



ROTABILIA @12.30

94th Edition

6th July 2024



Welcome to the New Rotary Year and to Edition 94 of Rotabilia. President Peter has made a flying start to his year which promises to be full of the Magic of Rotary.

PRESIDENT PETER

I am honoured to become Club's President for a second term just 9 years after my first year of office. I hope I can not only continue our traditions but also bring innovation and motivation to a club that is a jewel in District 1210.

Geoff has led us through 2023/24 in such a relaxed and friendly manner which, of course, I will love to follow.

What a different Swansong from Geoff. Sharon and her team did remarkably well to serve so many of us which such lovely food. The football could have been better but in the last game there were signs of improvement by the England team.



Last week on Wednesday I visited Church Stretton, Thursday the Wrekin handover,



Friday our own handover where I had the pleasure to welcome into office Dan Scollard-Kerr as President Elect and Sophie Price as President Nominee.

On Sunday I attended the District Handover, I don't think I'm putting on weight just yet so I can keep in trim for possible selection in our sports teams.

On Tuesday 2nd July members celebrated the life of our fellow Rotarian Dick

Bailey, and commiserated with Megan and her family. Secretary Andrew reports that a family member told him how impressed they were that Rotary had turned out mob handed. There were about a dozen of us. There were members from Ebbsfleet and City of Wolverhampton Clubs present as well. The family have very kindly agreed that our Club will get a third of the retiring collection, with the rest going to Royal British Legion and Severn Valley Railway. Rest in Peace Dick Bailey,

On Friday 5th July I looked in at the start of the Ukrainian Constitution Day Celebrations, held at The Pheasant, which the club have supported again this year, other club members called in later in the evening and report that it was a very enjoyable event.



I am looking forward to Thursday. At 18:00 we have the fantastic sports event where I really hope you can get along and share the fellowship and the magic of Rotary.

Wellington A (dare I say) play Wellington B [Well, that's how they are registered with District.] play in the croquet semi-final. There will be additional hoops set up for social players so please let's make it a good social evening, and if you can come along to Wetherspoon's to close the evening. There is no playing fee – thanks to Haydn Griffiths - as we use Wrekin College lawns.

It promises to be a very good year,

Peter

ROTARIAN DICK BAILEY [Venn Davies]

The sad passing of Dick Bailey has brought back so many fond memories. Everyone will have their own. These are mine.

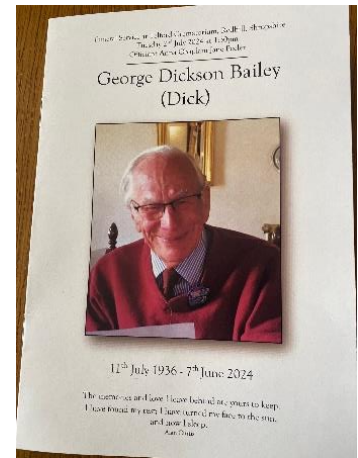
Following distinguished army service Dick worked as an administrator at Wolverhampton University. He joined Wolverhampton St Georges Rotary Club in 1996 enjoying a breakfast before work with the other early birds. In 2005 he transferred to The Rotary Club of Wellington. Our gain was St Georges loss.

He and Megan, a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Wellington, became fully involved with club activities and he served on the District International Committee. What many members were not aware of was that outside Rotary, Dick helped many others. With Rotarian John Davies, he ran the walking group in Much Wenlock



(for a mere 20 years), was on the Patient

Representative Committee at his local GP surgery and carried out work with SSAFA, the Forces charity. So why wouldn't you know this? Because he wouldn't tell you about it! So, there will be other things too. As Rotarian Brian Lewis said, 'He was a quiet gentle man, a gentleman.' In 2014 he received a Paul Harris Fellowship for his services to Rotary and the wider community.



It was our club trips to the continent that stand out. The Normandy beaches then Bonn.

With the Bonn trip we benefitted from his friendship with a German officer he had worked alongside while serving with the British Army on the Rhine who was now a tour guide. A wonderful trip! Dick organised absolutely everything. Payment, flights, hotel, visits, transport and restaurants. Amazing organisation.

Two years later I became President (2014-15) and I asked him to arrange another trip, this time to Berlin. So much work, but typically, he did it. Again, it ran



like clockwork. I will be forever grateful.

Another yearly highlight was Dick's Remembrance Day talk. Each November he would tell us about a particular battle or event. Extensive research coupled with a professional presentation meant it was so thought provoking. Last year, ill health prevented him doing it alone, but the club were so pleased when he and Megan together with his daughter Tors and (aptly) army officer son-in-law Julian joined our meeting and gave us a joint Remembrance presentation. A lovely occasion.



Dickson Bailey was the embodiment of 'Service above Self'. The world is a poorer place without him.

We pass our heartfelt condolences to Megan and all the family. Sleep well, old friend.

A SURPRISING DAY



Friday 5th of July proved to be surprising for both Immediate Past President Geoff and Past President Venn. After the handover ceremony had taken place, after the presentation of the Past President's badge and after the speech of new President Peter there was a pause. Peter then at some length explained the importance of a Paul Harris Fellowship and continued by highlighting the work of one of our members. It wasn't until the mention of accountancy that Geoff realised that he was the Rotarian that was being spoken about in such glowing terms.

President Peter presented IPP Geoff with a PHF. Geoff was stunned and surprised and in his acceptance speech was lost for words.

More stunned and surprised was Venn Davies. I never thought I would see the day when Venn was short of words! After several years of leading Club Management, being the Club Mentor and more recently supporting the work of the Almoner he is stepping back – although remaining as Mentor. Thanking Venn for his considerable work for the Club over many years President Peter presented Venn with a Sapphire PHF.



FIFTY TREASURES AROUND THE WREKIN *[Jim Tranter]*

The reaction to my request for orders for the Arts Society Wrekin's book ***Fifty Treasures Around the Wrekin*** has been very good. Copies will be available from August 3 (I should have some with me at Rotary on that day). If anybody else wants to order a copy (£8 each) please email me [tranter.jim@gmail.com] with your order.

SPIRIT OF ROTARY *[Brian Richards]*

"Spirit of Rotary" lives on with The Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes [SSBB]. For recently joined members, this is the second bike named in honour of Rotary following the donation of the first bike by The Telford Rotary Tree of Light (TOL) in May 2018. The Presidents and members of the four Telford Rotary Clubs agreed to pool the clubs' portions of the 2017 TOL campaign to buy a tangible asset in the form of the Blood Bike donated to SSBB.

Well, Spirit served SSBB well and was retired from service in June 2022 having done nearly 60,000 miles carrying urgent deliveries, free of charge, for our NHS. SSBB took delivery of some new replacement bikes that year and because of the terrific support we give, SSBB decided to perpetuate the name on a brand-new BMW, with their thanks to Rotary for an enjoyable and good ongoing relationship. The current Spirit is on this shot (centre), with two other bikes undertaking a



recent task to pick up FMT, used to treat persistent infections of C. diff. from the Microbiological Treatment Centre in Birmingham. Russell, on Spirit, headed north for a rendezvous with Yorkshire White Knights for onward delivery to York.

Thus, the TOL and Wellington Rotary name continues proudly!

SPORTS REPORT [Rob Evans]

June was a very busy and successful month with four fixtures, four wins, The two croquet



teams beat Shrewsbury Darwin and a good Shrewsbury team to now meet at Wrekin college on Thursday from 6.00 pm onwards. Hopefully we can get twelve to actually play each other. Currently on ten. After at Wetherspoons. Partners welcome. At Tenpin, we beat Wem in the final to regain the trophy for the third time in 6/7 years. Crown bowls started off with a good win against last season's semi-finalists Ironbridge. Shrewsbury Darwin at home, in the next round.

Fellowship wise the sports are excellent, but we still WANT more ideas for fund raising, visits etc.

NORTH STAR GRANT [President Peter]

It gives me great pleasure to let you know that the Telford Clubs have secured a North Star Grant of £400(US\$600) to organise a corporate membership roadshow, probably in September at the Wellington Cricket Club.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT 1 [PDG Trevor]

REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE

We throw away half of all the plastic that we use in a day within 20 minutes.

Plastic in the environment does not biodegrade; it breaks down into smaller pieces, called microplastics.

Today, our oceans resemble a global soup of microplastics: the plastic soup.

Where possible, support local zero-waste supermarkets or shops that let you refill your own containers with dry groceries such as pasta and rice.

Carry a re-usable cup and get a discount at the coffee shop.

Rather than adding to or replacing it's worth considering whether you need it.

Are you buying it for the sake of it?

Can your existing belongings be repaired or updated, or used in a different way?

WELL DONE ROTARIANS [Geoff Ward]



Once again, our club achieved our goal of raising the \$100 per member for the Foundation Annual Fund which goes toward providing both the District and Global grants to do good either locally or around the world.

We donated \$102.58 per member towards the annual fund excluding Sustaining members.

Sustaining Member are member of the club who give minimum of \$100 per annum by monthly standing order to the Foundation Annual Fund. Should you wish to know more about Sustaining Member please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Foundation Committee also set a goal of achieving donating £1500 to Polio Plus and thanks to the collections we had at the two supermarkets in total we supported the eradication of Polio to the tune of \$1860. Bear in mind that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donate \$2 for every \$1 we donate so therefore our donations will in total amount to \$5580 towards Polio eradication.

Please remember Rotary Foundation is the one and only Rotary Charity.

Geoff Ward - D1210 Grants Committee Chair 24/25

FOODBANK UPDATE *[Richard Studd]*



It was another good month for Foodbank donations with £440 paid into the account at Telford Crisis Support. When I visited the centre after our Rotary meeting last Friday, it was very busy with food bags being packed for the weekend for a variety of recipients. Simon Lellow, the manager was his usual self, full of gratitude to our members and emotional about the wide-ranging support they receive.

During Past President Geoff's year in office, our club donated £2000 for energy vouchers and a further £7234 from members own donations. What an incredible effort!

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT 2 *[PDG Trevor]*

ULTRA PROCESSED FOOD

"What are we feeding our children?"

Food additions and obesity are in the news, They can be caused by ingredients in 'ultra-processed' foods. See https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/articles/junk_food_brain

LUNCH TIME PAYMENT DESK *[Keith Mainwaring]*

President Peter is attempting to revert to members manning the payment desk on a rota system which will then leave Chris free to enjoy the Rotary Lunch without having to take the money every week and cash up when every member has paid for their lunch.

Chris has done an excellent job over a very lengthy period and deserves a break. If we revert to a rota system, then every member will be able to carry the load.

I would be grateful if members could let me know so that I can make a list of those that are willing to take on the desk duties and therefore I can make up a Rota. Keithmainwaring411@yahoo.com

Once a Rota has been formed if a member is unable at the 11th hour to attend the Friday Lunch it will be their responsibility to ask another member to stand in for them on the desk.

Chris remains the contact for members to notify if they are unable to attend. This must be done on Tuesday prior to the Friday lunch at the latest. This gives him time to contact the Pheasant to order the appropriate foods for the members attending.

Many thanks. Keith



THE ROTARY CLUB OF WELLINGTON, SHROPSHIRE AUTUMN CONCERT *[Brian Richards]*

A fund-raising concert has been organised by your Foundation team. It stars Wellington Brass Band and The Gallery Singers and takes place at All Saints Church Wellington 7.15pm on Friday 18th October 2024.

Helpers are needed helpers to advertise, produce promotional posters, tickets, organise the event, organise refreshments, ushers and stewarding etc, etc

I'd like to start on the arrangements before the holiday season, so there's a meeting at 11.30 am on Friday 12th July at The Pheasant for preliminary discussions.

Please come and help.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2024

DG Jane invites you to join her at YOUR Conference at Lion Quays, Oswestry on Saturday, 28 September 2024 where Theme - 'Peace and Friendship'

Your speakers will be live and there for your inspiration and enjoyment. Please contact President Peter for the full programme or for more information.

DICK BAILEY – THE MILITARY MAN [*Colonel JIJA Woodhouse – Dick's Son-in-Law*]



Dick Bailey was born on 11 July 1936 in Worcester - he would have been 88 in July. His first memories were of being thrown behind a wall to take cover from a Messerschmidt strafing the streets, watching dog fights between German aircraft and Spitfires, and seeing the skies lit up by Luftwaffe bombing. In 1944 he watched troops surging south for D Day.

At Kings Worcester, he described himself as neither academic or sporty, but excelled at shooting and cross country and developed a lifelong passion for railways and steam - collecting engine numbers with an uncle who was a Signaller. The school CCF selected him to greet the new Queen and Prince Phillip outside Buckingham Place after the coronation. He first thought of joining the Royal Engineers after

talking to a school master-telling him that in War, the Sappers were the only people doing anything constructive. In 1954 he enlisted in the Worcestershire Regiment for basic training before 2 years at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

He was posted to Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean via the Panama Canal assisting with nuclear testing. He witnessed 4 air burst nuclear explosions and was remarkably sanguine about possible adverse effects on his health- believing that the scientists with him would not risk their own lives.

Back in UK, he was attached to the national road building programme in Doncaster and training Sapper recruits at the Apprentice College Chepstow and making lifelong friends in Herefordshire. In the late 60s he volunteered for Loan service to Malaya at the end of the Communist insurgency and Confrontation with Indonesia building airfields and helicopter landing strips in Borneo. In 1965 he met Chris, marrying in early 1966 having 3 daughters, Helena, Sophie and Torsie.

After Staff College he realised he did not want to become a slave to the Army promotion ladder vowing never to serve in England again. After commanding an Engineer Squadron and being second in Command of an Engineer Regiment- including 3 tours of Northern Ireland, he satisfied his wander lust on Loan to Nigeria building their Staff College and becoming its first Chief Instructor in the aftermath of the Biafran War.

The family lived an adventurous life in rural Nigeria – off on Safari deep into the Nigerian Bush and contemplating travelling back overland across the Sahara Desert. After a NATO HQ job in Holland and the German Language course he became the British Liaison Officer at the German Army Engineering School in Munich. He loved Germany and was a fluent Malay and German speaker.

By 1987 the family returned to Herefordshire, Dick was Head of facilities Management at Wolverhampton University and found leaving the Army hard – he missed the camaraderie but threw himself into life as a Church Warden, Chair of the Kingsland Branch of RBL, volunteering for SSAFA and running a lunch club for retired Royal Engineers.

FAIRBOURNE [*Richard Studd*]

It's been a slow start to the Fairbourne year, but applications have now started to come in regularly including a few new ones, for example the Telford Autism Hub. Some have already been approved by the Fairbourne Committee.

I'll provide a full update in the next Rotobilia.

THE WINE RAFFLE NEWS [Richard Studd]

The last four wines to be drawn in PP Geoff's year were spread across the world's wine producers in Chile, Spain, Argentina and South Africa whilst the first wine of President Peter's year was from Australia. All were rich, satisfying reds with plenty of red fruit tastes and fairly long in the mouth. The winners were:

Chilean Pinot Noir - Phil Redding; Argentinian Malbec - Haydn Griffiths; South African Shiraz/Carignan - Brian Richards; Spanish Rioja - Geoff Ford. The first winner of President Peter's year was Don Fear - Australian Shiraz.

Thankyou everyone taking part. It's made a really big contribution to our annual giving to Rotary's own charity, ROTARY FOUNDATION.

Last week, I took advantage of reduced prices at Morrisons and added a further six wines to the stock. This means I have ten bottles in hand and still more than £200 in the wine kitty.

THE LAST WORD [Immediate Past President Geoff]

The final month of my year started well with Rtn Jim Tranter launching a new book - 50 Treasures Near Wellington which was very well received by all - at a later meeting Jim brought along a copy hot from the press which exceeded all expectations - well worth £8 asking price. (Have I earned my 5% Jim?)

On Tuesday 11th June the last council meeting of my year took place. It was pleasing that council agreed the Club's year end charitable donations - a great way to end the year distributing monies to very worthy causes.

On Friday 21st it was a business/fellowship meeting. As part of the year end charitable donations, it was agreed to add £500 to the club's Lend with Care account. The club has supported this charity since June 2015. The workings of the charity were explained and discussed at the meeting. It is a fantastic organisation, and I am really pleased to give further support.

AND FINALLY, MY SWANSONG - a Caribbean Evening with superb food provided by Sharon Wyatt (aka Nanny Brown). I was really pleased with the support of the members and was, I believe, enjoyed by everyone. A wonderful way to complete my year.



At the handover it was a huge honour and surprise to become a Paul Harris Fellow. A massive thank you to ALL members for their support and help throughout the year.

My best wishes go to Peter for his year - I am sure it will be another great year for the club.



WELLINGTON ROTARY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 9th July - The Pheasant, Admaston @16.00
CLUB COUNCIL

Friday 12th July - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00
Geoff Ford - U3A

Friday 19th July - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00
Information Meeting

Friday 26th July - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00
District Governor

Friday 2nd August - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00
Phil Redding - Job Talk

Friday 9th August - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00
John Wardle

Tuesday 13th August - The Pheasant, Admaston @16.00
CLUB COUNCIL

Friday 16th August - The Pheasant, Admaston @13.00
Information Meeting