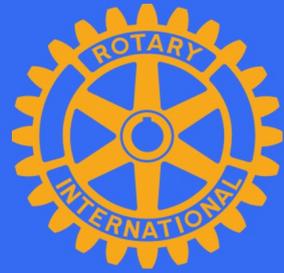




# The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



October 2020

## DIDN'T WE DO WELL

Our first effort at raising money and meeting socially distanced was our “Not the Great North Run” on Sunday September 13th and, so far, we estimate we have raised about £2,500 with possibly a little more to come.

Promptly at 2.30, Carol Malia from BBC North East started our walk and the first one away was the Mayor – Bob Hull.

26 Rotarians and friends helped by volunteers from Tynedale Hospice at Home took part, each walking 1 mile and a bit and thus collectively achieving the Marathon distance. Everyone was set off at one minute intervals to ensure social distancing and each had raised money through sponsorship. The proceeds will be shared - 90% to Tynedale Hospice and 10% to other Rotary charities.



Miles Middleton, President of the Rotary Club of Hexham, said “It is a difficult time to be a President of a Rotary Club as we cannot, of course, undertake many of our fund raising activities so I thought a Marathon shared by us all, suitably distanced from one another might be a way of getting members back together as well as a way of raising money for a worthy cause. Why “Not the Great North Run”? Well it isn't, is it and the “The Great North Walk” does not have the same ring to it”. A friend of Miles, Ian Wylie, a professional photographer, volunteered his services for the pictures of the start and our thanks go to him and Carol for their support.

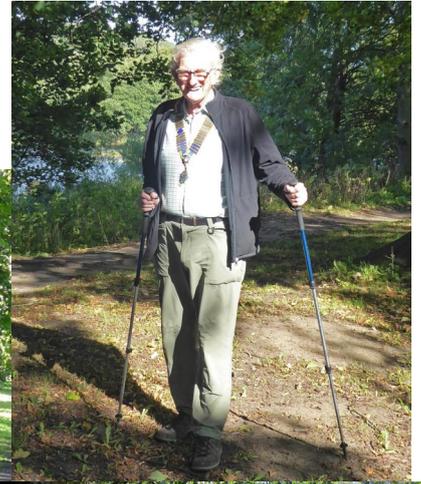


The sunny warm weather delighted the organisers and walkers alike. Cathy Bates of Tynedale Hospice at Home, who also took part in the walk, said “It's a great idea and we are delighted that Rotary is helping us”

JLD

# NTGNR Pictures

Besides Ian, Kate Robinson was busy with her camera ;



## Where there's muck there's gold!

Another idea for fruitful activity during the lockdown! Fundraising for our Ugandan charity (SEDCU) has been very difficult. Yet the need to continue to provide funding for the children and schools we normally support is as strong as ever. One of our supporters keeps horses and suggested that we might like to bag up and sell their output with the proceeds going to SEDCU. A brilliant idea! Here you can see Ben bagging up well-rotted horse manure, assisted by Nicola whose horses produce the raw material. Jan has already taken quite a few orders and this looks like a practical way for the citizens of Hexham to perk up their roses while also helping disadvantaged children in Uganda.



Orders to [janherdan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janherdan@yahoo.co.uk)

*Jan and Ben Herdan*

## Your Secret is Safe with Me

'I see they're at it again. Bang, bang, bang.' 'When will they ever give it a rest? It's every bloody weekend.' 'They no sooner finish one project than they start another.' 'What is it this time?' 'I think he's putting up decking in the garden.' 'I'm sick of their flipping dog yapping too. It makes an awful lot of noise for such a small dog.'

We had this conversation every weekend, (substituting different projects) and to be honest, the noise was really beginning to get us down. There are only so many garden centres and shopping malls you can go to to escape the noise, and now the weather's beginning to get warmer, it would be nice to be able to sit in and enjoy our own garden in peace and quiet.

We'd tried putting a note through their letter box but it didn't seem to make any difference. There was no escaping it. I was just going to have to bite the bullet and go round and try and reason with them.

I knocked on the door. They obviously couldn't hear me because of all the noise they were making, so I waited a good five minutes before wandering around the side of their house.

'Excuse me. Do you think you could keep the noise down to a minimum please? My wife and I would like to sit out in our garden now that the weather is getting warmer. However, it's impossible to hear ourselves speak with all the crashing and banging coming from your side of the fence.'

'We can do what we like in our own garden' said the man brandishing a rather large, expensive looking hammer. His wife was holding an equally impressive looking one, although smaller in size. 'And you're trespassing.'

'But it's every weekend and you're at it for hours. Please can we have some respite from the noise?'

'No' he said bluntly. 'Now bugger off, I've got work to do.'

I gave up and went back to my wife. 'It's no go love. They're not very nice people and they're not going to stop. He even accused me of trespassing when I went round to speak to them in their garden when they didn't answer the door.' 'We'll have to consider moving then. But why should we? We've lived here 30 years.' 'We could always report them to the noise abatement people at the Council; not that I think that would do any good.'

A few days later, I was in the garden attempting to repair the fence where their yappy dog had been trying to dig under it. For some reason, all was quiet next door. Then I became aware that Ben, our black Labrador, was digging yet another hole round the side of the garden shed. When I went to reprove him, I spotted two rather expensive looking hammers at the bottom of the hole. Grinning widely, I patted him and said 'Good boy, Ben. Your secret is safe with me.'

*Shelagh Carter    22 August 2020*

Shelagh and several others have joined a short story writing circle to while away the hours during lockdown and this is one of her contributions! How about putting forward your hobby or past time—we have plenty of space!

# Kelso Conversations

Did you know that the Rotary Club of Kelso is running a series of Zoom talks featuring items about Rotary. These talks are open to all and you join by registering your interest with Kelso Rotary.

I joined the one on Thursday 17th September which featured John Germ—a Past President of Rotary International talking about Polio eradication. His talk was most interesting and covered the Polio campaign from its beginnings in 1978/79 when a 3H matching Grant was used to try out the idea in the Philippines where it proved a great success to the current operation today.

Several interesting facts emerged—in 1982 despite its shown effectiveness, the World Health Agency (later the WHO) turned it down as an idea. Rotary persisted and launched the campaign in 1985 with \$120m and eventually in 1988 the WHA came on board.

In 2007 the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation became involved and have continued their support since then, but the job is not yet finished as until the virus is completely eliminated every child is at risk, as we have seen with Covid 19, polio is only a plane ride away.

When Rotary and its partners launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries every year. We've made great progress against the disease since then. Today, polio cases have been reduced by 99.9 percent, and just two countries continue to report cases of wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan. And we remain committed to the end. Rotary has committed to raising US\$50 million each year to support global polio eradication efforts. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged to match that 2-to-1, for a total yearly contribution of \$150 million.

The next two meetings are

## **Thu 8th October 2020 at 18.00 - 19.00 Kelso Conversation**



Tonight we welcome Rotary international Past President K.R. 'Ravi' Ravindran to the Kelso Conversation. It is a privilege to host a man known and respected all over the world, and to hear his message. The link to register will be available shortly.

## **Thu 5th November 2020 at 18.00 - 19.00**

**Kelso Conversation.** We are very privileged to have Rotary International President Holger Knaack as our speaker this evening. All are welcome, registration through Secretary John Lafferty. Please register early as we expect to be busy tonight!



If you are interested in joining in then a link will be available on the Kelso RC website shortly before the date. This allows you to register for the meeting.

JLD

# A Fuel of the Future

Sometime ago before the lockdown, there was a report in the papers that gas boilers in homes for central heating and hot water should be banned and replaced by electric boilers. As a previous employee of the gas industry, I took a great interest in this and looked at our own house and its gas consumption. The figures are interesting. In the winter, on average week, we use 65 kwh of electricity and 450kwh of gas. Even allowing for a greater efficiency of an electric boiler, our heating and hot water load is over 6 times our current electricity consumption. Multiply this across the country and one wonders where all the extra electricity will come from and what about the power lines and cables to carry the extra load? And this is before all the cars become electric!!

Well there are possible solutions, indeed some people in the motor industry already claim that hydrogen fueled cars will be a better solution than electric ones, so it was interesting to find the article reprinted below.

## Hydrogen: Testing the heating fuel of the Future Grid

To reach net zero by 2050, we need to find new ways to heat the UK's homes and businesses. Hydrogen could be central to this and a new test facility will look at how hydrogen might work within the existing gas network. As a nation, we're currently heavily reliant on methane gas in our homes and businesses with, for example, 85% of households using gas for their heating. The problem is that heating, cooking and industrial processes account for 37% of UK CO2 emissions. So, if we're to lower those emissions and reach the national target of net zero by 2050, we need an alternative to natural gas.

Hydrogen has the potential to be a lower-carbon, cleaner alternative to methane, but we still need to do further research and testing to understand how it could work within the current energy system. As Antony Green, our Project Director for Hydrogen, says: "If we truly want to reach a net zero future, we need to replace methane with green alternatives like hydrogen and the importance of the gas networks to the UK's current energy supply means trial projects are crucial if we're to deliver low-carbon energy reliably and safely to all consumers."

With this in mind, National Grid has partnered with Northern Gas Networks (NGN) and Fluxys Belgium to submit a bid to Ofgem to build a new hydrogen test facility in Cumbria: FutureGrid. If funding is awarded, the aim is to start construction in 2021, with testing beginning in 2022. The first of its kind, the test centre will help us to gain an understanding of how hydrogen gas could be used in the future to heat homes and deliver green energy to industry.

The £10 million project will be delivered by DNV GL, with support provided by the Health and Safety Executive Science Division and academic partnerships with Durham University and the University of Edinburgh, and involves building the hydrogen test facility at DNV GL's site at Spadeadam, Cumbria. The FutureGrid facility will be built from existing equipment and infrastructure that's 'offline' – not connected to the actual gas network – but mimics a real-life system. Blends of hydrogen up to 100% will be tested at the high pressures found in the existing network, to assess how the gas behaves and interacts with different parts of the system, such as pipes, valves and gas meters. Thierry Bottequin, Engineering Manager from Fluxys Belgium, says: "This is an important step in investigating the conversion possibilities of our infrastructure for the transmission of hydrogen and natural gas blends, and pure hydrogen. The project perfectly complements our own research to document the reliability, safety and integrity of the existing gas infrastructure when used to transport hydrogen."

*reprinted with permission from National Grid*

*One of the advantages of the National Gas Grid is that it operates at high pressures, the major lines at up to 90 times atmospheric pressure, but the pressure can be dropped significantly without endangering the supply of gas. This means that somewhere between 4 to 6 days supply is held in the pipe lines thus providing a backup against interruptions in supply, something the electricity network cannot match at the moment.*

*JLD*

# Our Babyface Competition—The Results



The winner in 1st place was Andy Pryor with Shelagh Carter, Ben Herdan and Andy Rigg as joint runners up. The jelly babies prizes will be given out shortly.

Thanks to everyone who took part and made a donation to our Polio Eradication Fund.

*Rita*

## More Short Stories

Besides Shelagh's contribution, other members have been involved in writing even shorter stories. Michael Saxon has been involved in mini story writing. He says;

"Mini Sagas are stories consisting of precisely 50 words - plus a title - with a beginning, a middle and an end. They can be funny or sad or anything you want. The Daily Telegraph sponsored a book of some of the best.

My own attempt follows, with a challenge to other Hexham Rotarians to take up the pen or word processor, nothing could be simpler.

### Will she come?

Will she come again tonight, or won't she, he wondered, lying alone on his bed.

He hoped so, but it always had to be on her terms, her choice.

His just to be grateful.

Ah! The soft footfall on the landing floor, the door swings open slowly, silently, then...

Miaow.

*Michael Saxon*

# A Note from the 1940s

## HEXHAM BISHOPRIC “MYSTERY”

Queries as to why had Hexham, with its fine ecclesiastical record, had been relegated from a bishopric were raised at Monday's lunchtime meeting of the Hexham Rotary Club when Councilor J. Cullen, vice-chairman the Hexham Urban Council, as guest-speaker, gave a talk on By-Gone Hexham. Councilor Cullen spoke for over three quarters of an hour without notes quoting names and dates with great frequency and Mr B. A. Iveson, a Past President of the Club, proposing the vote of thanks, described the talk as a wonderful feat of memory.

“It had always been a mystery to him,” said Mr Iveson, “why Hexham had stepped down from a bishopric. and it appeared that some 'underhand work' had brought it about. There were many present day bishoprics which had not the fine ecclesiastical record of Hexham.”

We, in Hexham, said Coun. Cullen, were born into a very fine cultural and spiritual heritage. Hexham's origins were lost in antiquity. but. there was no question that in the time of the Roman occupation it was a very important Station for one of the Asturian cohorts, bearing the Roman name of Epincum. Hexham's present name is derived from a variety of sources. It had been designated as Hextoldesham, Hutoldesham by the Saxons, Hestild by the Danes, Halgutstad by the Venerable Bede, while its present name dated back to the days of the Norman Conquest.

### GREATEST GLORY

Hexham's situation had much to do with its name, for it stood between two streams, the Hextol—which now, in Coun. Cullen's opinion was wrongly described as the Cockshaw Burn—and the Halgut, or Holy Stream, which runs through the Abbey Grounds. Hexham's greatest glory was found in its ecclesiastical history which was unsurpassed in any part of the country. It came into prominence as an ecclesiastical centre in the Seventh Century when St. Wilfrid began the building of his great cathedral, which was one of the glories of the age, being one of the first of its kind to have a chancel and aisles and the fifth in England' to be built of stone and one of the first to have glass windows.

In 678 the Archbishop of Canterbury. Theodore of Tarsus, who was presiding over a Synod at Hexham, consecrated the fine church of St Mary which St. Wilfrid had also completed on a site between the Market Place and Battle Hill, thus giving its name to the present-day St Mary's Chare.

### FIRST BISHOP

St. Wilfrid also built another church at the foot of Gilesgate Bank and from it, Holy Island derived its name. Hexham was elevated to a Bishopric in 674, the first holder of the See being St. Eata. He was succeeded by Tumbert, St. Cuthbert, St. John of Beverley, St. Wilfrid and St. Acca, who in 720 gave Hexham its first school, placing it under the direction of Mabone, a teacher and choir-monk of Canterbury. Then followed a long line of bishops from Fridbert to Tydfyrth, who was driven out by the Danes in 821, and St. Wilfrid's great church left a roofless ruin.

After that the spiritual care of Hexham devolved upon the Saxon Priests who were the parish priests. of St Mary's and the name, of one of them Eilan Larwa, a kinsman of the great St. Alfred, third Abbot of Rievaulx, a native of Hexham, was perpetuated in the thoroughfare, Eilansgate.

Austin Canons assumed control in 1130 with Aschetil as the first Prior of Hexham, and on his death he was succeeded by Robert Bissett. The canons erected a number of houses on the east side of Hexham for conventual workers and pensioners, these being known as the place of the Priest's people, hence the derivation of the name Priestpopple. Giving the names of the Priors of Hexham from 1399 to 1536, Coun. Cullen spoke of Thomas Smithson, who erected the magnificent Rood Screen with its exquisitely carved rosettes, and Edward Jay, who was hanged at the Priory Gatehouse following his refusal to surrender his Priory to the King's Commissioners.

Coun. Cullen traced the town's history through the Jacobite Risings, and the Hexham Riot, in 1761, to the opening of the Blaydon-Hexham railway on March 9th, 1835. The Tindale Ward Savings Bank, and. the Hexham Dispensary, he noted, opened in 1816, and in 1825 the Hexham Mechanics and Scientific Institute was founded in the Blue Bell Yard.

By 1827 Hexham had four tanneries and the glove making industry, which was manufacturing 24,000 pairs of gloves a year, employed 1,000 women and girls in addition to 120 men and boys.

Coun. Cullen sketched the development of Hexham's religious and cul-tural life, the establishment of the Independent Church in Broadgates in 1795, the erection of the Scotch Church in Hencotes in 1825 and the meeting places of the Primitives, Wesleyans and Baptists. There were also two Catholic Chapels, one in Cockshaw under the Rev. Michael Singleton and one in Hencotes under the Rev. Jasper Leadbitter.

*I am indebted to Sandy Rutherford for the above cutting from the front page of the Courant some time in the 1940s. What a difference 80 years makes. Our meetings were of great note in those days and made the front page whereas today we are lucky to get a couple of lines tucked away among the village life!!*

*If anyone has little bits of history, like the above, I would be delighted to print them.*

*John Dumbrell*

# Rotary Magazines

Besides this little newsletter, there are a variety of Rotary magazines, many, like ours, are the work of clubs or action groups but we also have a District Bulletin which comes out each month and is distributed electronically to the whole of District 1030. Further up the line Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland publishes a bi-monthly “Rotarian” as does Rotary International. The RiGBI “Rotarian” is sent to all UK Rotarians with a known email address and the International publication can be accessed through the RI Website. Just to give you a flavour of the International one, the following is a short excerpt written by a Rotarian who has survived both Polio and Covid 19.

## What it's like to survive through two pandemics

By Paul Engleman Illustrations by Fien Jorissen

Sixty-five years ago, in 1955, I was diagnosed with polio. I was two years old, so I was unaware of what it meant to have been infected with the poliovirus, but I became more aware of it in subtle ways as I got older. And at some point, I understood what my mother meant when she said I was “one of the lucky ones.”

My mother came from Jersey City, New Jersey, and she sounded like it all her life, aided and abetted by a daily regimen of unfiltered Kool cigarettes. She drove a supply truck as a civilian during World War II and delighted in telling a tale about a GI who tried to “get fresh” with her when she gave him a lift back to the base. When she told him she was married and her husband was deployed overseas, he said, “Baby, what’re you saving it for — the worms?”

She stopped the truck and told him, “Ride in back, buster!” I have no doubt that she used an expletive, although she never employed one in the retelling, Jersey accent notwithstanding. But she still thought “saving it for the worms” was the funniest line she had ever heard. She was a woman who could take things in stride, the quintessential “tough cookie.”

But there was one recollection that could unravel my mother like no other — the one that involved her youngest son being diagnosed with polio and the palpable fear that stalked parents across the country during the summers of the early 1950s. She could not stop her voice from cracking when she spoke about that time.

That, along with her warnings about staying out of “polio puddles” after it rained, shaped my awareness of how frightening the epidemic had been.



## Keeping Digitally Safe during Lockdown

More and more scams are appearing during Covid as crooks endeavour to get their hands on your money. It is more important than ever to ensure your computer is secure and protected. There are many free programs to help with this, but anyone running Windows 10 already has an excellent anti-virus and firewall in the shape of Defender—it is built in and free and will give good protection.

Two current scams are going around one appearing to come from BT by both phone and email warns that unless you contact them you will lose your email account—**this does not come from BT**. Another scam appears to be from a friend, who emails you asking to help them buy a gift card from Amazon as a birthday present. The story is that they cannot access their AQmazon account but will pay you back if you get them the gift card. **This appears to be a genuine request for help but it is yet another scam.**

Be vigilant and query anything that looks suspicious!!

JLD