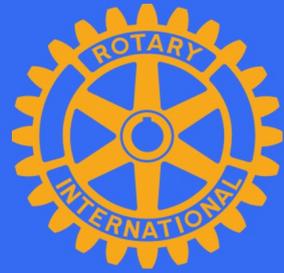




The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



December 2021

THE SLOW RETURN TO NORMAL?

We continue to make progress and our numbers at each weekly lunch time meeting are slowly increasing. In the first weeks we averaged about 15 members but now we are up to about 21 or 22 each week as people become more confident of getting out. Covid has not gone away and members are reminded to wear masks and keep to social distancing where possible.



and



join forces to set up Christmas
Toy Box initiative across the UK

A Rotary Christmas Toy Box

Thanks to your local Rotary club



Every refuge, every child - A Rot

Reg. Charit

Beamish Museum Park. In 2019 some 450 children took part but, of course, this year the outing was cancelled because of Covid. Plans are already in hand to resurrect the scheme in 2022 and Hexham Rotary is hoping to take part.

Meanwhile, we continue to move forward and hope to replenish our charity fund with projects for all to enjoy.



Rotary Walking

Every fortnight or so, a small group from Hexham Rotary enjoy a countryside ramble. The walks, usually on a Tuesday, start at about 10am and last just over the two hours. The distance covered varies and ranges from 5 to 7 miles.

The walks are mostly arranged by Peter J, and there is a core group of about ten members who take part. The numbers on each walk vary, depending on who is free and have var-



ied between two and seven participants. The walks concentrate on the Hexham area but have covered Corbridge, Whitley Chapel and have even got as far as Hadrians Wall. Occasionally John R arranges a walk which usually includes a refreshment stop at the end and is a little longer with more participants as shown in our first picture. The other pictures show Peter's recent walks.

JLD

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 Feb 1st 2022 , so send any contributions in by the 20th January to dumbrelljl@btinternet.com and lets make the February issue a bumper one

John Dumbrell, Editor

Two Remarkable Members

In the last few weeks, the Club has lost two valued members, both of whom took an active part in the life of the Club.

Terry Robson, who passed away following a short illness, had been a member of the Club since 1996 and had served the Club in many capacities and was elected as President in 1998. His Presidential Year ran from July 1999 to June 2000 and covered the millennium celebrations. Terry was a passionate supporter of better opportunities for the youth in Hexham and made a feature of this both in his working life and as a member of Rotary. Indeed, in the last year he was instrumental in setting up bursaries with Core Music and providing funds for youth activities not only in Hexham, but also in Alendale and Corbridge.

Terry was descended from a long line of Robsons who were a prominent Border Family and figured greatly in the history of the area.

He was very proud of his heritage and, in the month before his death, had just finished compiling a history of his family. He also played a prominent part in local affairs having been a local councillor and Mayor of Hexham.



Max Hamps, who tragically died while fishing on the Coquet, had only been a member since 2012, but during that time had left his mark on the Club. He was due to take over as President in 2022. He also was a champion of youth and had planned several special events to take place during his Presidential year. During his time with the Club, he was an enthusiastic supporter of STEM activities in local schools and was also involved in the Technology Tournaments. For the last three years, he had led the Rotary District Membership Team, encouraging clubs to promote Rotary and to seek out new members. He had made many friends in the Club and District and was always a ready listener and full of new ideas.



Both Terry and Max were always ready to join in our projects and to lend a hand where it was needed. They were also great family members and, while Rotary was a great part of their lives, the family always came first. They will be greatly missed by the Club and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Our pictures show them helping the club clear Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the Tyne in July this year, both pulling their weight as usual.

JLD

POPPY COLLECTION 2021

As usual for Hexham Rotary we took part in the Hexham Royal British Legion collection for 2 days – 12th and 13th November – at Tesco in Hexham. Rather than stand in the store as in previous years, we were sited in the exit vestibule because of Covid, which for obvious reasons, worked well for us.

The rota was set up, not without issues. First to record and with sadness both Terry Robson and Max Hamps had volunteered and also that some people had been “pinged” and could not attend, so thank you to the “reserves”. Thank you also, of course to those who did play their part and between the 2 days we were on duty for 15 hours and one way or another we had 2 people on duty for each 90 minute shift.



Additionally this year for the first time we had the use of a Card Machine to enable cashless donations to be made. Our overall total cash and cards for the 2 days was £1468.08 which included just under £200 via cards. I am sure that cards will become more popular as time progresses. Relatively speaking the bulk of our collection came from the Friday, and whilst the Saturday hours were less than the Friday the Saturday total was less than expected. Tom Gillanders who organises for Hexham said this pattern was repeated elsewhere. So if I am organising this in 12 months' time I might talk to Tesco in the first place as to their “footfall” experience and try to time our presence accordingly.



Thank you to Tesco Hexham, for your help and, all considered I think that £1468 was not a bad result for our efforts.

Peter Wood



WOR BELLA

Two years ago some of us visited the Devil's Porridge Museum near Eastriggs just over the border so this may be of interest.

The must-see new play by Ed Waugh Coming in March/April 2022

The brilliant story of heroic WWI Munitionettes who not only selflessly served the war effort on the home front from 1914 to 1918 but also played football to raise money for charity.

Hundreds of Munitionette teams were formed nationally, including dozens in the North East. As tens of thousands of people attended the matches female football superstars were born, including Blyth Spartan's Ladies' striker Bella Reay.

Netting 133 goals in 30 matches, Wor Bella was the Alan Shearer of her day!

Sadly, the incredible story of these self-sacrificing Munitionette footballers has largely been forgotten...until now!

Wisecrack Productions Present the WORLD PREMIERE

WOR BELLA
Written by Ed Waugh

They selflessly saved the war effort on the home front during WWI - and still found time to play football!
The incredible story of women's football during WWI and how Blyth Spartans Ladies won the Munitionettes Cup in 1918.

From the team behind *Carrying David*, *Hadaway Harry*, *The Great Joe Wilson* and *Mr Corvan's Music Hall*

visit www.worbella.co.uk

ALAN SHEARER FOUNDATION
Sponsored and supported by the ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Despite their daily, hard, physical work - and competition from dozens of women's teams based on Tyneside, Wearside, County Durham and Teesside - Blyth Spartans Ladies became the best side in the North East in 1918, with Bella Reay scoring 133 goals in 30 matches. Attracting crowds of 5,000 to 22,000, these heroic munitionettes have been largely forgotten... until now!

FRI 25 MARCH BLYTH PHOENIX THEATRE 2.30pm & 7.30pm
SAT 26 MARCH BLYTH PHOENIX THEATRE 7.30pm
BOOK: (01670) 367228 or via thephenixtheatre.org.uk

MON 28 MARCH QUEEN'S HALL ARTS CENTRE HEXHAM 7.30pm
BOOK: (01434) 652477 or via queenshall.co.uk

TUE 29 MARCH NEWCASTLE THEATRE ROYAL STUDIO 7.30pm
WED 30 MARCH NEWCASTLE THEATRE ROYAL STUDIO 2pm & 7pm
BOOK: 08448 11 21 21 or via theatroyal.co.uk

THU 31 MARCH ALNWICK PLAYHOUSE 7.30pm
BOOK: (01665) 660550 or via alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

FRI 1 APRIL PLAYHOUSE WHITLEY BAY 7.30pm
BOOK: (0191) 251 5484 or via playhousewhitleybay.co.uk

SAT 2 APRIL WESTOVIAN THEATRE, SOUTH SHIELDS 2.30pm & 7.30pm
BOOK: 07960 066 377 or via worbella.co.uk

To book online visit worbella.co.uk/tour-dates
A collection for the Alan Shearer Foundation will be held after every performance.

Directed by Russell Floyd
(Hadaway Harry, The Great Joe Wilson, Carrying David)

Starring, as Bella Reay, Lauren Waine
(Vera, The Dumping Ground)

"Hadaway Harry had me laughing and cheering"
- Kevin Maguire, associate editor Daily Mirror, on HADAWAY HARRY

"Exhilarating"
- The Northern Echo, on THE GREAT JOE WILSON

"Emotionally charged. Had the audience on its feet"
- Belfast Telegraph, on CARRYING DAVID

VON FOX Tickets from £14. Suitable for age 12+

EASTCOAST! LA RICHMOND!

Boosting Our Charitable Funds

Needless to say, the enforced isolation during Covid has had a detrimental effect on the money we collect and pass on to deserving causes. One of these is Rotary's own charity, The Rotary Foundation. Every Rotarian and Club is encouraged to contribute to this fund which spends thousands of million pounds each year on all sorts of projects. Hexham Rotary benefits directly from the fund as, when we have a suitable project, the Foundation provides matching funds to money that we are already providing. Indeed sometimes this match can be three times the money we are putting in.



This is a great incentive to contribute ourselves to the Rotary Foundation.

In the past, apart from individual contributions, the Club has sold Christmas cards with the profits going to Foundation. Even last Christmas we could do this and this year we hope to redouble our efforts, already over £1,000 has been raised and, as our picture shows, Richard was busy selling cards at the Abbey Christmas Fair.

Helping the Environment



After an enforced lapse of two years, we are once again planting trees in and around Hexham. Andrew R masterminds this operation and calls on the whole club and outside organisations to help. Not only will we be planting many oak seedlings carefully grown by Andrew but we have been given trees by the Wood land trust. Our first day planting will be on Saturday 4th December in Hexham followed by a second day further afield on the 11th December. Andrew can always use more helpers and volunteers are asked to contact him. Trees planted two years ago can be seen growing well on Causey Hill. Our picture shows the original planting.

Polio Update

There is a general thank you to all the Rotarians, Interactors, Clubs, Districts and others who contributed to Eradicating polio in the year ended 30 June. We exceeded our US\$ 50 million goal by \$27,000. As a result of such generosity and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation match, Rotary will spend \$ 150 million this year to join in providing polio vaccines to 400 million children. This came from Michael McGovern of Rotary International .

Ryan Hyland contributed the following article on the Rotary website

Rotary's goal of ridding the world of polio is within reach, global health experts said during the 2021 World Polio Day Online Global Update on 24 October. So far in 2021, only two cases of wild polio have been reported — the lowest circulation of the disease ever — with one infection each in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the two countries where polio remains endemic.



During a Q&A session, Dr. Hamid Jafari, director for the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean Region, attributed the low case count to several factors. He said these include mass polio vaccination campaigns resuming after the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the natural immunity induced by the wild polio outbreaks of previous years, and the restrictions on travel and population movement that also were due to the pandemic.

He added that the low case count provides a window of opportunity for health workers, "So this is the time to really press hard in making use of the opportunity that presents itself now," he said. Jafari also addressed the challenges of political change and security concerns in Afghanistan and explained that the polio program there is used to adapting operationally during uncertainty. "Currently we do see opportunities coming up as well, so that we may have access to all parts of Afghanistan for implementing mass vaccination campaigns," he said.

According to the WHO and UNICEF, nationwide house-to-house polio vaccinations will resume in Afghanistan in early November, providing access to children in areas where campaigns had been banned for the last three years. "You know with the evolving situation in Afghanistan, it is of course very, very important that we partners maintain our neutrality and impartiality of the polio eradication program," Jafari added. "As always, we will continue to work with all parties."

Mohammad Ishaq Niazmand, chair of Rotary's Afghanistan PolioPlus Committee, echoed Jafari's sentiments in a video address with his counterpart for Pakistan, Aziz Memon. Niazmand said of Afghanistan, "Rotary and our partners are working with all stakeholders to ensure that polio eradication remains a top priority, even in the midst of change. Work is underway to ensure that children have access to lifesaving polio [vaccines] and other childhood vaccines."

Memon, a Rotary Foundation trustee and chair of the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee, said Rotary continues to build trust with government, community, and religious leaders. "By bringing broader health services to children and families alongside polio vaccinations, we're ensuring better health care and greater vaccine acceptance," he said.

An Evening of Fun and Fellowship

At last, we have had an evening to entertain our friends. Although we had started our weekly lunch time meetings in August when the Covid restrictions were lifted, we had not had a great evening. This was remedied on the 29th November when we gathered in the Abbey Great Hall with wives, husbands, partners and many guests.

54 of us sat down to an excellent two course meal of beef with a vegetarian option followed by a fruit crumble. Entertainment had been arranged and Helene Dolder, a raconteur, provided a witty and humorous talk full of anecdotes some of which referred to those present.

With storm Arwen on the Friday and Saturday we were relieved to still be able to hold our dinner on the Monday especially as several areas of Northumberland were still without electricity. It was a bitterly cold Monday morning but by teatime the temperature had increased and we had an enjoyable evening.

The next evening event to look forward to is our Christmas Dinner on the 13th December.



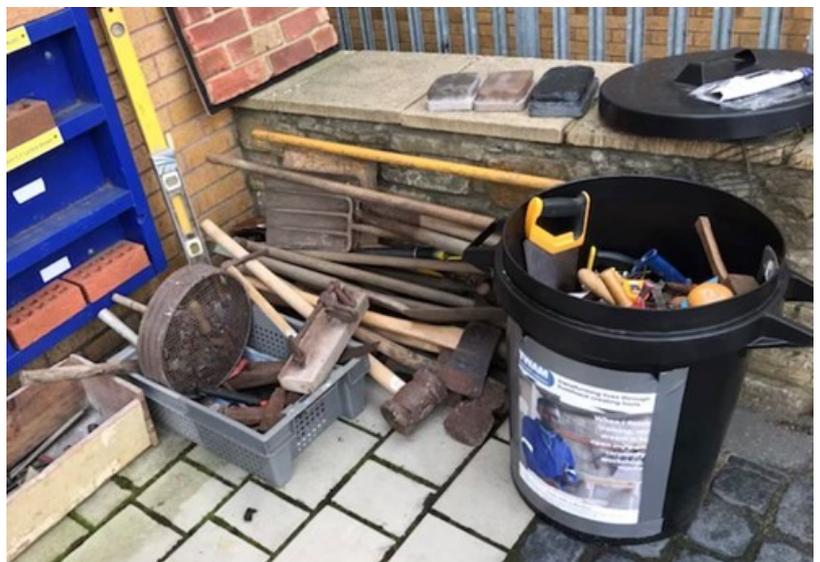
TWAM

The Rotary Clubs of Hexham, Tynedale and Hadrian's Wall joined forces to support TWAM. Tools With A Mission collect unwanted tools and refurbish them before sending them on to places in Africa who have asked for them. Tools of all sorts are urgently needed and the Rotary Clubs set up a collection point at MKM Builders Merchants in Hexham.

A dustbin at the collection point has already been filled but many more people arrived with new or used tools to drop them off at the collection point by the entrance to MKM's store.

Our picture shows, l to r, Chris Baylis of Hadrian's Wall; Richard Hart-Jackson of Tynedale, John Dumbrell of Hexham Rotary with Damon Watts of MKM setting up the collection point.

TWAM who are a registered charity take great care to collect donated useable tools and save thousands of tonnes of tools destined for landfill every year. More tools are needed and the people of Hexham have contributed generously. The collection point was open during October and November and Richard Hart-Jackson of Tynedale now has a garage full of tools waiting for TWAM to pick them up..



Club Programme 2021 1 July onwards

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

Date	Day	Time	Occasion	Speaker	Topic	Host/Projector	notes
October 4 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	John McCabe	"The First Global Olympics -1960"	Dumbrell No	
October 11 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Norman Sellar	- "Kids Out"	Dumbrell No	
October 12 th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council				
October 18 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting				Business Meeting
October 25 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Chris Baylis	- Electric Vehicles	Hamps Yes	
November 1 st	Monday	12.45	SGM/ Business Meeting				Elect officers, approve accounts Business Meeting
November 8 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Margaret Jacot	The Spiegel Tent	Carter Yes	-
November 12 th /13 th	Tesco	Poppy	Collection				
November 15 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Peter Hawkins	History of Bagpipes	Wicks No	
November 18 th	Thursday	18.30	District Council				
November 20 th	Saturday		Tree planting				
November 22 nd	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Katy Taylor	- Queens Hall	Jewitt ?	
November 23 rd	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council				+Trustees Meeting
November 29 th	Monday	Evening	Club Meeting	Helene Dolder	Raconteur	Massey No	Evening Meeting, Abbey. Speaker -
December 4 th	Saturday		Tree planting				
December 6 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Dr Harry Bradbury	The Sustainable Future	Hull Yes (mac)	
December 13 th	Monday	7.00pm	Xmas Dinner				
December 14 th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council				
December 20 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Sarah Swanston	Natural Ability	Rutherford ?	
December 27 th							No Meeting Christmas Week
January 3 rd							No Meeting Bank Holiday

Explore Rotary Websites

They hold a wealth of information and, if you are away on holiday, you can find a welcome in any Rotary Club anywhere.

Our own website is at www.hexhamrotary.co.uk

Rotary in the North East is at;

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/districts/homepage.php?DistrictNo=1030>

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland is at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/my-rotary/>

And the Rotary International site is;

<https://my.rotary.org/en/>