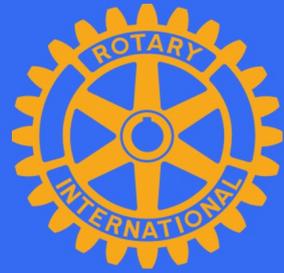




The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



April 2022

President's Night 2022

After a bleak couple of years, we were able to celebrate another President's Night to thank Miles for his sterling work on our behalf over two traumatic years. Accordingly on the 19th March, 42 of us sat down to dinner in the Beaumont Hotel.

The Guest of Honour was our District Governor, Alan Carter and the occasion was also graced by the Presidents of both Tynedale and Hadrian's Wall Rotary Clubs. After a reception in the adjoining room, we sat down to an excellent three course meal with menu choices that were able to please everyone. From the remarks afterwards, the most praise went to beetroot cured salmon starter, the main course of featherblade of beef and the lemon posset dessert but the alternative dishes were equally good.



After the meal, there was a "Diversion" when several members revealed secrets from our Presidents past!

First, Shelagh who surprised us all with previously unknown facts about Miles gymnastic past when he won a gold medal at the special olympics held in Ireland. Miles unfortunately had mislaid his medal which Shelagh was able to present on the night. Another Middleton berated Miles about his unsubstantiated and unauthorised hints of his connection with more illustrious Middletons possibly with a free drink in mind. Other speakers recalled when Miles had spoken at an EU event and his recent trip to Switzerland and

certain items of lost property on Swiss Rail. Miles was also purported to have revised the words to "The Grand Old Duke of York" which, perhaps, had earned a rebuke from the Palace. Finally his secret support of the Tynedale Rugby team was revealed and we were left wondering whether it was the team or the half time pies in the club house which were the attraction. Especially when Roy presented him with a medal as the Champion Pie Eater.

Before our President could explain himself, Bob Hull, acting as MC for the night, proposed a toast to the health of our guests. In his reply on behalf of the guests, District Governor Alan gave a short account of the progress in the District following the relaxation of the Covid restrictions and thanked the club for the hospitality on behalf of the guests.



We now proceeded to the Grand Raffle, Shelagh and Vivien masterminded this part of the proceedings and distributed the prizes to the various winners. The evening drew to a close with a short response from President Miles in which he thanked everyone for coming and making the evening such a success. Roy and his Admin team had done a great job and the meal and service was a tribute to the Beaumont Hotel. Miles then rounded the evening off with the traditional toast to "Rotary and Peace the World over".

The New Schools

Our first visit of 2022 was to the new school buildings clustered around the Hydro. Hexham Middle School and Queen Elizabeth High School are now co-located in new buildings and a renovated Hydro. Each school is kept separate but several facilities are combined and on the 21st March Hexham Rotary Club was shown round by the Executive Head Teacher, Graeme Atkins.

16 of us were in the small party and we enjoyed an extensive tour

that showed us the up to date class rooms with the latest digital technology and the excellent sports facilities available to the pupils. Food Technology—a new term to many of us— IT and Science have benefitted from the

rebuild and the Arts have not been forgotten either. The spacious assembly halls are multi-purpose and there is a small theatre in addition. The Orangery forms the principle accommodation for the sixth form.



The Orangery - home of the sixth Form

We were shown two excellent library areas—one for the Middle School and the other for QEHS— with an emphasis on books and reading contrasting with the modern technology.

We had an excellent visit and our thanks go to Graeme Atkins for a most informative tour.



Middle School Classroom



QEHS Library

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? Have you taken any interesting pictures or helped your neighbours recently?

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

John Dumbrell, Editor

Art Exhibition in Allendale

As many Club members will know, SEDCU was bequeathed a substantial number of paintings by the family of the artist, David Almond.



SEDCU is a small charity based in Hexham whose aim is to provide an education for severely disadvantaged children living in the remote southwest corner of Uganda.

In this exhibition you will see paintings by David Almond which are part of a collection bequeathed to SEDCU by his family for the purpose of raising funds. 100% of the money raised will go to Uganda for the benefit of the children.

1 - 30 April 2022

Studio 11

Allendale Forge Studios

Market Place, Allendale Town, NE47 9BD

open daily: Shop & Gallery 10am - 5pm, Cafe 9am - 5pm

allendaleforigestudios.co.uk

tel: 01434 683975

SEDCU
Supporting the Education of Disadvantaged Children in Uganda



David spent his retirement painting watercolours of his beloved Lake District, as well as the Pennines and other countries he visited. Allendale Forge has kindly offered to mount an exhibition of some of his works in April. Why not take a trip to Allendale to combine viewing the exhibition with seeing other artwork and enjoying a coffee and cake in their café?

If a Club member makes a purchase, we will donate 10% to the Club Charity Account.

For more information contact

Ben or Jan Herdan

A Report from the Ukraine

The conflict in Ukraine has displaced millions of people and has created a humanitarian crisis across Europe. Mykola Stebljanko, Editor of Rotary Magazine in Ukraine, explains how Rotary can help.

Q: What's your situation there now?

Steblyanko: I'm now living in Odesa. It's the third most populated city on the southwest of



Ukrainian Rotarians

Ukraine, an important port city on the Black Sea coast. Currently, there's no military action here yet, but we live under the constant threat of bombs and missiles. Often, air raid sirens will wake us up in the middle of the night. We have to get up and hide in a safe place. You know, in my apartment, the safest place is the bathroom. We huddle together and spend the rest of the night there.

Occasionally, we experienced a few rocket attacks, but most of the time, it's a safe place.

We don't want to leave our country again. We are Ukrainians and we would like to stay in Ukraine."

Most of the military actions now centre around Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, and Kharkiv. More than a dozen smaller cities are also under attack. The city of Mariupol in the Southeast of Ukraine is under siege. More than 2,500 civilians have died there and close to 400,000 people are trapped in the city. The Russian army stopped anyone from escaping. Many are without electricity, water, and heat.

Q: What is happening with Rotary clubs in Ukraine?

Steblyanko: There are 62 Rotary clubs in Ukraine. At the moment, only the Rotary Club of Kher-

son has temporarily suspended meetings because the city is now under the control of the Russian military. I recently spoke with a Rotarian there. None of them are able to escape and are trapped inside the city. They no longer meet or do any projects for fear of personal safety. Our district governor sent a letter of support to all the Rotarians in Kherson.

Other Rotary clubs continue to operate and are trying their best to conduct Rotary services. We have created a special committee to coordinate help. Each club has a representative on the committee and we meet online twice a day to discuss issues that are facing our clubs.

Q: What kind of relief projects are Ukraine clubs doing?

Stebljanko: Our Rotary services fall into the following three areas:

To provide help to our hospitals, where a large number of wounded civilians are being treated. They are in dire need of medical supplies. We have set up a special account and have received about US\$100,000 from Rotary clubs and districts from around the world. We have already purchased and distributed medicine and equipment. We also have been approved for two disaster response grant.

To coordinate humanitarian aid. Rotary clubs and districts are sending humanitarian aid via trucks, ships, and air carriers. We are rebuilding Rotary's humanitarian hubs along the Ukraine borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. They have received all of the supply items and sent them across the border to our cities. Then, we have different hubs inside Ukraine near the border regions where Rotarians distribute this humanitarian help to the cities that are in dire need of help. Most of the items are clothes, food, and medicine.

To help families of Rotarians who want to leave the country. We have received many requests from Rotarians in Europe and America, who would like to host our family members and relatives.



Rotarians in Kharkiv

Dave King

Working with the Hexham Youth Initiative

As we know from experience in our own club the Covid Pandemic challenged virtually all organisations; from funding issues to ways of working. The HYI proved they were up to the challenge of recent times and the following is just a short extract from their 2021 Annual report.

Between November 2020 and October 2021 the Hexham Youth Initiative worked with 549 young people. The number of contacts we had totalled 10,685 compared to 8,640 the previous year, a result of the pandemic. Obviously, at the time of writing face to face contacts have increased because of the easing of lock down but still have not reached the levels of pre-covid years because of restrictions on numbers in the Youth Initiative space and on trips.

Many young people come to Youth Initiative sessions to enjoy activities and socialise with friends. It is a safe space where they can receive positive feedback from staff who offer information, advice and support. A survey conducted in October 2021 shows that 97% of young people state they feel safe or very safe in the project. "For some young people, contact with us is very important because they lead very difficult lives and have complex issues to deal with" says Paul Harris Awardee, Keda Norman, the project co-ordinator.

Some of the problems where young people have asked for support include: poverty; caring responsibilities; crime and antisocial behaviour; housing issues; exploitation, bereavement; mental health issues; abuse; unemployment; school issues; sexual health and relationships; gender identity and teenage pregnancy.

This year, the Youth Initiative continues to support many young people who have been anxious about the future, isolated and stressed because of the pandemic.

Revamp the Ramps.

A current major initiative in partnership with The Hexham Town Council is the plan to improve the Sele Skate park. Antonia Azocar (who recently helped the Rotary Tree Planting team at Bel-lister in March) was appointed and funded by the Rank organisation to work with the young people



who use the skate park with the aim of helping them to work with the Town Council to come up with the plan to redevelop their space. Young people have already raised £2,500 themselves towards the cost thought to be in the region of £150,000.

Other funding has been the sum of £81,000 via section 106 (The developers Fund)

The Town Council are supporting the initiative with £25,000 towards the redevelopment and have made funding applications on behalf of the town, turning the dream to a nearly realised reality.

Hexham Rotary Club has been a supporter of the Hexham Youth Initiative for many years.

Sandy Rutherford

Race Night in Corbridge

Tynedale Rotary Club is holding a Race Night at Corbridge Cricket Club on the evening of Friday 8th April, 7pm for first race at 7.30pm. Tickets are just £5 to include a pie & pea supper. There is a licensed bar and the proceeds are going to Tynedale Hospice.

Michael Gibney, President of Tynedale hopes that some Hexham Rotarians may join them.

More details from Michael telephone 01661 853898 or 07752714029

We Collect for the Ukrainian Refugees

Thanks to the generosity of Waitrose, we were able to hold a bucket collection for the Ukrainian Refugees on the 4th and 5th of March. The weather was reasonably kind to us and teams of two collected for an hour each over the Friday and Saturday.



Hexham folk are always generous but this time they were even more so and we were able to send £8,200 to the Ukraine through the British Red Cross. Our pictures show some of our members in action. We have also moved for-



ward and are now able to accept donations by credit card and, despite a few teething problems a large percentage of the £8,200 was received this way. Our thanks to Waitrose and all those who contributed and an especial thanks to our collectors who gave up their time.



6 & 7 MAY 2022
NEC, BIRMINGHAM

HOSTED BY



BOOK FREE TICKETS

What is Volunteer Expo Live?

After a time in our lives like no other, it's time for us to continue rebuilding together. Volunteer Expo Live will foster the togetherness and community spirit we've seen during 2020 and 2021, and make that a lasting legacy of the pandemic. **For 2022, we're back and we're live!** After a virtual event in 2021, we're so excited to be back live and in-person at the NEC, Birmingham on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May! The event will continue to help you find volunteering opportunities to suit you, connect with charities and not-for-profit organisations, and celebrating aspects of our communities that unite us!

For people who are keen to volunteer, or already do so, there will be the opportunity to network with peers, develop your personal skills and turn your passion for change into action.

Hosted by Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland

Volunteer Expo Live is brought to you by [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland](https://www.rotary.org.uk). As one of the world's leading membership and humanitarian service organisations, Rotary has been at the heart of communities around the world for over 100 years.

Rotary members worldwide give over 110 million volunteer hours each year, whether it is promoting peace, providing clean water, supporting education or fighting disease

Find out more at <https://www.volunteerexpo.co.uk/about/>

Thanks from the Abbey

Our defibrillator cabinet was in desperate need of replacing and having secured funding thanks to Hexham Town, Hexham Rotary, Tyne-dale Rotary and Tynedale Lions, we have the new cabinet in situ! Our thanks also to Burncliffe Electrical Ltd. for fitting it free of charge.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Our Hexham Rotary Club is organising a high profile event for upwards of 350 local people to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Hexham Abbey on the evening of Friday, 27th May, starting at 7 p.m. This celebration will be a memorable event taking the form of a musical Concert with a verbal narrative describing the various decades of the Queen's reign.

Many very talented musicians are involved, among them the Abbey Organist, a Fijian Choir, a Young Folksinger, the Rock Choir, a Young Violinist, a Northumbrian Piper, the Hedgehog Skins Folk Band, Hexham Brass Band and St Joseph's School Choir. It is intended to hold some form of drinks reception immediately following the Concert.

All proceeds from the evening are to be divided equally between the British Red Cross and the Hexham Youth Initiative's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Tickets are £15, (£5 for students) and will be available from Rotarians Stephanie Ryder, Peter Trevelyan or myself and also in due course from the Queen's Hall. A sell-out is anticipated, so we recommend that you book your tickets as soon as possible for what promises to be a wonderful evening's entertainment.

Brian Massey

A New Woodland in Tynedale

A group of volunteers from Hexham Rotary Club and the National Trust began planting a new woodland area near Broomhouse Farm in Bellister. The volunteer group spent the morning planting and staking out a variety of species that will in time grow to enhance the landscape and as importantly help reduce our carbon footprint.

There was such a good turnout of volunteers that what could have been a long and arduous day turned into a really pleas-



ant morning of both work and chat. The good weather on the day was also a welcome bonus. We also had an impromptu team building exercise when Peter's car battery went flat during the morning and the many cooks on hand managed to make a superb broth and get the car started. Phew that would have been a challenge if they failed at such a remote location.



Future Events

Our latest calendar is shown below

Club Programme 2022 to 1 July

Key **Blue** = Club/District Business Meetings. **Yellow** are Club Council Meetings **Evening meetings** **SpecialEvents**

Date	Day	Time	Occasion	Speaker	Subject	Host	Projector	
Feb 7 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Claire Knowles	Hexham Park Run	Yeomans		
Feb 14 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Victoria Lancaster	Forestry England rewilding Europe	B Middleton		
Feb 15 th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council					
Feb 21 st	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.					Business Meeting
Feb 24 th	Thursday	16.30 to 18.30	Club Get together	Bob Hull/Ben Herdan	The Wayforward			Beaumont Hotel
Feb 28 th	Monday	Evening	Club Meeting.	Rob Hart	Marvellous Me			
Mar 7 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Brian Bell	Allen Valley Broadband	Pryor	Yes	
Mar 14 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Christopher Porter	Naivety, Fascination and Fun			
Mar 15 th	Tuesday		Tree Planting			Andrew Rigg		
Mar 15 th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council					
Mar 19 th	Saturday	7 for 7.30	President's Night					
Mar 21 st	Monday	4pm			Tour of QEHS – details to be announced later			
Mar 28 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Cathy Bates	Tyndale Hospice	Herdan		Lunch not evening as Pres. N was an evening meeting.
Apr 1-3	Fri-Sunday		District Conference					
Apr 4 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.					AGM and Business Meeting
Apr 11 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Rob Driver	Vattenfall - working in a leading European energy company in Hexham	Wrighton		
Apr 12 th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council					
Apr 18 th	Monday							Easter Monday – 1 Meeting
Apr 23 rd	Saturday	evening	Progressive Supper			Massey		
Apr 25 th	Monday	Evening	Club Meeting	Andrew Hallington	More Tynedale railways	G Robinson		
May 2 nd	Monday							May Bank Holiday no meeting
May 6/7	Friday/Saturday	All Day	RIBI	Volunteering	At the NEC			
May 9 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Nick Rossiter	Logic and Love	Rossiter		
May 13 th to 15 th	Friday Saturday Sunday		Jazz Festival	Collecting Buckets Core Music		Andrew Rigg		
May 16 th	Monday	6.30 for 7pm	Club Meeting.	Young Employee of the year award		John Dunn		
May 17 th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council					
May 18-20 th	Wednesday to Friday		Club weekend	Windermere		Michael Saxon		
May 23 rd	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.			Wood		
May 27 th	Friday	7.00pm	Hexham Abbey	Rotary Jubilee Concert	Hexham Abbey	Massey		Tickets Brian Mas Stephanie Ryder
May 30 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Jacqui Molineax	The Rotary Foundation	Richard Thornton		
Jun 6 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.					Club Assembly
Jun 13 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.			Dallison		
Jun 20 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.			J Herdan		
Jun 27 th	Monday	Evening	Club Meeting	Rev Henry Hope	Representing the Music of Minnesang	B Middleton	Yes	
Jul 4 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.					Presidents' Handc
Jul 5 th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council					
Jul 11 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	Roger Abraham	NE Pioneering of Electricity Supply			
Jul 18 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Charles Enderby	Bird Ringing	Carter		