



The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



October 2021

A Match that Wasn't !!



A few weeks ago, Hexham Rotary and Hadrian's Wall Rotary were challenged to a Quoits match by the Rotary Club of Tyndale. It was to be played on the Quoits Pitch at Corbridge Cricket Club. So great was the initial enthusiasm, coupled with the limited number of pitches, that it was decided to limit the first encounter to just Hadrian's Wall and Tyndale. However, as the date drew near the number of players decreased, due to the return of Covid-19 and also the opening up of holiday possibilities, so we were re-invited to make up the numbers.

On arrival at the Cricket Ground it became apparent that most of us were complete novices so it was decided to have a practice session first before moving on to a competition.

Quoits is usually played in teams of two who play an opposing team of two. The pitch has a target at each end which is a yard square filled with very sticky clay with a white peg in the centre. The quoits are heavy steel hoops about 10 inches in diameter and the aim is



to throw them from one end of the pitch into the clay at the other end where they land with a satisfying "thwack", the nearest to the pin being the winner. Getting a quoit over the pin scores double. The quoit has to land first in the clay to count, ones that bounce in are disqualified. The first team to reach 21 points is the winner. There were some interesting throws at the beginning with quoits landing anywhere but in the clay—there is an art to throwing the quoit and brute strength is not necessarily an advantage. Eventually things settled down and a goodly percentage of the throws were landing in the clay. It was now decided to have a trial game but all the contestants were mixed up so it was an odd assortment of teams.

The games took place with great enthusiasm and everyone enjoyed themselves and towards the end it was announced that lunch was in ten minutes which encouraged a race for the 21 points to finish the match. We all then retired to the club house where the Cricket Club had provided an excellent lunch after which Chris Baylis thanked our hosts and we all agreed it had been an excellent introduction to Quoits. Sadly the season is now at an end so a proper match will have to wait until next year.

AT LAST - WE MEET FACE to FACE



After 18 months of only meeting through Zoom, Hexham Rotary is back to meeting F2F at lunch times in the Beaumont Hotel. It looks as though we shall be meeting regularly each week on Monday at 12.30 for a 12.45 lunch until Christmas time except for the 29th November when we have an evening meeting in the Abbey and for December 13th when we celebrate with our Christmas Dinner in the Beaumont. We now need to get used to booking in for our lunch meals through our Secretary. However keep your eyes on our website at www.hexhamrotary.co.uk in case there are any changes.

Our Zoom meetings have been lively affairs and we have had an excellent selection of speakers several of whom would not have been able to talk to us except through Zoom and we shall keep this option open to us in the future and while we meet F2F our speaker may appear via Zoom.

Our picture is just to remind you what a zoom meeting looks like but F2F is so much better.

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

John Dumbrell, Editor

Getting Away from it All



Some travel restrictions have been lifted and it is much easier now to take a trip to the sun. Last month many of the regulations were still in place but our President challenged the system and had a cruise on the Douro in Portugal. He describes his trip as:

“Our trip in the Royal Barge up the Douro was magnificent. A small ship, there were only 20 of us onboard, and we were treated like royalty. 2 five course meals per day (plus breakfast of course) and as much drink as one could reasonably (or perhaps unreasonably) consume. Additionally we all got on like a house on fire all of which

contributed to making it a memorable holiday.”

He goes on to explain the pictures;

“ The photo of Bobbie and I outside a chateau is interesting as it is the Matheus Rose chateau famous as you may remember for its distinctive shaped bottles being used as lamps. It is still occupied by the family and the wine is still being made in are quantities. There is also a photo of Bobbie and I sitting on the Royal thrones, Bobbie looking quite regal, me more like the Duke of Edinburgh on an off day.”



Opportunities on Zoom

Several clubs have run successful fundraising activities on Zoom perhaps we could copy them and raise money for our own good causes—to do this a volunteer is needed.?

Rotary

South Queensferry



Trust Fund Charity Number: SCO25363

The Great Rotary

Pub Quiz

On Line Quiz

Monday 6th September 7.30pm

Teams of Four - Team Entry £20.00

**All proceeds going to support
Local Projects, Foundation & End Polio**

Attractive Prizes

Easy Entry Just email

vikkirenwick164@gmail.com

Link will be sent upon Entry Fee Being Paid

Pay Entry Fee Via

South Queensferry Just Giving Page

<https://www.justgiving.com/rcsq>

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRY 27th August

Terry Robson continues his family story

My Maternal Robson Family:

My mother was also a Robson and her family has been traced back to 1768 as living in the Cholerton area. They were then “husbandmen”, a term for men skilled in farming practices but not specialist in any.

Her family has lived in Well Cottage, Barrasford since it was built in 1814 and when Edward Robson became a tenant of the Duke of Northumberland. The family still live there now, although as freeholders. Following the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars the English nobility had thought it wise to invest in their communities and so they'd built villages giving homes to their tenant workers along with smallholdings on which to become self-sufficient. This is the way it was in Barrasford with the Duke influenced by the Revolution.

My mother's grandfather (Edwards grandson), my great grandfather, was a man called John Robson, born in 1845. He was known locally for feats of strength and was described in local folklore as a “man of robust physique with a willingness to get involved in the odd rough house”. The late 1860's found him in Gateshead working as a policeman, a job to which he was well suited. While stationed in Felling he'd become friendly with a colleague called John Rutherford (also with North Tyne roots) and he'd subsequently formed a relationship with Rutherford's sister Jane, who has been described as “physically very strong, big, bonny and short tempered”. A family story recounts how she once broke a man's leg during an argument in Berwick! My great grandfather and Jane Rutherford's liaison produced an illegitimate son, Joseph, who was registered at birth in 1869 as Joseph Rutherford, even though parental responsibility had been accepted by John Robson.

The baby Joe was taken to Barrasford to be brought up in Well Cottage by John Robson's mother Sarah and his brother, Stephen Robson, a quarryman and Methodist local preacher. From then on my grandfather was known as Joe Robson, reared in a home where a strict Methodist rule applied but everyone was loving and kind. It was not till he married at the age of 33 that it came to light that his lawful name was in fact Rutherford. Since his fiancée Margaret Alice Brown (29) preferred to adopt the Rutherford name from then onwards Joe began to use the name Rutherford.

Joe (Robson) Rutherford's parents John and Jane Robson later married, had four other children and set up home in Jarrow. John Robson had by then left the Constabulary to work in the shipyards. As a young man Joe decided to leave Barrasford to join his father working in the shipyards and also at Kenton Quarry. It wasn't long, though, before Joe, with his upbringing found his father's life style not to his liking. So after his Uncle Stephen had died Joe moved back to Barrasford and in 1894 he was granted the tenancy of Well Cottage by the Duke's Estate (see letter).

My grandfather Joe cut a distinctive figure in Barrasford with a mane of hair running from his head right down his back. He was now a smallholder with 6.5 acres of land and was working as a self-employed contractor and quarryman, as well as a Methodist local preacher. Sadly, however, an explosion at Barrasford Quarry in 1918 left him, at 48, blinded and severely injured as he was blown down the quarry face while at the same time a colleague and close friend was buried under stone and killed.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

My grandmother now became the sole bread winner for their five children and her blind and deeply depressed husband, and she went to work in Barrasford Quarry. This redoubtable lady had been born and raised in Hexham's Workhouse; she had become a glove maker before going to work as a housekeeper for my grandfather and had later become his wife.

Hannah Robson Rutherford, my mother, known as Nancy, was born on 1st April, 1905, the third daughter of five children. She had two younger brothers Stanley and Stephen both of whom became Methodist local preachers. My uncle Stanley became the sub- postmaster at Barrasford while Stephen emigrated to New Zealand where he became the mayor of his town Ngaruawahia near Hamilton. One of mother's sisters became a nurse - the other went into service, both moving south after marriage. Two of the Rutherford children carried the name Robson as a middle name - my mother Nancy and her brother Stephen; all the Rutherford children were known in the village as Joe Robson's bairns and answered to the surname Robson.

After leaving Chollerton C of E School mother became a parlour maid for the Barnett family at Lincoln Hill, Humshaugh. One day her employer Mrs Barnett was sitting too close to an open fire, her clothes caught alight and it was only thanks to my mother's prompt action in smothering the flames that her life was saved. Mrs Barnett was forever grateful and when I was christened she became my godmother. The Barnett family were kind to me, giving me work in their gardens after leaving school and when I established my own business it was my company that was chosen to rewire Lincoln Hill for Col. Barnett and Howden Dene, Corbridge for the colonel's sister Mrs Dickinson.

In 1936 my mother married Harry Robson, a garage proprietor then becoming Hannah (Nancy) Robson Robson. They lived adjacent to his garage in a bungalow called River Brae below Brunton cross roads. Their first son Ian was born the next year but sadly he was killed near Brunton in December, 1940. Ian had been allowed to go across the fields to the home of his friend to tell him that he had a Christmas tree but was hit by a wagon as he ran across the road. This was an immense family tragedy; my mother who lived into her nineties never got over her loss.

Mother had received training in her youth as a singer and often sang as a soloist at Methodist functions, she was also well known locally for her "monologues", and was in great demand as an entertainer at WI's and village halls around the district. In later life, having lost a leg after an accident, she lived with Eileen and me until her death from a stroke in September 1999. She had been a good mother and a phenomenal worker, a devout Methodist who rarely missed a service and having "Signed the Pledge" as a child she never ever knowingly drank any alcohol.

My Uncle Stephen remarked that the Methodist religion along with a low level of self-righteousness as practiced in Well Cottage, Barrasford had saved this branch of our family.

Terry Robson



Aquabox news

Haiti earthquake - more aid desperately needed!

AQUABOX has responded promptly to the devastating earthquake which hit Haiti on August 14. Our volunteer teams immediately concentrated on stepping up production of Aquabox water filters, and an initial consignment of both community filters and family filters left our depot in Derbyshire on September 17, to join an Air France air freight consignment to the Haitian capital Port au Prince.

This Aquabox consignment will ensure that thousands of people in Haiti - one of the poorest countries in the world - will at least have access to clean, safe water for drinking, for cooking and for washing. But the sheer scale of the disaster means that much more aid is desperately needed.

The 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the Tiburon peninsula, about 150km west of Port au Prince, at 8.29am on August 14. The scale of the damage is horrifying - it is the worst natural disaster the world has seen this year. As of September 7, at least 2,248 people were confirmed to have been killed, and the number of injured was estimated at 12,000 and rising. At least 136,800 buildings were damaged or destroyed, and more than 900 aftershocks were recorded in the following weeks.

Les Cayes, Haiti's third-largest city, was the closest to the quake, and suffered massive damage. On August 18, the Haitian Civil Protection General Directorate reported that more than 60,700 homes had been destroyed, and

76,100 others were damaged. At least 53 medical facilities suffered partial damage, six were totally destroyed, and the quake damaged or destroyed more than 300 schools.

The Haitian government immediately declared a state of emergency, and on August 30 Unicef reported that that at least 650,000 people - 250,000 of them children - were in need of humanitarian aid. **An estimated 81,000 Haitians had no access to safe drinking water.**

Faced with numbers like this, you might think that you couldn't possibly make a difference. **You would be wrong!** One Aquabox family filter costs about £30, and has the capacity to process up to half a million litres of water over its life. The basic human need is about four litres a day to sustain life - so just one Aquabox family filter can provide life-saving water for scores of people, day after day, week after week. The larger community filters, intended for use in schools, hospitals and community centres, can help to save thousands of lives. And because Aquabox is run almost entirely by unpaid volunteers, nearly all your donation goes directly to making more water filters, and shipping them to where they are needed most.

Will you help us? We need to assemble and pack more filters, and to get them to desperate communities in Haiti as fast as possible. Aquabox can't do anything about the massive destruction or the thousands of injured people in Haiti, but we can ensure that desperate Haitians



The world's worst
natural disaster
this year

More than 130,000
buildings damaged
or destroyed

650,000
people in need

80,000-plus
people with no access to
safe drinking water

Just £30 pays
for up to half a million litres
of safe, clean water

at least have access to clean, safe water. Because without that clean, safe water, in a very short space of time nothing else matters.

Please support this vital work. Go to www.justgiving.com/campaign/Aquabox-Haiti2021, and give whatever you can. Thank you!



Aquabox is both a registered charity, number 1098409, and a limited company, number 04774277. To contact us:

Mail: Aquabox, PO Box 5398, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4ZP

Phone: 01629 825178 (outside UK, phone +441629 825178)

Email: enquiries@aquabox.org **Website:** www.aquabox.org

West Northumberland Foodbank—update

At the start of 2020, our team of 45 Targeted Support Workers (TSWs) were working with up to 120 households every week over our 3 sites, meeting face-to-face with people to provide sign-posting, referral, and advocacy along with access to our free mini-markets to choose their own food and household essentials. However, we were working at the very limits of our capacity in several ways:

- Space – We had outgrown all 3 sites. At Prudhoe Spetchells Centre, Hexham Enterprise Hub and Haltwhistle Library, our TSWs regularly arrived before the start of a drop-in session to find a queue of people waiting outside in full view of passers-by. Once inside it was impossible to provide privacy for people to talk with our TSWs or to visit us with any degree of anonymity.
- Safe working conditions – It was becoming increasingly difficult to provide safe working conditions for staff and volunteers, due to overcrowding and occasional incidents of antisocial behaviour.
- Stock control – While we are all advocates for offering visitors the opportunity to choose their own groceries from our mini-markets, it was becoming increasingly difficult to replenish stock in time for the next drop-in session. Experiencing poverty can be very worrying and for some visitors the array of food on offer led to people stockpiling and taking more than we could readily provide.



The position now

At the time of writing, we have 329 households on our list, including 138 new households joining us at an average of 4 per week. This represents around 670 people that we have helped to feed over the last 8 months, through delivering 2,600 food parcels. Missing from that list are several households that we have known for many years who are in 'persistent poverty'. People whose circumstances are unlikely to change enough to have a decent standard of living used to visit us at least once a week for social contact and to collect food. This group would represent 10-20%

of our list every year. One of the reasons we have not heard from them is that they are in receipt of the Universal Credit uplift of £20 per week. This uplift is due to end in September, when they will be plunged back into hardship and very likely turn to us during the winter, potentially adding a 15% increase in households to our growing list. On top of this, we expect some increase in demand once furlough ends and as low-paid sectors such as hospitality face job cuts.

We have a good track record of effective planning and development to meet the changing needs of the people we serve. Every summer since we opened in 2013, we have looked at the main reasons people come to the food bank, the number of people needing our help and the amount of food required, and developed plans for the next project year. Our progress is as follows;

2014: A gap in advice services and an increase in JSA sanctions prompted us to launch our 'More than Food' project very early on, recognising that people experiencing poverty needed welfare advocacy along with a food parcel.

2015: 44% of people using the WNFB were facing benefit delays and sanctions, so we recruited and trained additional volunteer Welfare Rights Advocates, and ran Eat Well for Less courses.

2016: Two out of three requests for help were from people in treatment for their mental and physical health; again, we expanded to help more people access the support they were entitled to, including helping 50 people access over £8000 of unclaimed benefits that year.

2017: We launched our Targeted Support service, knowing that more children would start their lives in poverty because of the Two-Child Policy on certain benefits and people needed help with debt and accessing other services.

2018: We expanded the Targeted Support service again and brought in extra training, in readiness for a huge increase in demand as Universal Credit was rolled out.

2019: We dealt with a 50% increase in demand, with a staggering 220 households coming forward for help for the first time and 40% of our list staying with us more than 6 months. As a result, we added an additional goal – to provide follow-on support to address the consequences of persistent poverty.

Our vision and recommendations for the future.

- Providing free food and household essentials - Including fresh ambient produce in parcels and vouchers for chilled produce
- Targeting support to address the causes/effects of poverty
- Providing follow on support to address the consequences of persistent poverty
- Working with others to reduce poverty

John Dunn

This is an excellent charity working on our doorstep and one we should support

Another place to look for good causes is on the RI website where you will find Rotary Advisory Groups - RAGs—which support and advise on particular themes such as the one below which deals with Malaria.



Club Programme 2021 1 July onwards

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

August 23rd	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Business Meeting
August 30th	Monday	Bank	Holiday	
September 6 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	“Life on the Railway” -Richard Thornton
September 13 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	“Information on Rotary” – John Dumbrell
September 14th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council	
September 20 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	John Dunn “Building a CHP plant”
September 27 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Joy Palmer Cooper – “Rotakids and Interact”
October 4 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	John McCabe “The First Global Olympics -1960”
October 11 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Norman Sellar – “Kids Out”
October 12th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council	
October 18th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Business Meeting
October 25 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Chris Baylis – Electric Vehicles
November 1st	Monday	12.45	SGM/ Business Meeting	Elect officers, approve accounts Business Meeting
November 8 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	
November 12th/13th	Tesco	Poppy	Collection	
November 15th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	
November 18th	Thursday	18.30	District Council	
November 20th	Saturday		Tree planting	
November 22 nd	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	Katy Taylor – Queens Hall
November 23rd	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council	+Trustees Meeting
November 29 th	Monday	Evening	Club Meeting	Evening Meeting, Abbey
December 4th	Saturday		Tree planting	
December 6 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting	
December 13 th	Monday	7.00pm	Xmas Dinner	
December 14th	Tuesday	5.30	Club Council	
December 20 th	Monday	12.45	Club Meeting.	
December 27th				No Meeting Christmas Week
January 3rd				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/>