



The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



February 2023

Gordon McNally outlines his Year

Rotary International President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations.

McNally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland, revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme, Create Hope in the World, during the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January. He urged members to promote peace in troubled nations, help those affected by conflict, and maintain the momentum of initiatives begun by past leaders.

"The goal is to restore hope — to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McNally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

McNally spoke about a woman he met in Ban Taling Chan, Thailand, where Rotary members



R. Gordon R. McNally wants Rotary members to create hope in the world

helped build houses, a meeting hall, and childcare and health care facilities following the tsunami that devastated South Asia in late 2004. The woman had lost her husband, her daughter, and her son in the tsunami, as well as her livelihood. But she still had a gift to offer McNally: a beautiful

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seashell.

"She went on to tell me that Rotary... had restored her optimism. We gave her hope," McInally said.

"This is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world," he added, "one restored or newly created hope at a time."

Promoting peace

A significant way to bring hope to the world is to put a greater emphasis on peace, McInally said. He cited the action Rotary members have taken in the past year to support the people of Ukraine after the invasion by Russia. Rotary has made humanitarian relief a priority, attracting more Ukrainian members in the process. But McInally noted that true relief won't come without peace — not just in Ukraine, but in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, and dozens of other places around the globe.



The theme and logo for 2023 to 2024

"Peace is the soil where hope takes root," McInally said.

McInally also emphasized the power of continuity, calling for Rotary members to continue the work of some past leaders.

He also noted recent events that underscore the importance of Rotary's continuing focus on polio. In the past year, polio cases have emerged in many areas around the world, making it more crucial than ever for Rotary members to lead the fight against the disease.

To do that, McInally said, Rotary must continue to raise at least US\$50 million each year to receive the full 2-to-1 funding match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Only about 1 in 12 members currently gives to the polio eradication campaign, with fewer than 1 in 5 clubs donating each year.

McInally asked the district governors-elect for support creating a new sense of urgency in their clubs to help realize Rotary's vision of a polio-free world. "This is the time for us to go beyond what's necessary year to year and make sure we provide every resource necessary to succeed as quickly as possible," he added.

Taken from the RI website—for more information visit www.rotary.org

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 meant that many activities were curtailed but post lockdown many 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? Unless we get more material ARCH will have to revert to every 3 months.

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 April 1st 2023 , so send any contributions in by the 20th March to dumbrelljl@btinternet.com and lets make the April issue a bumper one

John Dumbrell, Editor

A Cautionary Tale?

In the piece on the front page, Gordon McNally's club was listed as South Queensferry near Edinburgh yet many of us watched him during lockdown when he was in the Kelso Rotary Club just north of the border. So what has happened? The Kelso club managed to have many interesting meetings on Zoom and several of us joined in with those meetings. Kelso was an active club with a reasonable membership so why has Gordon moved to South Queensferry. The answer is simple, the Kelso club closed and is no more. Why did it close? It had a reasonable membership and an excellent programme but it was unable to find volunteers to become the President and Secretary for the year starting last July, so reluctantly they had to close.

There are several other clubs in this situation

JLD

Hexham Rotary Rewards Work in the Community

At our evening meeting on Monday 30th January, we had a special visitor. Ed Turnbull had been invited as a guest but had been left in the dark about the reason for his invitation. This became clear when President Bob asked him to come forward for a presentation. Brian Massey read out the citation and the President presented Ed with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Paul Harris Fellowships were established by Rotary in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to Rotary's aims in the community and in the wider world. A Fellowship can be awarded to a Rotarian or to any individual who is judged to have



made a significant difference in their community. Paul Harris established Rotary in 2005 and the fellowships recognise the work Rotary has done over the last 100 plus years. The awards are not made lightly and this was made clear as Ed Turnbull's citation was read out.

Following his retirement in 1991, Ed became concerned over the comparative poor quality of the recordings of the weekly Tynedale Talking Newspaper which is available to all persons in Tynedale with impaired vision. Using his technical knowledge, Ed had by 1997 become extremely involved in recording the Talking Newspaper and over subsequent years has both enhanced the quality of the recordings and created improved systems for the weekly live recordings. As one of a small team of 'engineers' he has over the last 25 years given readily of his time to manage the technical aspects of the weekly recordings of the Hexham Courant. He also provides on his own the same service for the bi-monthly recordings of the Northumbrian magazine and quarterly production of the Tynedale Talking magazine. Always prepared to assist the other volunteers, Ed has willingly given and continues to give so much of his time and knowledge to support the disadvantaged folk in Tynedale. He is a worthy recipient of the award.

JLD

Christmas Dinner 2022

As usual, our Christmas Dinner this year was held in the Beaumont Hotel who offered us an excellent menu with choices to suit all tastes. We had decided on a two course

meal and 41 Rotarians and their guests assembled around 6.15 for a chat before the meal.

The majority of us sat down to roast turkey with all the trimmings while some had Cod or Lasagne. This was followed by a choice of Christmas Pudding, Frangipane Tart or Cheese and Biscuits with the honours divided evenly between the tart and pudding with very few opting for the cheese.

President Bob announced the result of our Christmas Collections which this year amounted to over £2000 for our charities. He thanked everyone who had helped making this a success especially as the bitterly cold weather went down to -3C some-

times. He also took the opportunity to recommend a grant of £200 to Hexham Guides for their Nepal trip and £75 to a trainee doctor on a trip to Ghana helping the destitute there. The Rotarians present happily endorsed these gifts.

However, the highlight of the evening was an address by the Reverend David Glover, who outlined his daughter's take on the Christmas story and showed us that Christmas not only reminds us of the birth of Christ but paves the way for his earthly ministry.

A great evening enjoyed by all with an opportunity to renew many friendships.

JLD



HEXHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL SUPPORTS CANCER RESEARCH

Another donation from the proceeds of this year's 'Hexham Jazz Festival' has been presented to the cancer research team at Newcastle University.



Pictured above, Professor Herbie Newell (left), Professor Steve Clifford (second left, Professor of Molecular Paediatric Oncology and Director of Newcastle University 'Centre for Cancer') and Matthew Ingram (far right, Newcastle University Philanthropy Officer) receive a Rotary cheque for £1000.00 from Andrew Rigg, President Bob Hull and George Robinson of Hexham Rotary. Hexham Rotary helped support the organisers of the Jazz Festival this year. Absent from the picture was Roy Dallison who could not make the visit.

The presentation was accompanied by a fascinating guided tour of the 'Wolfson Centre for Childhood Cancer Research', including the research laboratories.

Andrew Rigg from the Hexham Jazz Festival Committee has confirmed that the 2023 Hexham Jazz Festival will be taking place again over the weekend of May 12-14th with venues including Hexham Abbey, The Queen's Hall and the Forum Cinema with performers to include internationally acclaimed artists. Tickets, dates and details of the performers are available from the Queen's Hall and at www.queenshall.co.uk

The organisers of the Festival would like to thank the sponsors Egger and Hexham Town Council and all those who attended last year and gave so generously to allow the donations to be made to cancer research. The 2023 Festival also plans to raise money for cancer research via the charity 'Links Housing and Advice for Young People'.



Claire Martin, Jo Harrop, Rachel Sutton,
Paul Edis, Freddie Benedict, Borealis & many others.

Tickets can be purchased from "The Queen's Hall", Hexham
or online at www.queenshall.co.uk

"Come and make a weekend of it"

Profits to Cancer Research. In association with Hamstead Jazz Club
and supported by Hexham Rotary and Hexham Town Council.

Hexham, Northumberland

12th - 14th May 2023

Andrew Rigg

Meanwhile, if you would like to help this year, we need leaflets delivering to shops and establishments in Hexham and the surroundings. These are available from any of the organisers above.

Christmas Collections 2022



Christmas collections this year were unhampered by Covid and we not only collected in Fore Street but also at Tesco and Waitrose stores.

Our annual charity collection at Christmas time occupies a whole week of collecting prior to the great day itself. The club decides on the charities to benefit beforehand and splits the

proceeds between them. With collections outside Waitrose



and Tesco and also in Fore Street, we raised over £2,800. A great big thankyou to everyone in Hexham who put money in our buckets.

We spent some 60 man and woman hours collecting in weather which was

mostly dry but ranged in temperature from -5C to a balmy 0.5C!! We were helped by numerous choirs and bands who provided a festive musical background. Among the many were the Hexham Male Voice Choir, the Rock Choir, Sele School, St Joseph's School, Vic Gammon, Hexham Orpheus Choir, sunshine Panners, Antiphon, St Mary's Choir and several others. our thanks to them all.

Mountain Rescue, Tynedale Hospice at Home and our own Charities all benefitted.

Tailpiece



On Monday 21st November last year, I attended Hexham Community Centre following an invitation from Keda Norman for a representative from our club to present Duke of Edinburgh awards to a number of worthy young persons.

They had all completed Bronze or Silver requirements, which involves help in the community or improvements to the environment. They had also shown they had developed new skills and undergone planning training for, and completing, an expedition. Most of the recipients indicated their intention to carry on for a gold award. This would involve working with a team on a residential activity.



The ethos of the award is to have fun, make friends, improve their self esteem and build confidence. These aspects were all too apparent to all of us present, as the obvious joy and enthusiasm of the recipients was a pleasure to behold. I was able to have a few words of congratulation and encouragement to each one. Keda, and the chair Di Harris, we're both complimentary about the support from Hexham Rotary which I of course, assured them would continue.

Norman Wicks



One of the Beneficiaries of our Christmas Collection



Bob Hull, President of Hexham Rotary presents a cheque to Cathy Bates of Tynedale Hospice