

ROTARY NEWS

ISSUE NO. 12 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HODDESDON APRIL 2016



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District 1260 - Chartered 1947 - Club No: 19256 - Charity Number 270925

President Ted Gradosielski

Welcome to the latest edition of Rotary News and I hope that you will find plenty to interest you with reports on the activities of Hoddesdon Rotary Club, since our last issue in November. I was delighted when asked to join fellow Rotarian members at this year's Essay Competition earlier this month. I was most impressed with the number of entries as well as the high standard of the essays from these young people who were well supported at the event by their parents and teachers. Thanks must go to Chris Waddington and his Vocational Committee for their dedication to this worthy project.

I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating our longest serving member—Rotarian and Past President Tommy Knight, as he has recently completed sixty five years with our club, an incredible achievement and I speak for all Rotarians in expressing our gratitude to him for his work for in Rotary and the community for many years. See page 4.

As I approach the last few months of my time as President, I am able to reflect on what has been an enjoyable if busy year, and record what fun and reward has been gained from working with good people, all focused on helping others both at home and abroad. The pictures below show evidence of an enjoyable evening in good company.

Our club was responsible for organising the District Quiz in January, having won the previous year, and much effort was applied by Hoddesdon Rotarians not least Chris Waddington, John Hiscock (Question master) and David Bradburn (technology and scores). My congratulations to all concerned, and £1000 raised for charitable causes.

During my presidency, our club has made good progress with plans for the trip to the Himalayas being arranged for twelve local school children (as reported on page 6). David Johnston will be leading the trip in his presidential year, and our congratulations go to him for all the work that he is doing.

To conclude I would like to thank my fellow Rotarians for the last year, and to record my appreciation for all that we do at The Rotary Club of Hoddesdon, a fine group of people, all putting 'service above self' .



Essay Writing Competition 2016

Parents and children gathered at Hoddesdon Library on 9th March to hear who had won the annual Essay Writing Competition, letters having been submitted from local primary schools with the theme based on future career ambitions—'what I want to be when I grow up and why'.

Mayor Martin Greensmyth presented the prizes, firstly to group winners from each school and then to the overall winner. Elisa Salvo from St Cross School was awarded first prize for her essay based upon her chosen occupation, a grower in the nursery business. Elisa helps her father in his nurseries and her moving letter is shown below. President Ted Gradosielski thanked the parents and children for their contributions, this event having been arranged by the Vocational Committee.



Elisa Salvo
yr6
St Cross

What I want to be when I grow up and why?

Do you know where aubergines come from? You might say: Italy, Spain or Cyprus—but we grow them in greenhouses just down the road from the school in Nazeing! Well at least my Father does. As a family we have grown aubergines for fifteen years but before that, we grew cucumbers. My Grandfather also produced cucumbers in the local area. So it runs in the family—we love to grow things.

Personally, I love being outdoors with nature. I already spend my summer holidays helping my Father pack aubergines into crates ready for delivery for the Supermarkets. The most enjoyable moment is when I get a chance to sit beside my Father whilst he drives his forklift truck. He makes it go that little faster, as he knows it will make me smile with excitement. It is amazing that we are able to grow Mediterranean vegetables here in England despite the weather. Small plants arrive in January and grow to the height of the greenhouses, nearly four metres high by November. That's double the height of my bedroom!

I want my Father to know even though he does not have a son, he can still count on his daughter to carry on his business. It will make me so happy to see how proud my Father would be to know that his business will carry on. I do not want my dad to think when he becomes old

he won't have to sell his greenhouses. It will be great to carry on what my family have started. I did want to be a famous jockey but I want to do this instead because I do not want my Father to sell it. As we have lots of fond memories from it.

Don't worry Dad!



The individual school winners were as follows— Broxbourne Sophia Lilley (Prime Minister), Cranbourne Charlotte Waring (Author), Forres Carmen Hazard (Author), Roselands Emma Carey (Author/Illustrator), St Augustine's Amelia Wheatcroft (Marine Biologist), St Cross Elisa Salvo (Grower), Sheredes Rida Mahar (Artist), Westfield Jemimah Kamau (Architect), Wormley Emily Wijewardana (Doctor).



Tommy Knight PP - Long Service Award

Rotarian Tommy Knight, who was 95 years young last December is pictured following receipt of a Long Service Award, duly signed by all members of Hoddesdon Rotary Club. Tommy joined Hoddesdon Club in 1951 when the Club was 3 ¼ years old and when the cost of lunch had risen from 6 old pence to 4 bob.

In March 1953, after the Lynmouth Flood disaster, Tommy's appeal in Hoddesdon raised £700 – an amazing sum at today's prices. Then, the average house price was £2000 and a pound of coffee was 15 p. In 1968 Tommy compiled and presented "The First Twenty One Years of our Club – a milestone along a very long road". He was President in 1962-3 and in May 1963 Club members visited no less than 4 Belgian Rotary Clubs including Dinant with whom we are now twinned.



In April 1993 Tommy was one of 9 Club members awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship. In his case mention was made of unstinting support for CAB, his key membership secretarial role in our Club, his tireless educating of new recruits, his success as archivist and willing participation in all aspects of Club life.

A printer, a skilled radio ham with worldwide connections, a convert to computing when most of his contemporaries were content to be Luddites, over the past 65 years Tommy has been a friend to so many in our Club and the local community.

We were immensely proud and pleased to present a Long Service Award in a leather folder specially made by our book-binder member Barry Fitzpatrick.

More looking back.... Tommy was born 16th December 1920 and joined Hoddesdon Rotary Club 16th Jan 1951. Sixty five years on, life has changed a bit - the average wage was £4pw then and a pint of beer cost six shillings (30p). Churchill was to return as Prime Minister and the Festival of Britain commenced. Television was in the very early stages, and a Ford Popular cost £80. Britain was recovering from WWII and starting to repair the scars from the effects of bombing across the country.



Welcome to our new RIBI President

We are pleased to announce that Eve Conway of the Rotary Club of Redbridge, has been elected President of RIBI for Rotary year 2016/17.

Since starting out as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in the 1980s, Eve has never looked back and has had a very active Rotary career holding a variety of offices including that of district governor for Rotary in London.

One of her many achievements is the creation of the RIBI Young Citizen Awards. The ceremony is covered live by the BBC News channel each year and is one of Rotary's flagship events. Eve is also a keen Wheel Power ambassador, campaigning to improve the lives of disabled people through sport. During London 2012 she was a member of RIBI's Olympic and Paralympic Committees and performed in the opening and closing Paralympic ceremonies as well as training as a games maker.



Commenting on her election, Eve said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been elected president of RIBI for 2016/17. It is an amazing, inspirational organisation that has transformed my life since the 1980s and I am passionate about ensuring that we have a strong future. My goal is to engage enthusiasm about Rotary and what we achieve in the world so that we attract new people to join us. We need to bring more women into Rotary, have more diversity and younger members and make sure we truly reflect the communities we serve."

Eve, who is a professional journalist with the BBC, will take over as president of RIBI on July 1 2016.



HODDESDON TO THE HIMALAYAS. H2H

The Journey starts here ! Last week saw the launch of our H2H project. An ambitious project is underway to take 10 students from local schools together with 2 teachers and 6 Rotarians and club friends out to Nepal to work in a school damaged by the earthquake, and then trek to Everest Base Camp. The fun now starts to raise the necessary funds, with many exciting ideas and events in the pipeline., starting with our Charity Football event. The Club initiated an ambitious and challenging project with two main aims:

To take a party of 10 young people from two local schools to Nepal for 19 days in Spring 2017 to undertake a work programme in an earthquake- damaged village not far from Kathmandu, for the benefit of the local Nepalese community, gaining insights into a different way of life in the process, followed by a trek and climb to Everest Base Camp to expand their self- awareness and confidence through the physical and mental experience and teamwork.

Hoddesdon Rotary is guiding the whole project but the schools have prime ownership and look to the youngsters to be active throughout. A preliminary meeting of all concerned took place on 21st March to review progress already made and start pupil's fund-raising and PR projects. Everyone was excited and keen to get involved.

For its part, the Rotary Club of Hoddesdon Council and members have pledged to raise £18000 towards the costs of this adventure: fund-raising started some while ago and includes sponsorship pledges, quizzes, Race Nights, an April charity football match in Hoddesdon, street collection, lecture proceeds and even a joke book

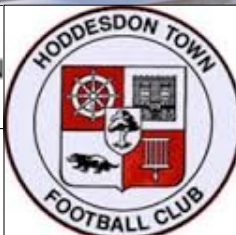
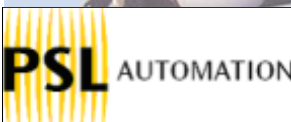
In future editions we plan to profile the participants, give more information on our developing partnership with the Rotary club in Kathmandu who are working with us and the school on the community project.



**Our next Fundrasing event is a
Charity Football Match
Sunday 17th April 2016
Kick-Off 3.00pm**

A Hoddesdon Town FC X1
&
A rotary Club of Hoddesdon Select X1
At
Lowfield, Park View, Hoddesdon.

Entrance £3 per person including programme, payable at the gate
Refreshments available from 1.00pm



One part of our fundraising is through direct sponsorship of the event, and we are pleased to be partnering so far with Hoddesdon Town Football Club, PSL Automation and Visionary Accountants. H2H fundraising events and ongoing publicity using the internet and social media will where possible feature our sponsors. If you are a local business wanting to play a part in an exciting local project and get some beneficial publicity then please contact David Johnston on 07734233156.



McMullens' Brewery

A group of lucky Rotarians from Hoddesdon Rotary Club were recently treated to a tour of the McMullens brewery in Hertford, followed by sampling of the products at the on site bar. Local people will know of the brewery in Hertford, but may not be fully aware of it's heritage and past.

McMullens was founded in 1827 by Peter McMullen initially in Railway Street, and since then they have continued brewing in Hertford without a break. The heritage of AK, for example, can be traced back to 1833.



Their pubs are run by managers or business partners and provide an exclusive market for a range of beers. Local pubs such as the Bulls Head at Turnford and The Sun in Hoddesdon have been completely refurbished in recent years, offering good quality food and modern comfortable surroundings.

Whilst the established beers such as County and AK continue to be brewed locally, the company do provide a range of seasonal ales and often beers to mark special occasions such as a royal birth or wedding.

McMullens brew cask ale locally and bottled beers are produced externally for the brewery. The company owns over 130 freehold pubs mainly operating in the Home Counties and with a number of pubs in London. Barooch bars will be known to many in Hertford, the former Barclays Bank branch having been purchased and now a very popular local establishment with a strong brand.



The visit proved to be very interesting and gave a much clearer picture of our local brewery and it's heritage. Rotarians were grateful to Fergus McMullen - Production and Sales Director (pictured above) for conducting the guided tour and for providing a very entertaining morning.



Mock Interviews

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Rotary commitment to young people and school pupils in particular is well known: we try to make a difference through challenge (our Technology Tournament) reward (bursaries for those taking initiatives towards vocational and personal development goals), through encouragement (essay writing and public speaking) and practical involvement like our Spring Event for the local elderly.

Since 2007 we have supplied interviewers to the Hertfordshire County skills-coordination team and their events for 14 year olds to 6th formers in local schools including Broxbourne, Cheshunt, Goffs, John Warner, Rivers, Sele, St. Marys, and Turnford.

Mock interviews allow mistakes to be made before they count. Face-to-face coaching has greater impact than the written word on the pupils involved. We set a friendly but realistic scene, show what should be expected in a proper interview, listen to responses to scripted questions which we adapt "on the hoof" then discuss how each individual can optimise their presentation.



Mock Interviews



We draw on whatever wisdom age confers plus our business experience and it seems to work! We rarely encounter a problem individual: however nervous they may be at the outset, their confidence seems boosted and we get appreciative feedback.

One common recommendation is web and other research – the interviewee demonstrates interest in the target organisation and distance from the herd by having intelligent comments and questions for the interviewer when asked.

Each pupil is judged on their CV and academic record, punctuality, sensible dress, good body language and attitude and a willingness to learn - whatever they wish to be (bricklayer to ballet dancer). We try to draw out each pupil's USPs (Unique selling Points) – It is surprising how many understate their talents.



For the Rotary interviewers this is a very rewarding adventure: we are committed to supporting the next generation and the looks on so many young faces make mock interviews a real pleasure.

John Hiscock



Rotary—Microfinance

It was at a Rotary District International Fair that I first heard about Microfinance. As the new Chairman for Hoddesdon Rotary Club International Committee, I was looking for some new initiatives and this looked like a very worthwhile venture.

Microfinance is a scheme run by CARE International and allows individuals and organisations to make small loans to entrepreneurs and small business owners to help them grow their business. The loans can be anything from £15 to £1000 or more. The loans are then repaid over the next year or two.

In October 2014, we set up an account in the name of Hoddesdon Rotary Club via the website lendwithcare.org and credited our account with just £300. It was then a simple matter of choosing which entrepreneurs to make loans to via the website. The committee decided, at least initially, we should make small loans to business owners only in countries where there was a Rotary presence to see how the system worked.

The scheme works well. In the 16 months since our first loan, we have made nearly 60 loans to farmers, taxi drivers, carpenters and shop owners across South America, Africa and South East Asia. Already many of these loans have been paid back in full as the small businesses have grown.

Nobody has defaulted on the loans that have been made and as our credit is replenished, we are able to make further loans effectively re-using our investment.

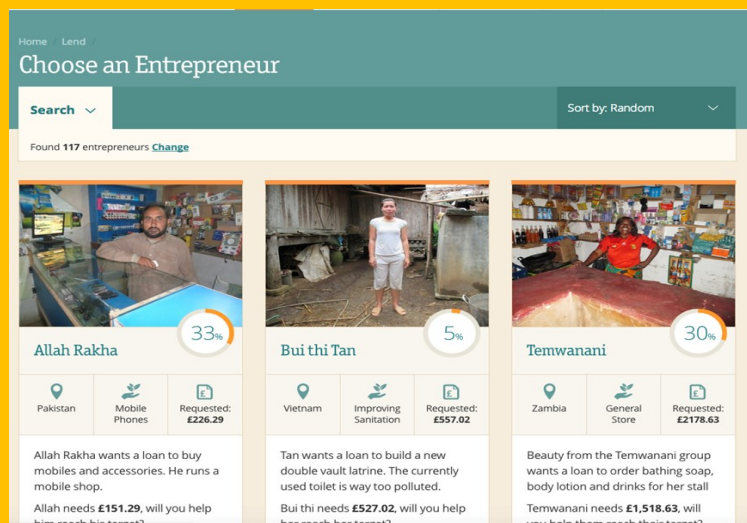
Over the next few years, we expect to make hundreds more loans, which we know will make a real difference to the livelihood of people who have so little compared with us.

See website : www.lendwithcare.org

For the cost of a monthly grocery shop, you also as an individual or as part of another organisation, could change the lives of hundreds of people in developing countries over the coming years.

Example : Mr Aboubacar RWANYONGA is a 32 years old man who lives in Gisozi, Kigali City. He started the entertainment business of showing movies when he was twenty years old. He shows movies (Rwandan, Nigerian, Indian and American movies) and football African leagues and European leagues like premier-league, Spanish league, German and French league). He is applying for a loan to buy new materials because he has a small tv screen and when it is a big match or good movie, some clients cannot see. He also wants to improve the room in which he works, to make it nicer. He thinks he will be able to repay it with the increasing demand from clients.

Thank you to Martin Lynas—Chairman International Committee for this article.



The screenshot shows the 'Choose an Entrepreneur' page on the Lendwithcare website. It features a search bar, a sort dropdown set to 'Random', and a list of 117 entrepreneurs. Three entrepreneurs are visible in the grid:

Name	Country	Business	Requested Amount	Progress
Allah Rakha	Pakistan	Mobile Phones	£226.29	33%
Bui thi Tan	Vietnam	Improving Sanitation	£527.02	5%
Temwanani	Zambia	General Store	£2178.63	30%

Each entry includes a photo of the entrepreneur and a brief description of their business and the loan request.



Rotary Foundation—a success story

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Many Rotarians will know about 'The Rotary Foundation' and the good work that it does, but do you ? Help can be provided in an number of ways, and one way id for members to become a Benefactor by making provision in their will to leave \$1000 in their memory.

So what good does the money do? Here are two stories to illustrate what can be done.

DEVOTED FATHER

A poor Thai farmer lived in a small village on the Thai/Cambodia border. Whilst he was searching for food in the forest he stepped on a landmine and lost one of his legs. If that wasn't bad enough, he had a wife and baby to support. Sadly his wife was overcome by fears for the future and left never to be seen again.



The man was left with no wife, no job, and a severe injury, not least with a huge responsibility in looking after his baby daughter. He managed to improvise by making a wooden leg, which enabled him to get some menial work, albeit very painful to wear.

Life was a strain with daily worries as to work and regular food, not least how he would give his daughter a good education.

Fortune turned, and a Rotarian heard about the plight of this Thai man and funds with a grant from Rotary Foundation were found to pay for a proper artificial leg. A very simple solution but life improved dramatically, with renewed confidence and energy the Thai man was able to get a regular job. Furthermore his daughter completed her education and graduated. On graduation day (it was also the father's birthday) the daughter wanted to give her father a gift but with little money, she gave him a picture of them when she was a little girl, and on the back she wrote 'Dad, now we will walk together' . The daughter went on to be a nurse and she was able to support her father, and they do indeed walk together. Rotary Foundation was put to good use, this being one of many worthy cases that have been supported over many years.

A HELPING HAND IN MEXICO

In 2001 Rotarian Meirion Morris (PDG) travelled with a GSE team from our district to Houston, Texas attending their district conference which was held in Cancun, Mexico. During an evening's entertainment a young Nicaraguan exchange student—Juan Quevado told how he had been supported by Rotary Foundation. Also young teenage children danced, played instruments and sang, having been introduced by Father Marco Dessy, a local Catholic priest.



Father Marco had rescued the children from the refuse dump where they were living and finding food, and took them to his church where they were fed and clothed. Houston Rotarians joined with the local club (twinned) and provided some finance, although not initially successful as the children returned to their further life after a period. An early death awaited many.

***'Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for life'.* A maxim that Father Marco believed in. Education and shelter were the long term answer, and support from Rotary Foundation together with matching funds from Houston Rotary enabled the building of a school. Not just a school. It's reputation grew and as an outstanding school many wealthier parents paid to send their children there. With the income, Father Marco built a second school so that virtually all of the 'children of the dump' were able to attend and receive an education. This included life skills and trades, enabling them to go out and earn a living . Juan Quevado had been one of the lost children, but had been rescued by Father Marco.**



Climate Change—What do you think ?

CLIMATE CHANGE – A PLEA FOR EARTH HOUR 2016

For a long time climate change has made headlines: there is a danger that people *switch off* when the subject is raised. I have been branded “Swampie” and the cumulative findings of a huge body of eminent international scientists have been disparaged by those with their heads in the sand.

However, I believe the evidence is now overwhelming and UK extreme weather events have added poignancy and urgency to the need for us to face up to what is going on and not simply be bystanders.



The December 2015 Paris Agreement is far from perfect but 196 nations (rich and poor) have compromised enough to target 2% maximum global warming (with 1.5% if possible) above pre-industrial levels starting in 2020. The Agreement is “universal and binding”.

As you know “climate change” or “global warming” is man-made long-term alteration to normal weather patterns well beyond the seven “natural” cycles of glacial advance and retreat over the last 650,000 years. Satellite and other technologies enable scientists to understand and predict effects better than ever before. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) is but one of many bodies whose predictions have gained overwhelming trust.

Carbon dioxide, water vapour, nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gases form a thermal blanket round the Earth to keep temperature at a steady 15° for comfortable sustainable life, stable weather patterns and constant ocean levels. Burning fossil fuels and deforestation are but two of the key anthropogenic activities that have disturbed the greenhouse balance since the early 1900s.

There is now growing evidence of species extinctions (habitat destruction etc), rising sea levels (threats to human and wildlife populations), loss of sea ice in both polar regions (if you care about Emperor penguins and polar bears), coral bleaching, plant death, growth of invasive species and extreme weather events globally including UK.

Some climate change is already irreversible but we can all take steps to mitigate so that both governments and we individuals each take responsibility for improving our planet for future generations:

Greener lifestyle: reduce consumption, foot not motor travel, shop less from overseas , More energy efficient homes

Buy sustainably sourced products – there are labelling schemes Reduce, reuse and recycle to avoid landfills, Use water sparingly and change to greener fuels (I have solar panels.

If any of this has struck a chord, consider the WWF Earth Hour: started in Sydney in 2007 the number of countries and territories taking part has risen to 172. On 19th March this year we are all asked to switch our lights off between 8.30 and 9.30 – not so much to save energy as to signal support for the global efforts to get our climate change under control. Last year 10.4 million in the UK took part. The lights at Buckingham Palace, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Sydney Harbour Bridge, St Peters in Rome and Times Square in New York are but a few of the monuments being blacked-out and whole cities are taking part. If you are interested try <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/> or the myriad www resources for climate change or Earth Hour. John Hiscock



Mudlarks on the move ...



Last year we were pleased to receive a talk from Vic (toria) Hobson from Mudlarks (pictured top right in green), and we heard about this local charity that support local people with learning difficulties. They have a café in Railway Street Hertford, and also an extensive allotment that is managed by the team.



In January a plea for help was received as the café lease was expiring and Mudlarks was to move 'lock, stock, and barrel' next door to new vacant premises. On Sunday 31st January, Rotarians and other helpers gathered to move all of the furniture from two floors, together with the entire kitchen!



Redecoration followed with an array of very bright colours, some of it left indelibly on fellow Rotarians (Keith). A man in a red top was seen moving furniture away in a white van (?) and his picture has been circulated. If in Hertford do take the time to visit Mudlarks, a great local cause.



Trinity House - Safety at Sea

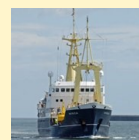
Many of us travel by sea from time to time, and probably take safety for granted. A talk by Karl Limbers (pictured with Pres. Ted Grad.) informed members of the wide ranging work conducted by Trinity House.



Established in 1514 by Royal Charter, Trinity House is responsible for the state of shipping and wellbeing of seafarers. Based in Tower Hill, London the charity manage the UK's lighthouses, although these are now mainly unmanned and automatic, some of the former iconic landmarks are used as holiday lets or visitor centres, often sited in places of outstanding natural beauty. Where formerly operated with diesel engines, most are now run with solar, wind and wave energy.



Other services such as maintaining navigational buoys and piloting ships into port are conducted with the use of two vessels, the largest THV Patricia. This ship also carries passengers. Trinity House is fully funded by endowments, and spends £3m each year on training and education for seafarers. For more information see www.trinityhouse.co.uk



Visit from Chris Curtis—Head of Crossrail

As reported in our last issue, there are major proposals to bring Crossrail 2 to Hertfordshire, and a talk by Chris Curtis in February gave more information. Pictured from left Rotarians Jeff Ryan, guest Peter Finney, Chris Curtis and Pres. Ted Grad.



Chris outlined details of the project (then £30 billion), and in the recent Budget approval was given. The new lines will quadruple local train services to Tottenham Hale and support economic growth in Upper Lea Valley. Some of the new trains will be held at Ratty's Lane Hoddesdon, an overnight stabling point. The Crossrail1 route, now called the Elizabeth Line will open in 2018 and lessons learned from it's construction will be useful in building the new Crossrail2 line. An apprentice tunnellers scheme will be based in Ilford.

Lord Adonis heading the National Infrastructure Commission recommended that funding should be made available with the aim of an autumn hybrid bill in 2019, and for Crossrail2 to open by 2033 when London's population is expected to exceed 10m—classified as a 'megacity'.

Over 200,000 new homes are expected along the route with Upper Lea Valley as a key area for new house building. Broxbourne bridge (pictured) will be a major engineering challenge.



The Angel of Freetown

When a friend of mine, BBC radio reporter Tim Mansell, made one of his overseas visits to Sierra Leone he met a human dynamo in the diminutive shape of "The Angel of Freetown". He was instantly impressed with her enthusiasm and determination to bring enlightenment to children who were not being given a proper education.

Miriam Mason-Sesay MBE was recently awarded a very special honour in USA, The World of Children Award is a prestigious and unique organisation that scours the planet each year for the most effective change-makers for children worldwide, thus improving the lives of the most vulnerable. The World of Children say that each of the 2015 Honorees has created life-changing programmes that benefit children in countries around the world. They are working on a wide range of issues, including homelessness, teen pregnancy and life-threatening medical issues. World of Children presented the first ever Education Award to Miriam in 2015.



Miriam's brother went on a student exchange in 2000 and upon returning home began to send modest sums of money ~ only to discover later that it was not reaching the intended target. In short Miriam took the situation in hand, founded the UK charity EducAid and now lives most of the year in Freetown.

Initially her "schoolroom" was a rented veranda, but now there are some 3,000 children in EducAid schools and many more in training at college and university who look to EducAid for support and encouragement, boys and girls. The education of girls is particularly significant against the local background.

Not only are girls traditionally discouraged from school, often they have suffered serious abuse of all kinds. Gradually this is changing, as well as the bribery tradition endemic in so many parts of Africa. As Miriam says: "Our students are achieving among the highest grades in the country and consistently delivering a 100% pass rate in both Junior and Senior exams; we are an organisation proven to deliver change."

Miriam was given a warm welcome at the public meeting held in the Broxbourne United Reformed Church on February 29th and that same evening she was guest speaker at the evening meeting in Brickendon Grange Golf Club. For further information about the work of EducAid you are invited to see their web site www.educaid.org.uk Peter Lardi



Let's not stop now.....

A message from Rotary Foundation Leader Allan :

There is real and strong sense of purpose in my note to you today. It is quite simply – END POLIO NOW & FOR EVER! This has been our mantra since 1985, and we've been doing the job pretty well until fairly recently. In fact we'd been doing very well until we discovered we were "THIS CLOSE".

Now, for some inexplicable reason, we seem to have taken our eye off the ball. I know this, because over the ensuing years Rotarians in these islands have hugely supported the End Polio Now (EPN) Campaign with the generosity of their "Giving". This year however "Giving" to EPN is 75% down. This drop in funding has created a huge concern for us as custodians of the success of the project, which I remind you, we are "THIS CLOSE" to completing. In being "THIS CLOSE" could mean that some Rotarians are thinking "job done, onwards to the next target, we can use our funds to do good elsewhere in the world". My view is that This is wrong. Please read on. Yes, Africa could be about to be declared Polio Free. Yes, Asia (Afghanistan and Pakistan) appears to be coming closer to "THIS CLOSE" than ever BUT they are not there yet AND here is the important bit It is a medical - even after the final case of POLIO has been recorded in Africa and Asia we need to continue our immunization programmes for a further three years in order to ensure that the Wild Polio Virus is expunged from the planet. -

By so doing, we ensure that the children being born in the aftermath of the final eradication are protected from any potential recurrence of the virus lying apparently dormant waiting to strike on an unprotected child somewhere on the planet. That is why there is, as I pen these notes to you, a National Immunisation Day (NID) currently being carried out by RIBI Rotarians in India to EPN, where 14 million children are born annually. It is a huge task which has to be repeated in every formerly endemic country.

So ... my plea to you is to ensure that being "THIS CLOSE" to the END OF POLIO NOW is not the rock on which our efforts perish. Please share this message with your District/Club and encourage it to resume and/or increase its donations to the END POLIO NOW Campaign. Remind members that for every £1.00 we donate The Gates Foundation adds another £2.00. Free up money to help END POLIO NOW AND FOR EVER. PLEASE



ENDPOLIONOW



SEENAGERS

I am a Seenager—a senior teenager. I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 55 years later.

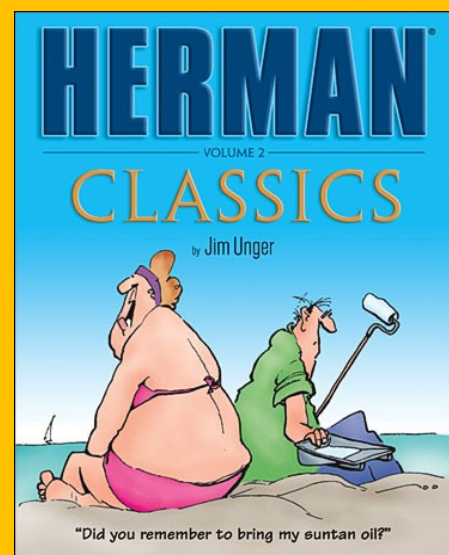
I don't have to go to school or work and get a monthly allowance. I have my own pad and no curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything and I don't have acne.

If you are a Seenager too, feel good about it!.

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. We do not decline mentally with age, just take longer to recall facts because we have so much information in our brains. Scientists believe this also makes us hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear. As you know, a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full. Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people tend to believe in the hereafter – we go to another room to get something and then wonder what we are here after. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making us do more exercise.

Life is good.....thanks to John Hiscock.



Can you help?

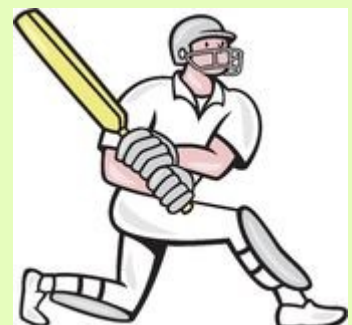
We're always looking for volunteers to help us out. So why not get involved today!

Find out more



Food for thought

- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- Broken pencils are pointless
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.
- What do you call an Australian who can handle a bat? A vet.
- What do you call an Australian world class cricketer? Retired.
- What do you call a cricket field full of Australians? A vacant lot.
- What's the difference between an Australian batsman and a formula one racing car? Nothing, if you blink you'll miss them both.



Carers in Hertfordshire

Michael Ormerod, director of Carers in Hertfordshire joined us at Rotary to share information on this busy local charity. A former secondary school teacher and a carer himself, Mike explained what the charity does for people in our local community.

Many carers work without thought for themselves giving much time and commitment to support a relative or disadvantaged person, often putting your own personal welfare in second place. Mike explained that Carers in Hertfordshire supports 18000 carers countywide, although there are many more that are not registered. It is estimated that 1 in 8 people in the UK are carers in some way.



A range of support is available including advice, a point of contact, and financial guidance—carers qualify for a benefit payment of £59pw if committing 50 hours pw or more. A Health and Wellbeing Programme offers assistance to carers, and some funds are allocated to offering days out or treats to eligible carers under the Make a Difference Scheme.

Carers can be looking after relatives or partners of any age, from parents that have young disadvantaged children and often adults looking after elderly parents. This valuable charity is available to all and operated with funding from Hertfordshire County Council as well as voluntary donations. Special focus will be given on 6th June with Carers Week. More information is available at website [www.carersfor Hertfordshire.org.uk](http://www.carersforHertfordshire.org.uk)



Facebook

For many people reading this article the use of Facebook as a means of communication will be second nature, although it has only been available for twelve years.

We read and hear about social media in many guises but Facebook offers an instant link with colleagues, friends and family with the ability to post pictures immediately and for the recipients to receive them around the world.



At Hoddesdon Rotary Club we use Facebook to communicate with members in our district and potentially across the globe, with members 'liking' our articles from Asia, USA and further afield. It also helps publicise future events and possibly to reach new audiences.

In an every changing world with new technologies developing each decade, there is no knowing what we will have in 2050 not least 2025 but for now this is a great medium and if you haven't had a chance to look at our page, please visit www.facebook.com/hoddesdonrotaryclub.



Future Events

16th AGM - HRC 5th April
Spring Rotary Variety Show 12th May
Technology Tournament 21st June
Summer Lunch 60's 14th August
Celebrity Evening 4th November
President's Evening TBC

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For further information please contact Lawrence on: 07803 700919

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HODDESDON ROTARY CLUB

President: Ted Gradosielski
 President Elect: David Johnston
 Vice president: Roger Lee
 Immediate Past President: Peter Haynes
 Secretary: John Glover
 Treasurer: Jeff Ryan

Council Members

Eric Beard, Lawrence Bone
 Terry Fisher, Barry Fitzpatrick
 John Hiscock, Keith Theobald

Chairman of Service Committees

Club Service - David Johnston
 Community Service - Keith Theobald
 Foundation - Meirion Morris
 International - Martin Lynas
 Membership - Howard Connor
 Vocational - Chris Waddington
 Ways & Means - Roger Merton

Attendance: Mike Marsh
 Auditor: Roger Abraham
 Bulletin & Communications: Lawrence Bone
 Chase the Ace: Terry Fisher
 Code of Practice: David Bradburn
 Evening Drives: Roger Lee
 Extension: Meirion Morris
 Friends of Rotary: Ken Ayling
 George Fuller: Arnold Granat
 Sergeant at Arms: Barry Fitzpatrick
 Sport: Steve Read
 200 Club: Roger Abraham
 Club Archivist: Tommy Knight
 Speakers/Programme: Mike Marsh

Can you help?

We're always looking for volunteers to help us out. So why not get involved today!

Find out more



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