



ROTABILIA @12.30

92nd Edition

6th April 2024



PRESIDENT GEOFF'S WORDS

My first duty during this period was to attend the Mayors Civic service at All Saints Church, Wellington. The service itself was very good but I must give a mention to the highlight of the afternoon - The Wrekin View School Choir who stole the show - it was well worth going just to hear them sing.

The meeting on 8th March included a presentation by the President Elect Peter Seaward whose plans for next year were revealed - it looks like its going to be an interesting and exciting year moving the club forward.

The monthly council meeting was held on 12th March at The Pheasant - a lively meeting as ever!

On 15th March yet another induction - this is becoming a habit - a very good habit and one we must continue. Venn's hard work and, of course, his nagging over the years (which we need) is really paying off. We inducted Oleksandr Serhienko into the fellowship of our Rotary club - I am sure he will be a great asset to the club but a special mention must go to his wife Maryna for making and bringing along a wonderful cake - Laskavo prosymo Sacha and Maryna.



Unfortunately, Chester Murray was unable to give his job talk on 22nd March due to illness - a talk I was very much looking forward to. I'm sure Chester will be able to join us again soon and if able give us his job talk. A fellowship meeting was held instead - it's good sometimes just to talk.

The final Friday in March was Good Friday and indeed it turned out to be a very good Friday. There was no formal meeting but a group of us met at The Royal Hill for lunch. An excellent venue and lunch well organized once again by Chris Yates.




Yesterday's meeting, 5th April, was very busy. Firstly, we heard a conversation between Vic Young and Bethany Stones. Bethany is taking part in a school initiative to Kenya with the organisation African Adventures and she explained what the visit was about and how her fund raising was going on. I presented her with a cheque from the Club to support her venture.

This was followed by a presentation by Haydn Griffiths and the YMCA team [See photo above left.] about their New College development.

Once again another busy Friday meeting after which members enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of Fellowship at the Boardroom Gaming Café in New Street thanks to Don Fear.


EDITH PIAF CONCERT [Richard Studd]



PIAF


THE LIFE STORY & SONGS OF EDITH PIAF

A truly uplifting performance - funny, charming, moving, informative and very entertaining.
Piaf's classic songs are in safe hands with acclaimed musical theatre actress Sally Jones - performed with passion and sensitivity and in perfect French. An evening not to be missed.



WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
Sally Jones
www.sally-jones.com

SATURDAY, 4TH MAY, 2024
7.30pm - HIGH ERCALL VILLAGE HALL
TICKETS £16 - AVAILABLE FROM WELLINGTON
ROTARY MEMBERS or from hollcot@gmail.com

Rotary 
Wellington

PROCEEDS TO LOCAL ROTARY CHARITIES

★★★★★
"A MASTERCLASS IN HOW A TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND SHOULD BE CRAFTED"
London Musical Theatre Review

★★★★★
"MESMERISING
- A HAUNTING PERFORMANCE"
"A LOVELY ROMANTIC EVENING"
West End Wilma

Tickets are disappearing fast!

DON'T MISS OUT

The Capacity of High Ercall Village Hall is 110

Only 12 places remain.

OUR FUTURE HEALTH [Peter Seaward]

I am one of over a million people already taking part Our Future Health, and 'earned' a voucher for £10 which I will use in Morrison's and pass my savings on via my contribution to our food bank donation. – Our Future Health still need more volunteers.

I have received a request to help them to reach their goal of five million volunteers by [forwarding this link](#) to my friends and family. If just four sign up, it will mean we can hit our target and improve healthcare for years to come.

To qualify for the £10 you fill in a simple questionnaire and attend their booth in Boots at Telford Centre where they check your height, weight, waist, blood pressure, pulse, heart rhythm, and cholesterol. All worth having checked, and a potential earner.

FOODBANK UPDATE [Richard Studd]

Simon Lellow, in an article written for today's Rotobilia, stresses the ongoing need at Telford Crisis Support and other food and multi banks elsewhere in the UK whilst also expressing his thanks for the support for energy vouchers we again provided last August. Simon also appeared on the front page and a double inside spread in the Shropshire Star this week. It's tragic that so many people are living on the margins in Britain today. However, I'm delighted that you, our members donated a further £355 in March. Your ongoing support is so very well received by Simon and his team.

TELFORD CRISIS SUPPORT – AN UPDATE [Simon Lellow]

Firstly, on behalf of the trustees, staff and volunteers I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support, your help makes a real difference in our local communities.

The two sums of money provided for home energy vouchers in 2022 and last year have been particularly helpful to those who benefited from our support and enabled us to be more holistic in helping those in the most immediate need.

Rising energy and rent costs meant that the effect of the cost-of-living crisis got worse at the start of 2024, as we helped a record number of people with food bank referrals. Based on our experience of last year we held back a proportion of the home energy voucher funding and were able to then make best use of it in January.

A key fact that our (and nationwide) data shows is the complexity of issues that many of our service users are experiencing, the maxim of 'Eat or Heat' is a little simplistic but succinctly describes the day-to-day choices many must face. For example, nationally of those seeking food crisis support, around 40% cited energy affordability, and 20% energy debts as compounding factors that led to them needing help with food (and in some circumstances other services).

Your support helped a range of circumstances across a wide demographic, including families with young children, single person households, multi-person households with vulnerable children and adults, and some households rehomed following emergency situations are a few examples. Referrals for the baby and toddler bank have increased significantly, has as the call for hygiene products and pet food, reinforcing the importance of going beyond food support alone.

Interestingly our foodbank numbers dropped to the lowest levels since last summer in February of this year, undoubtedly related to the £299 February Cost of Living payments and the unseasonably warm February weather, but it does illustrate the big difference these payments made (a drop was also noticed following the previous payment last year).

Thank you again for your extended support, it does in turn open doors for us and present opportunities to look at more strands of help that would benefit residents across the borough, in you have any ideas, suggestions or connections we are always happy to hear them, simon.lellow@telfordcrisissupport.org.uk



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT [PDG Trevor] **Saturday 18th May, 9am – 4.45pm:**

Conference: Accelerating Change: Spurring on climate action in our communities at Shrewsbury Town Football Ground, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ST. Book your tickets to this local Climate Conference which will focus on how we can accelerate action to achieve net zero in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and engage local communities to make that happen. The event is being organised by Zero Carbon Shropshire, South Shropshire Climate Action and Save Our Shropshire with support from young people on the [Environmental Leadership Programme](#). The schedule for the day can be viewed on [Eventbrite](#).

BETHANY'S AFRICAN ADVENTURE - A CONVERSATION

Vic Young: Where are you going for your adventure?

BethanyStones: I am going to Nakuru, in Keya, in June 2025 after completing my A levels. I will be volunteering in one of African Adventure's partner school.

Vic: What plans do you have to raise funds to pay for the venture?

Bethany: I started fundraising for the visit in December when I held a raffle at my music school's Christmas concert and was able to raise £80. Through my job with Anthony's of Wellington I have been selling raffle tickets for a giant Easter Egg. This raised £280. My next fundraising plans include entering a mud/colour run for which I will be seeking sponsorship. If I am able to raise more money than the cost of the trip I plan to donate this directly to the school where I will be volunteering.



Vic: What do you hope to gain from the experience?

Bethany: I hope I will gain invaluable experience of another culture and a life that is different from ours. I think it will help me when applying to university and when applying for jobs. I am also interested in working with the UN in warzones and helping refugees and I feel that this experience will help me decide if this is something I would like to do.

Vic: What do you hope you can do to help the Kenyan children when you are there?

Bethany: I hope I will be able to support the improvement of childrens education in Kenya by taking resources such as pens and paper which schools often lack due to little funding. I also hope I will be able to put into practice what I know about teaching young children, from experiences gained by volunteering at a Girl Guides Rainbows group.

The photograph is of Bethany with President Geoff and Cathy Fisher [Bethany's Granny]

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT [PDG Trevor]

Empowering Girls and women

Improving education and opportunities will create a better understanding of the problems of world population which already exceeds that which the earth can sustain.

The solution to this problem is not as easy as using less carbon fuels.

The answer lies in better education. Again, Rotary is playing a big part with clubs sponsoring education programmes, often with the benefit of Global Grants.

There is a strong message from past Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta.

He wants members to focus their efforts on empowering girls and ensuring their access to education, resources, services, and opportunities so that future generations of women leaders will have the tools they need to succeed.

This long-term vision has to be the answer to the problem.

BURSARY NEWS [Keith Mainwaring]

This year's Bursary in my humble submission has been a successful one which was due to David making contact with the college and a total of seven students applying for the Rotary Bursary of £1200.00p. One student did not make the interview stage but the remaining six students were invited for a personal interview.

All six students were interviewed by David, Sharon, Haydn and me who were able to discuss following the interviews the qualities of the students and who would benefit from the Bursary.

The three unsuccessful students were notified by first class post and the successful students were not told until Tuesday 12th March 2024.

The circumstances of one of the students was outlined by an excellent report by Haydn to Club Council members who agreed that Rotary would purchase a computer to assist with her studies prior to going to university.

On Tuesday 12th March 2024 David and I attended Telford College when we spoke to all six students individually. The unsuccessful students were very gracious with the fact that they were not receiving any financial support from Rotary.

The successful students were Magenta, who was delighted that should her A level results be successful she would be presented with a £500 to help in purchasing Artist Equipment. Melody was equally delighted that she would receive £250 towards special goggles to protect her eyes during her laboratory work studying Bio-Medical Sciences.

I now come to the special award and for obvious reasons I don't want to use her name. I would state that in all the years I have been interviewing students for the Rotary Bursary that she is the most deserving case for help, and I would sincerely thank the interviewing team and the Club Council for showing a great deal of care, compassion and commitment in awarding monies to purchase a computer to assist in her studies.

She has tremendous family care responsibilities and openly admits that living in student accommodation when the time arrives would be extremely difficult.

When David informed her of the Rotary decision to supply her with a computer, she showed no emotion and David and I agreed following the interview that she has never been used to someone trying to help or do something just for her. I am sure the members will no doubt see for themselves when she attends the Rotary Lunch to be presented with her computer.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE TREE OF LIGHT AGM [Peter Seaward]

The committee recommended that the distribution of the donations and sponsorship was to be as follows:-

- Severn Hospice £20,000
- Hope House £10,000
- Telford First Responders £10,000



We achieved this amount by dipping into our reserves once again, but the committee are confident that this does not affect our ability to continue into the future.

This amount has brought the total raised by the Telford Tree of Light to £833,699 we can only hope that the future will be a little brighter, but it looks like it will take us 4 years to reach a million.

First my thanks to the various teams who contribute to our continuity.

I thank Paul & Marjory Booth for processing the cash payments and am grateful that Geoff Foukes is ready to step up from understudy and Frank Curry, Tom Taylor & Geoff Ford who dealt with the many problems arising from PayPal processing. Venn Davies was the telephone and tree manning supremo. Card payments despite some doubts and communication problems continue to rise.

There were some challenges with The Telford Journal, but the Shropshire Star provided good coverage of the opening and the presentation event. However, Shaun Davies took an interest in the appeal and posted two videos in his weekly newsletter. Let's hope the council will continue coverage in the 2024 appeal.

Fortunately, the display stand and tree were in place at the Telford Centre, and we express our thanks to Beci Bateman for arranging the printing of the names. Thanks to Dan Scollard-Kerr and Nick Burn who put up the sheets in place including at HLC, Tranter Lowe and Truffles. On the subject of data management, there were no significant issues thanks to Max.

This will be another year to remember and to be able to say we almost matched 2021's donation figure is a measure of the hard work, dedication and flexibility of the committee, trustees, members of the 4 Rotary Clubs and friends.

To reduce postage costs on-line applications from the 2022 appeal were contacted and reminded by email with a saving of around £450 in postage. It should be noted that nearly 30% of the amount raised and 30% of the donations were online transactions.

Our other experiment was to hold a presentation event at HLC which I believe proved its worth in publicity alone. It was well received by the charities, and we were able to give thanks to our sponsors who attended.

Trust Chairman's Report [Peter Seaward]

Well, here we are again with another year behind us, a year in which we have met challenges successfully and the level of our charitable distributions largely maintained.

Age and illness are taking a toll on us all. Fortunately, David Brown has continued as secretary although Nick and Gill covered for David occasionally.

This demonstrates the need for each of us to have an understudy throughout the campaign. David also covered for Max Clowes as the Data Manager.

I would like to mention the input team especially Wendy and Rachel Waterson and also the club members organised by Venn Davies (who has been at my side on many jobs) who manned the tree.



I am grateful to Chris Broad for his enthusiasm help and support. Jim Tranter has once again done sterling work with the accounts, gift aid and sponsorship. Thanks Jim.

Without public support we would be lost so I am grateful to those 741 members of the public who continued their support from prior to 2016, and the 424 who joined or re-joined this year.

We will be reviewing the year and examine our processes and hopefully we can move into the many new estates in the area. We can only look forward, but the future does not look bright for charitable giving as the cost of living rises.



THE WINE RAFFLE NEWS [Richard Studd]

There were only three winners in the last four weeks as there we do not meet on Good Fridays. However, there were some good wines won in the weeks the raffle was held.

Firstly, Maurice Lamb won a bright, zesty South African white full of tropical flavours and was kind enough to present it to Sasha on his induction into the club.

This was followed by Paula Whitcombe winning an almost black Cabernet Sauvignon from the Maule Valley in Chile. It was described as a big, intense and silky wine and I imagine, right up Ken's street.

And just this Friday, Terry Ridgeway won a an Italian Appassimento wine from the Emilia Romagna region. It's a wine Peter Williams and I really enjoy, full of semi-sweet red berry flavours due to the way in which the wine is vinified.

I've recently stocked up the raffle wines stock but even so, there's still £272 in the wine raffle kitty. I'm away for the next two weeks so President Geoff has the next two wines which are both very drinkable. Meanwhile, I'll be trying to find some decent local wine in Cyprus.

WELLINGTON ROTARY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 9th April - The Pheasant, Admaston @16.00

Club Council

Friday 12th April - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00

AGM & Business Meeting

Friday 19th April - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00

Speaker Sarah Nash -Raising Funds for Parkinson's

Friday 26th April - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00

Phil Reading - Induction

Friday 3rd May - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00

Fellowship and Discussion

**SATURDAY 4TH MAY - HIGH ERCALL VILLAGE HALL
SALLY JONES SINGS EDITH PIAF**

FRIDAY 10TH MAY - FLAXMILL VISIT

Friday 17th May - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00

Club Assembly

WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY - DISTRICT QUIZ FINAL - 'A' TEAM & 'B' TEAM

Friday 24th May - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00

Special speaker -Elliott Lancaster MBE - Member of the Rotary Delegation at the recent COP28 in Dubai talking about his experience and climate change.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PRESIDENT GEOFF'S SWANSONG EVENT

President Geoff has arranged a Caribbean Evening on 25th June at The Sir John Bayley Club in Wellington. Please make a note of the date in your diaries - everyone is invited.

Sharon Wyatt has been asked to organise this very special end of year event and she has come up with a very interesting Caribbean menu - I'm looking forward to Nanny Browns Bread Pudding!!

Find out more in the next edition of Rotabilia @12.30.

