

# IPP Peter Williams



I thought that the concluding weeks of my Presidency would be relatively quiet. However there were many events to enjoy including Scout Fun day for the Young Carers, the Telford Balloon Fiesta and the visit to Morgan cars.

During torrential rain we held our annual Golf Day at Wrekin Golf Club. The fantastic efforts of Rotarians and friends raised £4000 for the Harry Johnson Trust and Rotary charities.

It has been a huge pleasure and amazing experience being Club President this year and I thank each and every member for giving me the opportunity to lead them, especially in the Club's 90th year.

I would just like to mention a few members for extra thanks. Firstly, David Lovatt for being Secretary, photographer, Rotabilia editor and for everything else that he does. Also, a huge thank you to Geoff Foulkes for looking after our money and arranging a superb golf day. To Paul Rhodes for all his social events and Rob Evans for arranging Sports for so magnificently.

Every one of you has exceeded my expectations and made my year run so smoothly. I am also extremely grateful to my Committee Chairmen for their work and dedication this year. I know that most Council meetings have gone on until 7pm and I thank everyone for not leaving early. Looking forwards I give my best wishes to my good friend Vic Young and his team for next year. I trust that he enjoys his year as much as I have done.



## Project BMX

Children at Wrekin Riders BMX club are celebrating after the Rotary Club of Wellington donated a new clubhouse.

PP Brian Richards said, "When we visited the site we could not believe what a fantastic facility it was. The children are being offered such a brilliant opportunity to make new friends, get fit and enjoy a sport with their friends and with the whole family - and it is solely run by volunteers. A Rotary Grant has now been obtained to fund a toilet block and we are looking forward to delivering that in September. We wish the children and adults at Wrekin Riders every success for the future."

Kieran Edwards, club coach and chairman, said: "We can't thank the Rotary Club of Wellington enough for the support they have offered us.



Rotary Club of Wellington

# rotabilia

July 2019



The B team plan their victory

## President's Notes



Three weeks ago I watched as then President Peter looked increasingly chilled, happy & relaxed as he fast approached his "end of term". Like all Presidents, as he acknowledged at his "Swansong" lunch, he has relied heavily on others to organise much of our work and events through the year (the Charter Night was particularly impressive) so I'm relieved to have a very similar team for my year. People keep asking me if I'm looking forward to my Presidential year and I know the expected answer is "Yes, of course" and, in many ways, I am.

However, I'm also highly conscious of the challenges that Rotary Clubs universally face; finding new members/dwindling membership, diversity issues, polio eradication fatigue, difficulty raising other charity funds etc., so I'll be keen to experiment wherever & whenever I can as opportunities arise.

Before anyone panics about "what?? .....experiments??", let me re-assure members that I love this Club as it is and fully respect all its traditions. I have no desire to change anything about the format of our Friday lunches or Council meetings.

That said, I am honoured, excited & looking forward to being your Club President for the coming 12 months albeit with a little trepidation about what might crop up but I know I have a knowledgeable and experienced Club Council to guide me and a Club full of members who simply want to "enjoy Rotary" (as John Cooper always adds to the final toast).

Let's do just that throughout 2019/20!

### Not a lot of people know this...

[Venn Davies]

On holiday in Edinburgh recently we stayed in a Georgian house in the New Town area. Two doors down I came across a historical plaque on the wall declaring that Jean Thomson Harris, the wife of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary was born there. Jean was born on 8th November 1881. At the age of 26 in 1907 she emigrated to Chicago. That year she met Paul Harris and, following a whirlwind romance Jean Thompson became Mrs Paul Harris. They were married for 37 years. He was dogged by poor health and Jean was his constant companion as Rotary metamorphosed into an international movement. In 1952, aged 74, following her husband's passing, she returned to Edinburgh to be near to her family. She died aged 82.



# Charity Golf Day 2019

The event, held this year at Wrekin Golf Club, and again very well organised by Geoff Foulkes, was a great success with over £4000 being raised for local charitable causes. This year the proceeds have been used to support The Harry Johnson Trust and other Rotary charities.



Wrapped up in warm rainproof clothing the competitors prepared for the 'Shotgun Start' on a grey, cold and very wet day. The rainstorms failed to dampen the spirits as the siren sounded to indicate the start. By the time the teams had reached their half way point the skies had started to lighten but the wind began to blow making the excellently prepared course difficult to negotiate.



The teams reached home and sought refuge in the bar before settling down to their well earned meal. Once the recording and counting of scores had been completed the results were announced. In first place and winner of the Gerry Powell Memorial Trophy was Tony Dawes team with 89 points with the team of Roger Evelyn-Buften in second place on countback.

## A View From the Outside [Sue Davies]

My friends and I from The Inner Wheel Club of Wellington were delighted to be invited to attend the Rotary lunch on Friday, 14th June when Anna Turner, the first female Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, was the guest speaker.

Anna took over the reins in January this year from the long serving Algernon Heber - Percy, whom she described as a hard act to follow. It soon became apparent that she is well equipped to carry out this role, being a former High Sheriff who has also served the county in many important ways including being a Magistrate for 30 years.



She was a delightful and entertaining speaker. She spoke about her pride in being Her Majesty's personal representative in the county. Whilst the role these days is largely ceremonial she explained the importance of, for example, presenting awards to individuals, charities and other voluntary groups on behalf of The Queen. A delightful occasion made very special by the Lord Lieutenant's charming and friendly manner.

Thank you Mr President for the invitation and thank you to Ken Whitcombe for arranging such an important and impressive speaker.

## FILM-NIGHT Have You Voted?

The date for Film Night 2019 has been set for Tuesday 29th October 2019 at Charlton School, Wellington - now to choose the film!

This year Sophie has organised a poll of those films that have been suggested. Everyone has received an e-mail with details of the films together with links to the trailers.

Once you have made your choice all you have to do is go to [www.poll-maker.com/QPBH3MR](http://www.poll-maker.com/QPBH3MR) where you will be asked to record your first, second and third choice.



## Don's Jottings.

We generally say what went well within the club so I'm going to have a go at recounting an episode that did not. About 10 years ago I had a dream. I spelled it out to out to the club. I would organise a walk to be called Right Around the Wrekin. It would encircle the Wrekin through the woods at the foot of the hill and finish where it started. To find walkers we would make contact with mainly young people at schools, clubs, brownies, scouts and as many others as we could find.

They would pay us £4 each (scrounging from their parents) to buy a sponsorship form. They would then get as many pledges as they could for their own particular group. Accompanying parents would pay us £5 to walk. The kids, when they finished, would have their sponsor forms officially stamped by our club and go off

to collect the money for their organisations and with many hundreds walking, our club would do well from the entrance fees. The club agreed to try it for three years.

Peter Holt lent us the old firing range for the day, and Jim Udale had it mowed flat for car parking. Half the club acted as marshals and Inner Wheel looked after stamping the forms. On the first occasion we had about 200 walkers. In my mind's eye I pictured a doubling the next year and when less than half the original number turned up I was very disappointed. Never mind, a redoubling of effort would see the RATW succeed. It did not. On the third year I rather think the marshals outnumbered the walkers. So not everything is successful but who knows? Somebody else may have a dream one day.

## A Surprise for Dorothy

PDG Barry Preen together with Dorothy were at the Club meeting on 21st June. Barry used the opportunity to advise members that he would be leaving the Club at the end of this Rotary Year. Barry joined the Rotary Club of Wellington in 2002 and served as Club President in 2005-2006 before going on to be District 1210 Governor in 2011-2012. Barry moved from the area about three years ago but maintained his membership of Wellington. After expressing regret, President Peter offered Barry Honorary Life Membership of the Rotary Club of Wellington because of his excellent service to Rotary and the Community. Barry thanked the President and wished the Club and members continued success in their work. A surprise was in store for Dorothy, however. Barry announced that he was presenting Dorothy with a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of the support that she had given him, particularly during his time as District Governor.

