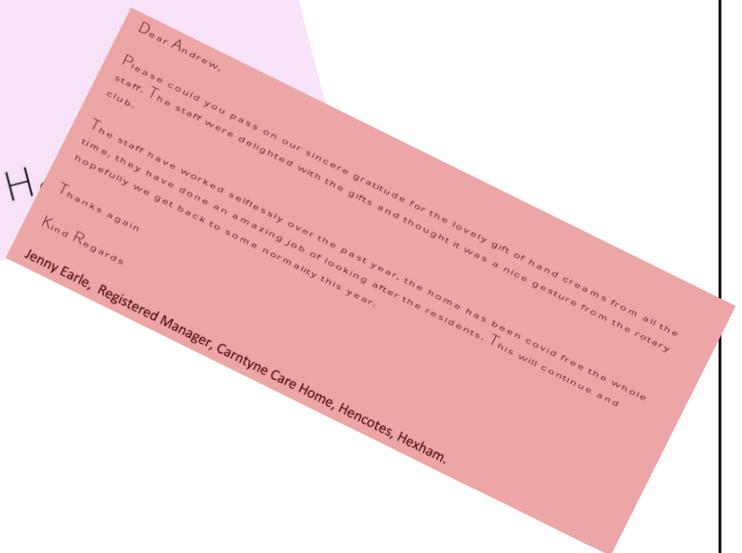
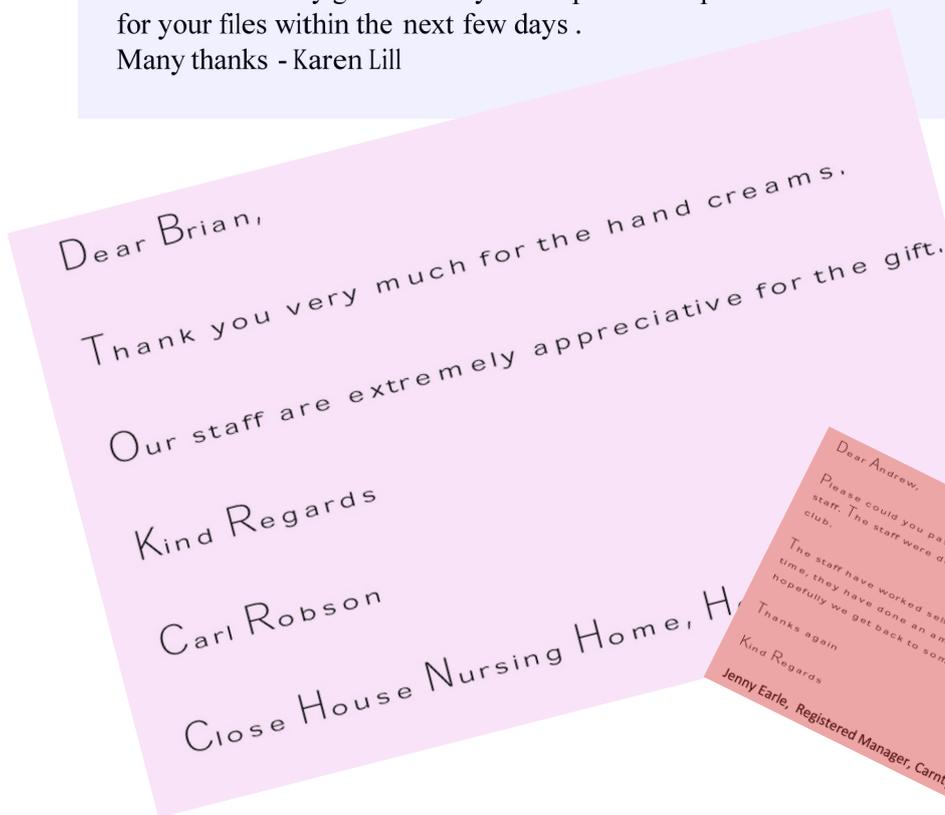
JLD

YET MORE THANK YOUS



From: Karen Lill <karenlill545@gmail.com>
Sent: 10 March 2021 21:46
To: dumbrelljl@btinternet.com
Subject: Re: Haydon Bridge Playgroup

I can confirm we have received your donation of £250.
We are incredibly grateful for your help .. and as promised will forward a photograph of our setting for your files within the next few days .
Many thanks - Karen Lill



Kelso Conversations

One of the advantages that Covid has given us is the ability to use zoom to hear from people all over the world. The Rotary Club of Kelso—just over the border—has used this to the full and some of us have listened to a variety of excellent speakers through their good offices. One such was Dr Bob Scott—see page 3— and another was the President Elect of Rotary International, PE Shekhar Mehta of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, India.

Mehta, an accountant, is chair of the Skyline Group, a real estate development company he founded. He is also a director of Operation Eyesight Universal (India), a Canada-based organization. He pioneered a program that has performed more than 1,500 life-changing heart surgeries in South Asia. He is also the architect of the TEACH Program, which promotes literacy throughout India and has reached thousands of schools.

His two main themes were firstly to ask every Rotarian to find one new member in the coming Rotary year and secondly to promote giving to Foundation as the new grant system is booming and we need more income.

The latest news from India is that he has caught Covid but is now on the way to recovery.

If you are interested in joining these interesting evenings, which are held once a month then contact rotarykelso@gmail.com . Their next speaker on June 10th is RI Director Elect Nicki Scott from the North Cotswolds Rotary Club, giving her thoughts for the year ahead.

Volunteer Expo online



**VOLUNTEER
EXPO** ONLINE EVENT
CHANGE LIVES. TAKE ACTION.

I appreciate that some of our Club's Rotarians will have visited (remotely!) this year's Volunteer Expo, hosted and co-ordinated by Rotary G.B.&I. over 7th/8th May.

For those who didn't, may I strongly recommend a visit next year, The two day event comprised a range of interesting and inspirational, speakers, many well known internationally, talking on a variety of charitable



and volunteer related subjects. In addition, there were also a wide diversity of 'workshop hubs' again covering many topics and involving different speakers.

Amongst the talks that I attended were Ben Fogle, inspiring us to volunteer, Frank Bruno, on mental health, and outstanding presentations by Mercy ships, Shelter Box and Wellbeing.

A particular attraction to me of this virtual form of event was that it allowed me, with the detailed programme to hand, to dip in and out at leisure.

Brian Massey

More information is available on the RGBI website at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/members/events/> . It was an excellent event and some of it is still available on line at the above site.

More News on POWs

Following the letter published last month, John Robinson writes;

"The letter from a Featherstone POW which you published in the Arch reminded me of an event twenty years ago when I was President. A Rotarian called Douglas Wilks, a member of the Crook Rotary Club, joined us for a lunchtime meeting and was accompanied by a Rotarian friend from Bad Wildingen in Germany, called Helmut Heckeroth, who had been a POW at Featherstone and was revisiting the area for the first time. Although the attached Courant Article referred to his visit to the Camp, I recall that because of the then Foot and Mouth restrictions, sadly he was unable to fully explore the site.

A Courant photographer was fortunately available and took a photo of Helmut (in the centre), Douglas Wilks and myself. The Courant ran a short story, as attached, and that resulted in me regaining contact with my old tutor from Newcastle University, Dr. Tony Hellen, who had researched the development and role of POW camps in the North of England and I was able to furnish Helmut with copies of a number of Dr. Hellen's papers on the subject. As a result, I received the attached letter from Helmut which makes interesting reading, particularly regarding the ethos of reconciliation at Featherstone, and chiming with the sentiments expressed in the 1947 letter."

HELMUT HECKEROTH
Weststr. 11
53474 BAD NEUENAUH
Tel.: 02641 / 20 04 43

2-11-o1

Dear John,

I thank you so much for all the things you sent me: the very nice larger print of our photograph taken before the Hexham Abbey, the three grand articles - Dr. Anthony Hellen's "Temporary Settlement of Britain's POW-Camps" and "Defence Lines", so I will write Dr. Hellen a letter and I will send him a copy of an article of my POW-friend, Dr. Walter Hemsing, a psychologist, over "Der deutsche Geistesmensch in der Kriegsgefangenschaft". I'll try to translate: "The German Intellectual Man in War-Prison". Surely it is written in German, certainly Mr. Hellen has the possibility to find a translator.

The best sentences for me came out of "Tresholds of Peace". These 25 pages were overwhelming myself. They were written under the title "Camp of Confidence", our Featherstone Park Camp I received so many remembrances, so many acquainted names and events, I had already forgotten. I can sign really the last words: "In that Camp of Confidence, an atmosphere of trust and co-operation having been created, the cultural and democratic solutions went ahead side by side, reinforcing each other".

The Rotary meeting in September in your Club and at Hexham was a grand event for me. I will never forget it. So I have to thank you once more for all you had done for me. I copied the article in the Hexham Courant very often and sent it to all my relatives and friends.

My hearty Rotarian greetings to you and your Rotary Club.

Yours

PS: Will you be so kind and give my best greetings also to my Rotary-friend Douglas Wilks, the "Uncle Douglas" of my farmer's family.

POW revisits 'freedom' camp

■ **Airman revisits:** President of Hexham Rotary Club John Robinson (left) welcomes Helmut Heckeroth (centre) and Douglas Wilks, a member of Crook Rotary Club. Photo: D370134. Inset, German POW's attend the service of thanks in Hexham Abbey.

A GERMAN airman who was a prisoner-of-war in Haltwhistle during World War Two, revisited his former prison for the first time in more than 50 years this week.

Rotarian Helmut Heckeroth, (88), from Bad Neuenahr in Germany, visited the site of the Featherstone Park prison camp at Featherstone Castle during a holiday in which he met fellow Rotarians at the Hexham and Crook clubs.

The president of Hexham Rotary Club John Robinson, said that the Bad Wildingen Rotarians, of which Helmut is a member, had helped organise the trip together with British Rotary clubs.

Helmut said he had been fascinated to be in the North-East again, as he had many good memories of Tynedale, despite having been a prisoner-of-war when he lived here.

Helmut was kept at the camp for three years between 1944 and 1947.

During this time he was allowed to study, and worked with other prisoners to produce a prison camp newspaper *Die Zeit Am Tyne*, which translates as *The Time on Tyne*.

He said: "The Featherstone Camp was just a huddle of huts on the South Tyne, a mile or two from the village of Featherstone.

"It was one of the first 'freedom' prison camps in Britain. Our camp commandant helped us tear down the barbed wire surrounding the camp, and did away with the guard posts and machine gun emplacements, because we had each given him our personal assurance we would not try to escape."

None of the prisoners did escape, and they were rewarded by being allowed to study French and English, carry out excavations on the Roman Wall, perform amateur dramatics and take part in a service of thanks at Hexham Abbey with a choir and orchestra.

Helmut said: "Singing in the Abbey, when we were joined by all the British people for the service of thanks was an amazing experience. I am so glad I have had the opportunity to see the Abbey, and the rest of Tynedale, again."

OUR COVID WALKING GROUP

During lockdown Hexham Rotary has not been able to meet formally but we have kept in touch with our members through fortnightly Zoom Meetings, Buddy Groups and the occasional quiz.



As we are all encouraged to exercise, Peter J suggested that we try walking for exercise and he formed a small group of keen walkers. Keeping well within the lockdown rules, we walked either singly or in pairs and, now, we can have six in our group all socially distanced.

Our walks are all centred on Hexham, usually following an excellent local guide-book. We have walked around Acomb,

Corbridge and Hexham and one of our latest ventures was to the Allendale Chimneys. An excellent 5 mile circular walk with beautiful views. The chimneys are on the hills above Allendale and the flues stretch an incredible two and a half kilometres from the lead smelters in the valley beside the river. All constructed of local stone and large enough to walk inside. They were big enough for the workers to climb inside to remove any metal that had condensed on to the walls. There are several side entrances to the flues, one of which is shown in the picture.

The latest walk was on the moors above Blanchland. This was the first time we could have a group of six and originally we had two groups of six ready to take part. By the time the walk took place this had dwindled to one group of four due to other commitments. This was a pity as it was an excellent walk of just under six miles. We all met in the carpark at Blanchland on a beautiful sunny day and, ably led by Peter, set off up the lane north of Blanchland to the moors. A circular left hand sweep across the heather and occasionally boggy ground, past numerous grouse butts, brought us to an isolated bothy where we enjoyed a short break for a drink and our cakes. From there it was more or less downhill to the Derwent bridge, where we noted that there was an odd corner of Durham to the north of the Derwent, presumably the river had changed course at sometime in the past. We followed the Derwent down stream to Blanchland and enjoyed a refreshing drink outside the Lord Crewe before walking the last hundred yards to the car park. An excellent walk in beautiful spring weather.



Members of the group are continuing to offer the odd walk as we come out of lockdown, so keep in touch if you are interested.

JLD

Club Programme 2021 1 June to 31 July

Key Blue = Club/District Business Meetings, Yellow are Club Council Meetings Green = Club meetings with a speaker

May 31st	Monday	Bank	Holiday	
June 14th	Monday ZOOM	6.30	Club Assembly	Agree next Rotary year's programme
June 28th	Monday ZOOM	12.30	Club Meeting	Presidents' Handover, Kim McGuinness, Northumbria PCC
THESE ARE NOW FACE TO FACE MEETINGS UNLESS IT SAYS ZOOM				
July 5th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	
July 6th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council	+ Trustees Meeting
July 12th	Monday ZOOM	6.30	Club Meeting	Malcolm Thompson – St Paul's Children's Project in Zambia
July 19th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Discussion on future meetings/meals.
July 26th	Monday ZOOM	12.30	Club Meeting	Mike Nicholls – Finding a Prisoner of the N Koreans – BH sponsor

Provided the Covid time table stays the same, we hope to meet face to face on the 5th July which will be an opportunity to chat to each other. More importantly on the 19th July at our 2nd Face to Face meeting, we will be discussing and deciding how we meet in the future. This is why the programme only goes to the end of July. Please note all the meetings other than those two are ZOOM meetings.

Dear Hexham Rotary

NHS Big Tea

I am writing to you on behalf of Northumbria Healthcare's Bright Charity. Firstly, I just wanted to thank you for your incredibly generous donation of hand creams that were received earlier this year for Hexham hospital. The gift was hugely appreciated and we were incredibly grateful to the Hexham Rotarian's for thinking of our staff during this challenging time.

Secondly, I wanted to let you know of the national plans to celebrate the NHS Birthday on 5th July and wondered if your fellow Rotarian's would be interested in joining in the celebrations.

The nation is being invited to have a cuppa to show its support for healthcare staff and join the nation's biggest tea party.

The NHS Big Tea event will raise vital funds for NHS charities across the country, including Bright Northumbria which has supported medics, patients and volunteers during the pandemic.

So on or around 5th July (or whichever day suits you best), we're calling on our local community to come together for a tea party to celebrate the NHS and raise funds which will make a difference. What a great excuse for a slice of cake and a get together!

If you would like to raise a cup to our NHS heroes and throw your own tea party (following all Covid guidelines of course), please get in touch. It can even be a virtual event. We can provide support with marketing materials and would love to share your photos on social media.

Most importantly however, the day will provide a chance to get together, join in the celebrations, see friends or family members and raise a cuppa to the NHS.

If you would like to discuss further please don't hesitate to contact me at katie.dawson@northumbria.nhs.uk or 07967810101.

Kind regards

Katie

Katie Dawson
Charity & Arts Development Officer
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



OUR HOSPITAL DONATION

Our gift of hand cream to the Hexham Hospital has received another acknowledgement and thankyou as the attached letter shows.

It also invites us to join in the
NHS BIG TEA

On

July 5th

Let us know what you think.