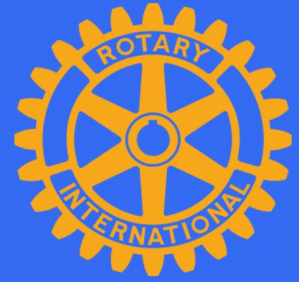




# The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham

April 2023



## Our President's Night 2023

Our president's night was planned for the 25th March but a wedding at the venue intervened and we had to reschedule to March 11th. The Saturday saw over forty of us in the Beaumont Hotel for a two course dinner and entertainment.



Our President, Bob, hosted a preprandial drink for our guests and we were fortunate in having not only our DG, Steve Rose, but also the DG Elect, Chris Baylis, present with their wives. Also present were representatives from Hadrian's Wall and Tynedale Rotary Clubs.

Dinner took the usual form with the customary toasts and after a short break we reassembled for the entertainment. This "Malarky" was ably hosted by Michael



and took the form of a biography of our President. This centered on his career with the European Commission and the various notables that he might, or might not, have spent time with.

Much was made of a possible connection with An-

*(Continued on page 2)*

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gela Merkel and several suspicious email were read out. An entrance was made by Boris Johnson who added a few words of his own followed, a few moments later after the wigs had been exchanged, by Donald Trump although none of us were sure how the phrase "Make America Great" fitted into the eulogy!



After much laughter, the delving into Bob's past came to an end and he thanked the participants and stood up to propose the toast to our guests. This was responded

to on behalf of the guests by the District Governor, Steve Rose, who praised the activities of the club and all that had been achieved under Bob's leadership.



Now it was time for the raffle which Shelagh was masterminding. There were a multitude of prizes ranging from the usual bottles and chocolates to other useful items and most tables took their fair share of each. Finally after the bouquets had been presented to the wives, Bob thanked everyone for coming and playing their part in the proceedings and proposed the final toast "Rotary and Peace the World Over" and wished everyone a safe journey home.

## MORE MATERIAL NEEDED

The Arch now has had to revert to an issue every three 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 cease publication. A minimum of 3 articles from club members is needed for every issue.**

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 July 1st 2023 , so send any contributions in by the 20th June to [dumbrelljl@btinternet.com](mailto:dumbrelljl@btinternet.com) and lets make the July issue a bumper one

*John Dumbrell, Editor*



## *Welcome Christopher Dixon*

In February, we were delighted to welcome a new member into our club. Christopher Dixon had been duly elected and was warmly welcomed by our President Bob Hull.

If your photographer had been more agile, he might actually have caught their handshake!!

## **Cold Weather Collecting**

February saw some bitterly cold weather but the Club managing to get out and collect for our disaster fund. An account of the Disaster Fund appears later on and the occasion this time was the devastating earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria.

The quake occurred on the 6 February 2023, at about 4 am with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter Scale and covered southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. There was terrible damage and tens of thousands of fatalities.



The earthquake was the largest in Turkey since the second World War and was one of the strongest ever recorded in the Middle East. Our Disaster Committee swung into action and managed to arrange with TESCO to collect outside their store.

Our day's effort was well rewarded and as a result we managed to send £1710 towards the British Red Cross

earthquake relief and another £1000 to ShelterBox to provide emergency housing.

*Big thanks to all concerned.*

# Our Rotary Club's Emergency Disaster Fund

There may be some newer members who are not really familiar with the objectives of this Fund which is administered by the Club's Emergency Disaster Team. Currently, this comprises the President, Treasurer, Jan Herdan, Vivien Drydon, Rob Hart and myself.

The Fund was set up in September 2018 with the objective of 'enabling the Club to respond to disasters and emergencies as quickly as possible in the most cost effective way to meet the immediate need' Despite there having been a very difficult fund raising period of 2 years, (due to Covid), over the last four and a half years the various Disaster Fund teams have raised more than £20,000. This has been entirely due to the wonderful generosity of the local community and the tremendous support of individual Rotarians.

As a result the Club has, during this time, been able to make substantial donations in response to the following disasters:

Bush  
Fires in  
Australia

Disasters in  
the  
Yemen  
and  
Paraguay

Response  
at home  
and  
abroad  
to Covid  
including  
supply  
of  
oxygen  
to India

Flood-  
ing in  
Pakistan

The War in Ukraine

Turkey/Syrian Earthquake

These donations have always been acknowledged and will have been of considerable help in supporting the charities working on the ground in the devastated areas of the world. We do however need to keep our Fund topped up so that we may respond to any future disasters at home or abroad.

*Brian Massey*



# HEXHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL

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 12-14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)

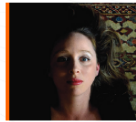
The organisers of the Festival would like to thank the sponsors Egger and Hexham Town Council and all those who attended last year and gave so generously to allow the donations from 2022 to be made to cancer research. The 2023 Festival also plans to raise money for cancer research via the charity 'Links Housing and Advice for Young People'.

FRIDAY 12TH MAY 2023



7 PM  
USHAW ENSEMBLE

8:30 PM  
AN EVENING  
WITH RACHEL SUTTON



SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2023



7-8 PM  
AN EVENING  
WITH FREDDIE BENEDICT

8:30-10:15 PM  
JO HARROP PRESENTS  
WHEN WINTER  
TURNS TO SPRING



SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2023



7-8 PM  
BOREALIS

8:30-10:30 PM  
CLAIRE MARTIN OBE  
& JAMIE SAFIR



HEXHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



HAMPSTEAD JAZZ CLUB

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



HEXHAM ROTARY



NORTHUMBERLAND  
COUNTY COUNCIL



HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

PRINTED BY POBSON PRINT

All profits go to **Cancer Research**



12<sup>TH</sup> TO 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
HEXHAM JAZZ  
FESTIVAL 2023

FEATURING

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](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)

FRIDAY 12TH MAY 2023

VENUE • HEXHAM ABBEY  
HOSTED BY JAZZ FM'S NIGEL WILLIAMS

7 PM • USHAW ENSEMBLE

PAUL EDIS • (PIANO/MD)  
ANDY MAY • (NORTHUMBRIAN PIPES)  
GRAHAM HARDY • (TRUMPET/FLUGEL)  
GRAEME WILSON  
(TENOR SAX/BASS CLARINET/FLUTE)  
EMMA FISK • (VIOLIN)  
ROB WALKER • (DRUMS)  
PAUL SUSANS • (DOUBLE BASS)

Led by virtuoso pianist, Paul Edis, this superb septet is made up of some of the finest musicians in the jazz world.

After a headlining slot at the prestigious Manchester Jazz Festival five years ago, they recorded their first studio set, Volume One. In 2021, Edis released his critically acclaimed solo album, The Still Point Of The Turning World. In 2022 he was commissioned to compose a new suite of music inspired by the Lindisfarne Gospels.

8:30 PM  
AN EVENING WITH RACHEL SUTTON

RACHEL SUTTON • (VOCAL)  
ROLAND PERRIN • (PIANO)  
ANDY CHAMPION • (BASS)  
STEVE HANLEY • (DRUMS)

Rachel Sutton's rich, emotive voice and theatrical stage presence make her one of the finest interpreters of classic jazz, her debut studio album, A Million Conversations was dubbed 'a revelation' by the highly respected London Jazz News. Together with her top-notch trio, she will be performing a selection of her own composition.



10:30 PM  
LATE NIGHT DJ SESSION WITH  
JAZZ FM'S NIGEL WILLIAMS

7-8 PM  
EVENING WITH FREDDIE BENEDICT

FREDDIE BENEDICT • (VOCAL)  
PAUL EDIS • (PIANO)  
JAMIE MCCREDIE • (GUITAR)  
EMMA RAWICZ • (SAXOPHONE)  
ANDY CHAMPION • (BASS)  
STEVE HANLEY • (DRUMS)

One of the most exciting talents to emerge from these shores in many a year, Freddie Benedict made his name as the lead singer of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. His playing style and soft, velvet voice are uncannily reminiscent of the great Chet Baker; he will be performing a perfectly mixed cocktail of cool jazz standards and Brazilian sambas.

8:30-10:30 PM • JO HARROP

JO HARROP • (VOCAL)  
PAUL EDIS • (PIANO)  
JAMIE MCCREDIE • (GUITAR)  
EMMA RAWICZ • (SAXOPHONE)  
ANDY CHAMPION • (BASS)  
STEVE HANLEY • (DRUMS)

Following two sell-out shows at Ronnie Scott's and a hugely successful UK tour, Jo Harrop and her quintet, of world class musicians will be performing a sublime suite of songs taken from When Winter Turns To Spring. The LP recently received unanimous critical acclaim and extensive airplay everywhere from BBC Radio 2 to Jazz FM.

"This special show will be a celebration of songs that touch on the idea of nature and the trials and tribulations of the heart", Harrop explains.

SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2023

VENUE • FORUM CINEMA HEXHAM

3:00 PM

THE TIME OF GOLDEN LOVE

A Live Performance to Ernst Lubitsch's 1921 Classic Film, Die Bergkatze (The Wild Cat) accompanied by Graeme Wilson on Saxophone, pianist Paul Edis, bassist Paul Susans and drummer Steve Hanley.

VENUE • QUEEN'S HALL

7-8 PM • BOREALIS

JOE STEELS • (GUITAR)  
FERG KILSBY • (TRUMPET)  
ASHA NICHOLSON • (VOCAL)  
DAN BROWN • (PIANO)  
PAUL SUSANS • (BASS)  
JOHN HIRST • (DRUMS)

Borealis is the brainchild of guitarist, Joe Steels, a rising star and recent graduate of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. This band of brilliant young musicians sound utterly unlike anything you've heard before, fusing folk and cool contemporary jazz.

8:30-10:30 PM  
CLAIRE MARTIN OBE &  
JAMIE SAFIR THE JAZZ DIVAS

CLAIRE MARTIN • (VOCAL)  
JAMIE SAFIR • (PIANO)

"She ranks amongst the four or five finest female jazz vocalists on the planet" - Jazz Times USA

Hexham Jazz Festival with Hampstead Jazz Club present a celebration of some of the most iconic female jazz singers of all time featuring award-winning jazz vocalist and BBC Radio presenter, Claire Martin and Jamie Safir, 'one of the biggest talents of British jazz piano'.

Having cut her teeth collaborating with a long list of legendary musicians including Stephane Grappelli, Martin Taylor, John Martyn, Claire Martin has released numerous critically acclaimed albums and performed in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls.