

Rotary



Club of
Billericay
Newsletter

Best Club Newsletter
Four Years in a Row



Rotary District 1340
2015-16, 2016-17,
2017-18 & 2019-19



Rotary GB&I
Best Club
Bulletin 2017
& 2018

August 2020

Embrace The Gift of Rotary

*Inside:
Nicki Scott;
Featured in The Times;
Taking on the DG's Challenges;
Supporting the Community at Large*

*Nicki Scott - Rotary International
Director 2021-23*

President's Message

Still Winning Despite All The Odds

My second message of the year, and our activities write it themselves.

Bad News, Good News

We had hopes of returning to more regular meetings face-to-face as restrictions were eased and Covid-19 cases and mortality rates persistently dropped across the country. But the **bad news** was that those same hopes were dashed as cases started to rise and some of the scheduled easing measures were postponed. Now in mid-August **good news** as the easing is happening again except where special local measures have proved necessary.

Bad news is that our meeting location at Reids in Laindon Road, has not survived the lockdown and will not be opening up again. We will have to find somewhere completely new for when we restart face-to-face meetings. Keith Wood is looking for locations which might suit and arranging to collect all our regalia etc.

The Club discussed and voted to accept a temporary change to our meeting day if this was needed to find a place we want, as long as can revert to our normal day in the near future.

Times Change!

This month has another 75th anniversary, this time of VJ Day - Victory against Japan. Our thoughts turn to all those thousands of allied servicemen who gave their lives to protect our country during those darkest of days.

As we all know our Norman Wilson was a pilot in WWII and ended the war flying Sunderlands



in the Far East. Norman reminisces in a separate report on page 9, which features his story as reported on VJ75+1 in the Times. We have a photo of the Sunderland Fly-Past at the surrender in Singapore with Norman in one of the planes.

As usual, our Foundation & International Chairman's (Malcolm Acors) son-in-law, Mark 'Disco' Discombe, as commander of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, participated in fly pasts to commemorate the day, and contributes some stunning images of their performance.

Progress

As we heard at the Services and Business Meetings, our three Task Forces are up and running and making progress.

- Membership - we have agreed a new format of weekly meetings, one evening meeting a month on Zoom
- Crowdfunding - the Borehole well project has been accepted into Global Giving's Accelerator Program, and
- Virtual Fundraising - opportunities are being identified.

We all look forward to what

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these teams can bring for us.

Distinguished Guests

We had the pleasure of welcoming our District Governor, and our Assistant Governor, to our meeting on August 10. DG Keith's talk was impressive and helpful, and we trust he takes a good impression away with him. It was very thoughtful of him to start by congratulating our new PHFs. He feels we punch above our weight for a small club and hopes to visit us in person later in his year. He is always very welcome.

Welcome

We welcome our 21st member, Brain Wellman, who transfers to us from Basildon Concord. Brian has been a long-term friend of this Club and helped us at many of our Soapbox Derbies. He will be a great asset to our Club.

In conclusion

Roger continues to seek new recruits to our 100 Club. Some success is being achieved and the prize money will have to increase!

The Gift of Rotary

RI Director - Elect Nicki Scott Gives Inspiring Zoom Talk. Thank You, Colchester!

The two Peters (Strong and Greene) attended the Tuesday August 4 meeting of Colchester Club as representatives of our Club. No social distancing rules broken - it was held on Zoom, a total of 62 attendees including twenty guests. Of these, six District Governors— PDGs John Banks, Stan Keller, Ian McMeekan, Lesley Sulley, Pauline Dean and DG Keith Brownlie, and many familiar faces. Those who missed it, missed a great treat.

FEMALE - Not Just A Gender

Nicki Scott, incoming (2021/23) RI Director for Rotary GB&I, joined Rotary in the USA, but is now back in the UK, a member of the North Cotswold Club, Glocs. and an inspiring speaker.

An example: "I followed my husband to Los Angeles, to do his MBA, but I felt I had lost my identity. On subsequently moving to Chicago, I found I was a **Formerly Employed Mother At a Loose End - a FEMALE!** So I joined a local organisation of that name where I found opportunities to lead and network. This opened doors to work."

It was in Chicago that she was invited to join the Rotary Club



of Naperville Sunrise in 2000.

Share The Rotary Gift

"Rotary has been the "Gift of My Life," and enabled me to meet people all over the world, many of whom are friends, not just acquaintances, and a huge gift to my family" she said.

She joined for the networking and is a strong advocate of this, as a benefit of Rotary. She points out: "This was one of the major reasons Paul Harris formed Rotary in the first place, and is the reason behind the original "one trade per Club" limit - Rotary members would find one member to meet their business and private needs in any area where they needed help."

"How to get new members?"
Share our own Rotary story

– people don't like to be sold something. They like to be the buyer. We shouldn't try to force Rotary on them, but we can interest and intrigue by telling our own story of why we joined, and what gift we have had from that decision. *To whom can we give that "Gift of Rotary"?*

"We feared the worst from the Pandemic, but as Winston Churchill said "Never waste a good crisis" ... and we haven't.

In fact, the number of Rotarians lost in a year is at an all-time low. Clubs have embraced on-line meetings and there are many instances of Rotarians joining club meetings in different Districts and indeed, different countries all over the world.

"At your June District Assembly

(continued on Page 4)

The Gift of Rotary (continued)



(continued from page 3)
where I spoke, Holger Knaack, the new President of Rotary International also attended and spoke. That would never have happened without Zoom being adopted so readily by our Clubs”

Be Open, Not Closed

In the Q & A which followed, she addressed many items, including:

- Be open, not operate behind closed doors. Invite non-mem-

bers to meetings with good speakers, or when interesting projects are being discussed

- The Rotary Motto – yes she was sympathetic that it shouldn't change every year, “In fact, I feel the annual change of Rotary Leadership is an “interruption” in continuity towards progress in Rotary and we should seriously consider extending the tenure of leadership positions.”

- Multi-District PETs – she was

strongly in favour that the benefits of shared experience and knowledge outweighed the costs,

- **Satellite Clubs:** “Don't try to keep Members in your Club if they want to leave – you don't raise children only to lock them up and stop them leaving home!”

- **Global Study Exchange :** Confirmed Rotary is looking at whether it could be restarted as a virtual event.

A Proud History

- Graduated from Exeter University and joined KPMG in Darlington for five years.
- Met her husband, from Zambia, there. They later moved to Los Angeles for her husband's MBA, but her visa did not enable her to work.
- Became, in her own words, a FEMALE, as described above in the main story.
- The family moved to Chicago, where she started her own business and joined Rotary.

- She is a past President of the Naperville Club and has led community service projects, chaired fund-raisers and hosted Youth Exchange and GSE Team Members from other countries. She is a past AG and PDG
- As Director of International Service, she spearheaded a humanitarian project in Zambia, Africa seizing the opportunity to visit her husband's home country with him and her son, 13, and daughter, 11, a visit that had a

huge impact on them all.

- “It cemented the ideals of global projects and being a citizen of the world, in myself and all my family,” she said.
- She has also joined the polio immunisation efforts in India in 2012 and is a dedicated supporter of End Polio Now.
- Now back in the UK where she continues to be an entrepreneur and Rotarian. She joined the meeting from her kitchen in the Cotswolds!

Opening Rotary Doors of Opportunity

Our DG's Zoom Visit

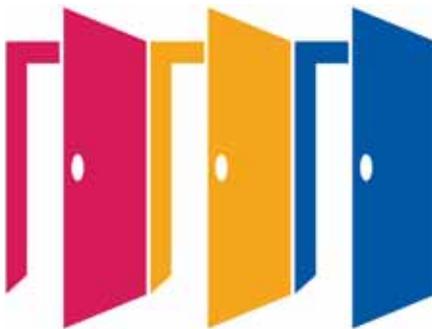
There were two Firsts for members on August 10 – our first-ever address on Zoom by an incoming District Governor and the first DG to hail from the Halstead Club.

A case of acclamation all round as Keith Brownie introduced himself to Zoom applause by members and then congratulated our four new PHFs, Les, Margaret, Mike and Keith,

He echoed what past DGs have said: "I admire you. You are a small club punching above your weight". And added some famous words of the late Bruce Forsyth which must remain discreetly within the Club.

Borehole praise

Still in praise, he added: "I love your Borehole project. My Club, Halstead, had a £1m plus bequest for sub-Saharan water projects. Contact President Alison Farrugia to see if you can access this bequest for your project."



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Membership is high on Keith's 2020-21 aims list. "It's about three open doors", he said. "Not Ladies, Mens and Disabled loo doors, but Rotary Opens Opportunities. I am keen to increase diversity, especially to have more ladies joining. Great News that we will have our first

female RI President in 2022-23 – Jennifer Jones." (Members may recall she was a speaker at the 2018 RotaryGBI conference and was very impressive – Peter)

"I would like eight new Clubs, one to be a Rotaract Club, another an e-Club."

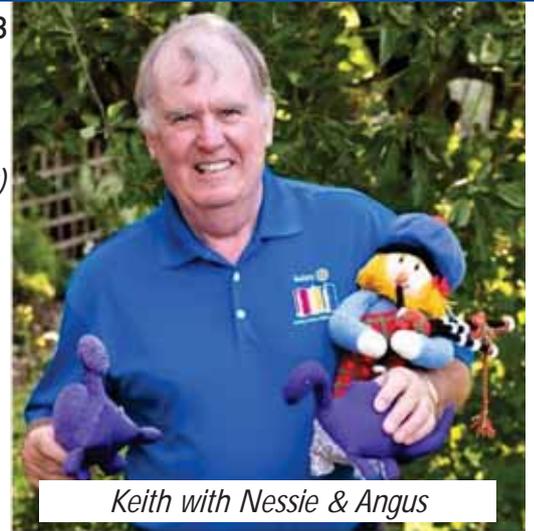
Pursue Crowdfunding

He urged: "Training is key – use the on-line facilities and pursue Crowd funding to find new donors."

Keith's other main theme is: Get Rotary Noticed.

- Clubs in the same area/same town to work together.
- All Clubs to develop a 3-5 year plan to ensure there is agreed succession for President/ Secretary etc, and the direction the Club wants to go. District already leading the way with DG, DGE, DGN, DGNN
- Help our communities - Particularly the elder members
- Foundation – like many charities, support has tailed off
- End-Polio Now. He told how new RI President Holger Knaack met Pakistan President Imran Khan and he had got the Pakistan army to actively support the End Polio campaign. If successful, this would leave Afghanistan as the only country with "wild" polio.

He wants all Clubs to hold a



Keith with Nessie & Angus

quiz in favour of Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. They will provide the questions

Tea Party With Nessie

He asked Clubs to support the 'Nessie challenge'... What is that?

Hold a children's Tea Party with Nessie as a mascot to raise funds for Foundation. There is a children's colouring/ writing challenge to support this, involving Nessie, Angus the bagpipe player and Jock the dog. And a children's competition – write the best story of how Nessie got from Loch Ness to Essex. Finally, he said: "Next year's PETS will be multi-District – put aside £135 to pay for it." and announced the joint 2020-21 and 2021-2022 District Conference with DGE Dave Eagles on June 25-27 2021 at Five Lakes Resort.



Your Carriage Awaits – Hoist Me Up Please!

98% of our volunteers have gained knowledge and skills whilst volunteering



Tacking up
Learning about disabilities
Problem solving
Empathy
Coaching
Keeping calm
Confidence
Team work
Communication
Organisation
Patience
Grooming
Respect for others
Fundraising
Understanding disabled riders
IT skills
Horse knowledge



500 member groups; 28,000 participants;
18,000 volunteers



Riding gives her physical exercise in a way that she loves



A Great Opportunity to work closely with
People with Disabilities



Our volunteers enjoy winning as much as the riders!

Speaker's Corner

Your Carriage Awaits – Hoist Me Up Please!

For decades Prince Phillip, has been seen as the icon of carriage driving, thrills and spills, international competition and the occasional suggestions of something more in newspaper columns. But, although now in his late 90's, he carries on regardless, defiantly declaring himself fit and able, albeit around the grounds of Sandringham.



Mark - Out Driving

Not exactly how those disabled and disadvantaged riders who have a similar opportunity at the Barrow Farm School for Riding and Carriage Driving For The Disabled might see it, as trustee Karen Lehner explained when she kindly joined us at our Zoom meeting on August 3.

Barrow Farm has long been a chosen community charity for our Club and Karen has frequently attended in person at our lunches. She is a refreshing, entertaining and informative speaker. Zoom changed nothing.

Fun, Fitness And Fulfilment

She enlightened us with this synopsis of updated news with an excellent screen presentation.

- Carriage Driving: Facilities, Riders, Volunteers

- Specialist riding – now Farm has coaches and hand-trained horses
- Attention to what she described as: "Complex needs for driving and riding"
- Farm now has approximately 130 riders, 12 drivers and caters for ages between five and sixty (She cited a lad named Curtis who, while suffering, had remained supple thanks to the hoisting facilities and Emma, wheelchair-bound with cerebral palsy, who can now, thanks to therapy, ride on her own once hoisted on board.

Karen said: " Our aim is to try to provide fun, fitness, friendship and fulfilment and inspire confidence and independence."

Some facts:

- Barrow Farm established 44 years ago by the Mitchell family
- RDA celebrated 50th anniversary in 2019
- Farm normally has 90 volunteers, teenagers and retired people, a week
- 25% have a disability of their own
- Have created a woodland



My favourite part of the week, It makes me Feel So Happy



Hoist facility for Major Assistance

path to enable rides-out. Also, a musical ride programme.

- Interacting now with more adults and established programme with Glenwood school, Benfleet to encourage interaction
- Now have 40 adults, parents and carers. who also ride for joy, safety, support, exercise and peace and quiet

What Does It All Cost?

Major grants from National Lottery and County Land Association had helped them to keep going. Operations cost around £3,000 a week but donations from associations such as Rotary Clubs like ours were still vital.

"I thank you for letting me talk to you today and for all your kind support."

Foundation and International Chairman, Malcolm Acors, a long term supporter of this Charity, made the Vote of Thanks.

Speaker's Corner

Into The Unknown :A Whole New World

Mike Ginn Relates A Tale Of Romance And Adventure

You have recently married your blushing bride, Sue. She hasn't celebrated her 21st birthday. It's November 1967 and the call comes to journey into the unknown,

Romance, adventure and a new beginning – it might have come straight from a Barbara Cartland novel. This is a tale worth the telling as Mike Ginn did when he addressed us on August 24.

"I was aged 26 working for Shell. Suddenly I was sent to Brunei as a computer programmer in the oil exploration effort. Brunei? Where was that? "We searched the map - it's a conclave in Sarawak in Borneo.



Married for a few weeks – I wanted Sue to have her birthday with her parents. We left the next day for the other side of the world, a new life in the unknown.

It Ain't Half Hot, Mum!

"Neither of us had ever travelled outside the UK. Late January,

freezing when we left Heathrow with Sue's parents waving us off. 20 hours flight in a VC10 to Singapore. Stop-overs at Rome, Karachi, Colombo, Kuala Lumpur and finally Singapore. Same journey today – 13 hours!

Rome was colder than London; Karachi only 55°F. During refuelling, I stood in shirtsleeves in the VC10 doorway when a Pakistani came up the stairs in overcoat and a scarf. We looked at each other in disbelief.

"Colombo was much warmer, 82°F. We sat drinking pineapple juice under a palm tree. Big mistake - we had the screaming squits afterwards. Then there were the Buddhist monks in orange robes boarding the plane. On to Singapore and then Kota Kinabalu (where the heck is that?) in Sabah (see map) before Shell's corporate plane flew us into Brunei.

Oilfield On Fire

"Culture shock is an understatement. In short, Shell discovered the Seria oilfield in 1929; it was overrun by the Japanese in 1942, who set it on fire when they left.



"Brunei is a Muslim state. Different laws, respect their different ways. Christians could worship but not evangelise.

Home was an elevated timber bungalow, basic but comfortable;



air-conditioning but no television (although some expats could get *Coronation Street* recorded in Britain and sent out). We couldn't phone home; telegrams or Aerograms to both parents; supposedly crocodiles in the nearby river but we never saw one. Snakes? Just one dead one.

"No life for a wife. Nothing to do except have babies. Sue fell pregnant and produced our son, we are so proud of him. That year, nine out of ten wives in our road had babies.



The oil exploration is a chapter on its own. Discovering nothing inland, Shell eventually, drilled offshore and found oil and natural gas in "fabulous quantities".

"I solved a number of engineering problems and had unbelievable job satisfaction - such as I never experienced since".

Judgement on Brunei in 1968-70:

(continued on Page 11)

Japan almost surrendered to pilot, 22

Jack Malvern

Flight Lieutenant Norman Wilson still remembers the roar of the Sunderland flying boat he flew to deadly effect in the closing days of the Second World War. He and fellow crew members from 209 Squadron were among the last to attack enemy shipping in the South China Sea when they sank a "sugar dog" freighter and a supply barge on August 11, 1945, four days before the Japanese surrender.

Mr Wilson, 98, who lives near Chelmsford in Essex, believes that he is the last survivor of the crew and the last living witness to the damage that Short Sunderland aircraft could do.

He is one of three brothers who became pilots and two to fly missions over

enemy lines. "My story is not one of great heroics, just of what happened to a typical volunteer doing what he was told for the war effort," he said.

Mr Wilson, who escaped death on at least two occasions, almost became the first person to accept the surrender of Japanese troops in Singapore.

The surrender was formally accepted by Lord Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia, on September 12, but Mr Wilson had arrived three days earlier.

"On our arrival at Seletar flying boat base at Singapore, and being possibly the very first there, we were transported ashore by a Japanese crew boat. A Japanese officer wanted to surrender his samurai sword to me. Stupidly I refused it and told him to report to the

docks where Lord Mountbatten would shortly arrive."

He said that he had always regretted it. The Japanese officer was rumoured to have been Vice Admiral Shigeru Fukudome, one of two men to discuss how the surrender would proceed, but he thought it was likely that he was a more junior officer.

The Sunderland was a fearsome bomber, more than 100ft from one wingtip to another and so bristling with machineguns that the Germans called it the flying porcupine, he said.

His first brush with death came on April 20, 1945, when his Sunderland was given smoke bombs for bombing practice. "Unfortunately, our navigator, Willie Hubert, dropped one of the primed bombs inside the aircraft," he

recalled. "It detonated and filled the plane with dense smoke. I was the second pilot. In the cockpit we could not see the control column let alone the instruments."

The first pilot shouted that they should try a landing while Flight Lieutenant Wilson tried to work out what was going on by putting his head out of a rear sliding window in the cockpit.

"I then slid the window panels back to see if I could do so out of the front window when the changed airflow over the cockpit window miraculously sucked the smoke out of the plane in a second. We were by then straight and level, about 5ft above the water."

They landed safely until the swell stuck the starboard wingtip, causing one of the propellers to thrash up spray.

"Instinctively I grabbed the wheel and applied full power. Luckily the aircraft responded and took to the air at an incredible nose-up, wing-down angle." They were able to return to Mombasa, Kenya, without further incident.

While there he was due to join a night radar training exercise but was surplus to requirements and taken ashore. Shortly afterwards the plane crashed into a hill, killing many of the crew.

Mr Wilson had volunteered for the RAF on his 18th birthday in 1941.

"It enabled me to achieve my greatest ambition and the flying boat era was an exciting and pioneering time in aviation history," he said. "I count myself extremely fortunate to have been at least a small part of it and I enjoyed every second."

Members will all know that one of our still active members, Norman Wilson, now 97, was a renowned pilot of Sunderland aircraft in WWII. Norman spent the last year of the war in the Far East.



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Mr Wilson flew a Sunderland flying boat.

Escaped Death Twice

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(continued on page 10)

VJ Day – Our Man (continued)



Sunderlands Overflying Japanese Surrender - Singapore (Norman in Centre Sunderland)

(continued from Page 9) shortly arrive."

"Flying Porcupine"

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Nose Up, Wing Down

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Norman - Still A Winner!

How fitting that the story of our VJ-Day hero should coincide with the latest 100 Club Draw, held at our Zoom meeting on August 10, 2020. Winner of the first prize of £100, one Norman Wilson! Congratulations.

Marking Another Great Celebration

'Disco' Takes To The Skies Again

It is barely three months ago that we acclaimed the feat of Mark "Disco" Discombe AFC for his historic memorial flights for Captain Tom and VE Day.

You cannot keep a great flyer out of the air. Mark, son-in-law of



VJ 75 Anniversary Flypast

This great shot was taken by tail gun Charlie in the Lancaster!

our Foundation and International Chairman, Malcolm Acors and currently Officer Commanding

the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, took to the skies again as
(continued on next page)

Marking Another Great Celebration (continued)

(continued from previous page)
the country and Commonwealth celebrated the 75 year anniversary of the end of the war in Japan.

Change Of Formation

Malcolm explains: "When they flew over the Arboretum, Mark was the lead fighter, the Battle of Britain Hurricane. To his right was the Battle of Britain Spitfire and, at the rear, a modern clipped wing ground attack Spitfire. With, of course, the Lancaster in front."

Later, over Horse Guards Parade, the fly-past formation was different "It included the Lancaster in a five-ship formation with Mark again in the Hurricane,



the only one available as the V-J Day Hurricane is being completely rebuilt. This was filmed two weeks before the VJ Day Anniversary in case of bad weather, and so as not to attract too many visitors in London.

Flies Like A Surfboard

"Mark's Hurricane was the one in which he won his Air Force Cross. It is one of his favourite planes and more difficult to fly than the Spitfires", says Malcolm. Mark adds: "Flying Spitfires is like wearing gloves; the Hurricane is like flying a surfboard."

There But Not There - But There (Again!)

The Club made a large donation last year to fund one of two World War I Tommies, acquired by the Billericay Town Council. These artistic endeavours, called "There But Not There" were a fundraising



project for the Royal British Legion and the idea of artist Martin Barraud. Each of the Tommies were made by veterans and the profits from

their sale supported many Armed Forces Charities.

Our donation was in memory of past Club President Trevor Stansfield, who was a great servant of this town in many roles including Town Council Chairman. The Billericay War Memorial was a particular favourite of his.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we saw the Town Council commemorate the VJ Day Anniversary by installing



these two Tommies at the War Memorial for all to see.

Trevor would have been very proud.

Into The Unknown (continued)

(continued from Page 8)

- Corrupt - Had to keep \$5 in your driving licence
- No voting in Parliament

• Member of Brunei royal family never charged after attacking a bus queue with a parang (machete).

Ken Smith proposed the vote of thanks.

By Editor Trevor Bond

The Life And Times Of Brian Wellman JP

Not Monty Python, More Take It From Here

Brian joined the Rotary Club of Basildon Concord in 2009. He has held a number of posts, including President (2012/13), receiving a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2015, and has been Club Secretary for the past four years, a role he admits: "I particularly enjoyed".

- Has also given time to other Rotary Clubs within the District, including helping us with our Soapbox Derby, and is District



Recognise the bucket lady with Brian? That's Mrs Wellman, aka Julia, and a previous Inner Wheel regular at Reids.

Almoner (since 2013).

- Originally from Surrey, Brian moved to Basildon in 1966 to work in Finance for the Basildon Development Corporation.
- After 12 years, he moved to the Basildon District Council until early retirement in 1997
- For 30+ years has been an unpaid volunteer making a substantial contribution to the community offering unconditional support for the benefit of others in many areas.

Criminal Justice System

- Appointed a Magistrate in 1993, serving 15 years and culminating as Chairman of The Bench in 2008
- Chairman of the Lord Chancellor's Sub Committee for eight years. Essex Probation Board member for many years.
- After retiring from the Bench he joined the Independent Monitoring Board at HMP Bullwood Hall and Chelmsford, retiring in 2019 after 10 years.

Education

- School Governor twice at primary and secondary schools.
- Contributed to The Interview Skills Programme assisting year 11/12 leavers, a role he still enjoys.
- Spent many years as in-

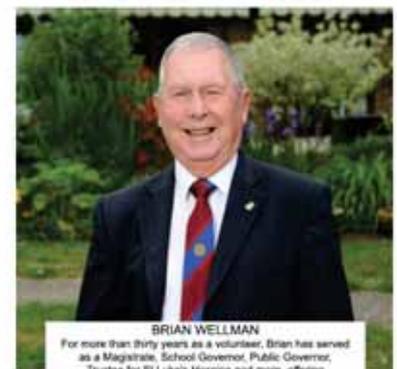
vigilator at Woodlands Academy

Health Services

- 2000-2006 a non-executive director for the Basildon Primary Care Trust. Followed by nine years as a public governor at Basildon & Thurrock Foundation Trust.
- Currently sits on the Board of St Luke's Hospice as a Trustee.
- Since 2010 been a member of The Probus Club of Basildon and is currently assistant treasurer. (Guard your act Mike Ginn!)

Final accolade: In 1999, Basildon celebrated its 70 years anniversary and Brian was nominated and awarded **BASILDON HERO STATUS** reflecting his substantial commitment and contribution to Basildon, devoting much of his free time to others.

BASILDON HEROES



BRIAN WELLMAN
For more than thirty years as a volunteer, Brian has served as a Magistrate, School Governor, Public Governor, Trustee for St Luke's Hospice and more, offering unconditional support to the local community and a active member of Basildon Concord Rotary Club

BASILDON AT 70
MAKING THE FUTURE BRIGHTER 1929-2019

eastgate BASILDON

Trevor Bond writes: I vet new members to ensure they meet club requirements with their CVs or, as Americans call it - their Resumes! Not even the President is aware that acceptance is all conditional on my final verdict as editor of the newsletter, I insist on knowing answers to the following:
Question: Do you like cricket?
Answer: A member of The

Basildon Cricket Club, serving as Treasurer from 1978 -1988 and Welfare Officer from 2005 -2010. **That's a pass...**
Question: Any other sporting interests?
Answer: Continue to play golf twice weekly and have played League Table Tennis for the past 50 years. **That's a yes.**
Question: Which football Club do you support.
(Only acceptable answer: West

Ham United).
Answer: "I am an avid Crystal Palace supporter and season ticket holder attending all home games with my son and grandson."
That's a no-go but forgiven in this case since we really welcome new members and, apart from supporting the wrong football club, you are most welcome. But please reconsider your allegiance on entry.

New Rotary Year - New Challenges

Tackling The Issues Facing Us

This year will see new challenges, in particular our ability to support our customary charitable causes. Although the Fun Walk is still scheduled, our principal events for fund raising, are in jeopardy.

- Soapbox Derby - Cancelled
- Summerfest - Cancelled
- Christmas Market Raffle - Decision September but doubtful

Our only present income which does not require groups of more than six people, comes from the 100 Club, but we need to find more sources of income. Any new event is in jeopardy if social distancing rules apply – the crowds at a Soapbox Derby or Christmas Market can't be

By President Peter Greene

reproduced in the foreseeable future. It's a great challenge!

Vulnerable Members

Even our regular "Twinning" visit to a European Rotary Club has had to be postponed for a year.

Finally, even undertaking projects to help others in our community is proving difficult, as most of our Members are "highly vulnerable"!

Meet Our Task Forces

To address these challenges, I have formed three Task Forces, which members have agreed to support:

- **Membership** – Keith Wood, Mike Sinclair, Les Sheppard and Ed Harrison join Membership Chairman, Peter Strong, to seek ways to exploit our new capabilities in video-conferencing,

to attract new members – *E-Members for the 2020s.*

- **Crowd funding** – Margaret Fowler and Les Sheppard will join with Malcolm Acors, our International and Foundation Chairman, in this endeavour; no small challenge, since it requires us to raise \$5000 from over 40 donors, at a challenging time to raise any money at all.

- **Fundraising** – Brian Wellman will join Ken Smith in a "Virtual Fundraising" Task Force to investigate new opportunities for "Online Events" to raise money when we cannot meet face to face with the public, nor hold physical events to which we could attract crowds from whom we can raise money.

Updates will appear in future newsletters but, in this issue, we have asked our key players to put us in the immediate picture.

Need To Be More Flexible

The overriding ambition of our Club in becoming more flexible is to:

1. Protect the ethos of the Club and enable continuing membership for all members
2. Attract new members by having more accessible meetings, thus revitalising our membership, enabling new members to experience the satisfaction gained from the work Rotary does locally and internationally.

Following the first task force meeting on July 16 the Club passed a resolution that, when Face-to Face meetings can resume, the first Monday of every month should be a Zoom meeting to be held at 8.00 p.m. for all Members to attend. The

By Peter Strong



further three or four Monday meetings each month will be lunchtime meetings with a meal at a venue to be announced (Reids is closing permanently).

Since August 10 the task force has reconsidered the structure of the monthly evening Zoom meeting to encourage new members to participate in our

Club's activities. The Club agreed that it would hold its monthly Service Committees Joint Meeting then, and not include a speaker. (This sets the number of speakers per month at three, one of which could be available either for a guest speaker or for members to speak on subjects of mutual interest or fellowship).

Town Club Advised

I have informed some members of the Billerica Town Club, principally club Secretary Kevin Smith, of our intentions, stressing we did not intend to compete for members.

Kevin assured us that there would be no objections and offered support and encouragement. He would also

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More Flexible (continued)

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advise their new President and offered to help/advise if we made further contact.

Having consulted our Treasurer, his advice has been that Zoom Members would be expected to pay £15 per month to cover all Rotary Fees including a small contribution towards our club's running costs. i.e. £180 pa.

As membership increased, this cost might reduce. A voluntary additional £6 per month could be made to Foundation.

Paying Dinner Money!

Costs for the face-to-face meetings would depend on the cost of meals at the chosen venue. If "Zoom only" members come along to a lunchtime meeting (which we hope they

would occasionally like to do) costs would be the same per meal as for weekly members. We will investigate whether membership fees and meal costs should be separated out allowing members to opt to pay for meals in advance, or only on the days when attending for lunch. Crucial decisions remain to be made.

Crowd Funding - Pilot Project Approved

I am happy to confirm that following our registration, we have been accepted for GlobalGiving's crowd funding Program. Our Task Force is examining how we can use this as a pilot for our Boreholes project.

Many organisations provide crowd funding services, with the ability to publicise a project and collect donations online. This is paid for by an admin charge deducted from donations. We chose to go with GlobalGiving, who provide a process called 'The Accelerator' which is a set of tools and support framework to help charities create a crowd funding capability.

Must Get Message Out

The Task Force has stressed what we will need to do during the funding campaign. One thing is clear – it's not just a case of creating a GlobalGiving web-page and sitting back waiting for

Les Sheppard reports on an early success

the funds to come in. Everyone will need to be involved at some point in getting the message out that we are seeking contributions. I hope my talk on August 24 helped Members understand how crowd funding

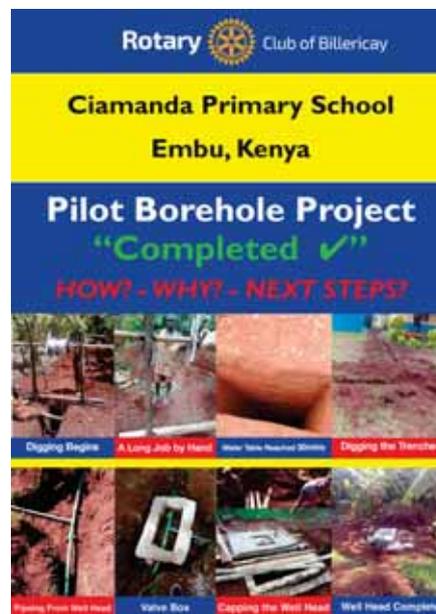
fits into our fundraising activities.

After careful considerations we are switching from the September to the December accelerator, which gives us several advantages:

- We will have all of December to reach our target of \$5000 from over 40 donors, rather than just 15 days in the September Accelerator
- We will have more time to plan our Accelerator campaign

We must submit our project by November 20, and will launch our Accelerator fundraising on December 1.

In the coming weeks, as the Task Force gets a clearer understanding and plans our approach, we will be more specific about what is required to raise the money we need, 'graduate' from the Accelerator programme and run future campaigns at a lower charge.



On-Line Virtual Fundraising

It is proving very difficult to identify any real fund raising opportunities online.

I am, though, wondering if it may be possible to have something like a racing night online?

But with a difference! I am investigating Irish pig racing as an alternative.

As I say, repeatedly, any ideas, thoughts or suggestions will be gratefully received.



Visits To Other Clubs

Sounding The Drum For Rotary Reflecting Society

Tom Griffin, Rotary GBI President, is an impressive speaker. It was a delight to hear his Zoom talk to the Rotary Club of Basildon on August 6.

His address was the main business of the evening. Zoom allows him to multiply himself in a way that would not otherwise be possible. Without having to travel, he can easily address Clubs around the country in a way that previous Presidents have been unable to achieve.

DG Keith Brownlie attended and repeated his objective of starting eight new Rotary Clubs this year,

Tom Griffin is an eloquent speaker with clear views. He stressed the importance of Rotary:

- Increasing its membership.



- Becoming more diverse.

He said: "The overwhelming majority of Rotarians are elderly white males. Only 24% are female. We must reflect the society that we are drawn from."

One Basildon Member put his head above the parapet "I've

heard all this before, but nothing changed". He suggested that nothing would change.

Major Discussion

Suggestions of racism and feminism? Of course not, but at this point the meeting "took off". Robust discussion.

In particular, I got the impression that these new Clubs in our District will be targeted at attracting the kinds of members Rotary needs to recruit, which existing Clubs were failing to do. Would a businesswoman in her 30s want to join a male Club whose average age was about 75?

I was grateful for the opportunity to hear the RIBI President.

Previous holders of this office have sometimes seemed distant.

By Club Treasurer Michael Ginn

A Kart By Any Other Name!



her driving lesson. He discovered that her instructor was a Rotarian who thought our Soapbox Derby could be a great success in Geelong.

It's a city about the size of Chelmsford and

Uptick (to use that terrible new in-word) was a call to Patrick from its Club Secretary asking for him to make a Zoom presentation to their members, at 6.00pm at their evening meeting. 6.00 pm – that's 9.00 am in the UK – Ugh!

Patrick says: "President Peter prepared a PowerPoint presentation of key information, and joined me to present

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When is a Soapbox a Billy Cart? No idea?

Go find out 'down under'.

Patrick Rothon discovered this on a recent visit to Geelong, near Melbourne in Victoria, Australia, when his granddaughter Matilda insisted he went with her for

once the centre of the wool industry for Victoria. It has four Rotary Cubs who could assist with a Billy Cart Derby.

Positive Feedback

A Kart By Any Other Name! (continued)

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to the meeting, which went superbly. The presentation covered the significant details, with photographs and facts of previous events. We invited them to contact us again for further assistance."

Pat added: "I have had a positive feed-back. Providing they can find

the right venue, the show should go on. Billy Cart or Soapbox, I'm sure they will have the same spills and thrills. When I go to Geelong again, I will report back."

The Course - II

- 1 Starting Ramp – 1.5 metres high



- 2 Jumps 0.29 metres high, 1 chicane



Missed You Bert !

Eye-eye! But for needing a successful cataract operation Bert French would have been in this photo. of Rotarians and Old Palmerians.

We all enjoyed an Escape Day at the delightful Pig & Whistle Restaurant in Chignall Smealey on August 18 just passed.

We sat 2 x 2 inside but gathered outside for drinks and long-missed chat.

We missed you Bert and all sent best wishes. *By Trevor Bond.*



100 Draw Adds To Prize Winners

Roger Kettle is pushing for new members of our 100 Club, whereby half the money goes to charities and half goes to members in a series of quarterly Prize Draws and a special Christmas Prize Draw each year.



has increased the number of units in the 100 Club to add a fifth prize to three of the four quarterly draws.

" We will look at the Christmas

Draw later to see if we can increase the amount of prize money," he says.

Watch this space!

Roger reports that the Club

Have a Giggle

- I'm giving up spray deodorants at the end of the year. Roll on 2021!
- Having spent months trying unsuccessfully to correct a flaw in the mirror for the new space telescope, astronomers have finally cracked it.
- What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta!
- Donald can Trumpet loudly now, but Joe is Biden his time!

Birthday Congratulations to Chandra Gupta (September 4), and Peter Strong (September 24)

Future Meetings and Events

All meetings to be conducted by Zoom Video-conferencing, to be reviewed at end September 2020 and a further announcement made on our website.

Our Video meetings are on Mondays at 14.00.