

Rotary



Club of  
Billericay  
Newsletter

Best Club Newsletter  
Four Years in a Row



Rotary District 1340  
2015-16, 2016-17,  
2017-18 & 2018-19



Rotary GB&I  
Best Club  
Bulletin 2017  
& 2018

July 2020

# Outstanding Community Service



## Four New Paul Harris Fellows

See Inside for: *Serving The Community - 4 Paul Harris Fellows,  
Buttsbury Rotakids Year of Achievement, President's Handover*

# President's Message

## *Inspired By A Wonderful Club Spirit*



*A toast to the Presidents*

### ***A Light Heart***

It is with a very light heart that I take on the Presidency of our Club for the coming year, not because the challenges are not great - because they are. Not because of our many fundraising events - because we only have the Funwalk. But because I see the spirit of friendship and fellowship in our Club is second to none, and as bright as ever. I know I can count on the support of all Club Members to find a way to keep our Club active and our support of charities and good causes as great as they can possibly be.

Weekly meetings have prevailed despite lock-down and forced separation from our Rotary Colleagues. Virtually, of course, over Zoom, for which we have now invested in a license, and we have many times managed a full house of all twenty Members, even for mundane Club Council and Business Meetings.

Twenty Members! Yes. We have been joined by Michael Dunne whose father was a past Member of this Club, and who is himself

(see Page12) a Paul Harris Fellow and past District Governor. We offer him a very warm welcome and wish him a most enjoyable and successful time in our Club.

### ***To Boldly Go ..***

I repeat my thanks to Ben Clarke, our outgoing President, for all we achieved in his year in office, and to Les Sheppard, to quote from that literary classic "Star Trek" ... for boldly going where nobody has gone before; i.e. for taking on both Vice-Presidency and Secretary roles. A huge combined undertaking.

It is traditional for a new President to look forward. Without wishing to repeat in full my report to the Club Assembly, I should mention the three initiatives:

- Membership - Peter Strong leading a team of Keith Wood, Mike Sinclair, Les Sheppard and Ed Harrison.
- Virtual Events - Ken Smith is leading this initiative.
- Crowdfunding - Malcolm Acors is leading a team including Margaret Fowler and VP Les Sheppard.

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### ***Task Forces bearing Fruit***

Membership has got off to a really good start with new Member Michael Dunne, and potential transfer in by another Rotarian. I was heartened by the Club's agreement to the recommendations from the Membership Task Force on how to keep our club spirit and ethos alive, yet still be able to attract new Members. But much more still to be done.

We have completed the first step towards Crowdfunding with a full submission to Global Giving ready for the next phase where funding can be raised on the GlobalGiving Website.

In our changing world, it is difficult to believe that we have now been meeting over Zoom for over four months, and our camaraderie remains undiminished and we still seek ways to serve our community. So, as I end my first message of the Rotary Year, I wish you all well.

***Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!***

# Call To Arms For Four Fine Fellows

*The Paul Harris Fellowship was established over 60 years ago in 1957 – its purpose being to identify, engage, and thank Members who have the ability and desire to help communities around the world in the best traditions of Rotary. All Paul Harris Fellows join an illustrious group including past U.S. Presidents and UN Secretary-Generals, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk.*



*A Celebratory Lunch*

## ***President Peter reports on an unusual and auspicious occasion***

**A**s we report over the page, we were delighted to recognize the outstanding service achievements of four of our Members at Immediate Past President Ben's final meeting on June 29.

But the strictures of Covid-19 meant that it was a virtual meeting and we were not able to hand over the actual certificates. The photos you see on pages 5-8 are all courtesy of Photoshop! So, even though all Club Members were delighted to celebrate with Michael Ginn,

Keith Wood, Margaret Fowler and Les Sheppard, it did not have the "weight" of a real physical meeting and celebration.

***A Bakers' Half- Dozen*** Club Member Ben Curtis had previously notified us that the Bakers Arms in Stock was open

for business and could accommodate six people from different households, albeit outside on the patio. Within Government Covid-19 Guidelines!

Could this help? The mathematics were not too difficult - a six people limit - four Paul Harris Fellows, Immediate Past President (IPP) Ben, President Peter - Yes - problem solved...

Ben Curtis made the arrangements, we all travelled separately to maintain social separation, and by 1.00 pm were all assembled at a comfortable table on the Patio.

***I Know It's True, I Am Holding The Proof*** Waiting to order our food (and just in case it might rain) we held a formal Fellowship ceremony, with a short speech by IPP Ben as he handed each new Fellow their Paul Harris Certificate and their new lapel pin. So-

*(continued on Page 4)*



# Four Fine Fellows (continued)

## District News: Immediate Past District Governor

Pauline Dean writes:

*In addition, by the end of this Rotary year it hadn't stopped the presentations of Paul Harris Fellow Awards. An example of which is Billericay Rotary who in their 60th year have presented four PHF awards to four members of their club - Michael Ginn, Keith Wood, Margaret Fowler and Les Sheppard for their work in Rotary and the wider community both internationally and locally. Congratulations to all!*

*(continued from page 3)*  
cial distancing rules maintained using the one metre plus rules.

So great for each new Fellow to hold their certificate and new pins in their own hands. Then you know it's true, and that your endeavours have been so publicly recognised.



Time for a final group photograph, with seamless Photoshop modifications. A permanent record of a great celebration.

### ***Catching Up On Gossip!***

Much interest from other tables on the Patio. *Who are you? What group? What are the certificates for?* We explained --- to much sincere appreciation of what Rotary does.

With the formalities over, time

to eat and we all tucked-in to our food. In silence? Not a bit of it! Which just showed how much we were missing meeting our fellow Club Members face-to-face. Conversation flowed, gossip (dare I say it) followed, more conversation... So much so that two and a half hours later we were the last to leave.

A thoroughly enjoyable and auspicious day recognising four of **Rotary's BEST.**



# Outstanding Service to the Community

At the Club's final Business Meeting of the Rotary year and, marking a happy end to a difficult year, outgoing President Ben Clarke and President-Elect Peter Greene announced on Zoom the honouring of four Members with Paul Harris Fellowship awards for outstanding contributions to our Club and our Community.

Ben read the citations for Michael Ginn and Keith Wood, while Peter recognised the achievements of Reverend Margaret Fowler and Immediate Past President, and incoming Secretary AND Vice-President, Les Sheppard.

*All Social Distancing Rules obeyed. All photos created through the marvels of Photoshop.*

## We Honour Four Of Our Best

### Very Pleasant Duty

President Ben Clarke said: "During the Rotary year a President has occasionally to perform some very pleasant duties and I have two such duties today. They are to award Paul Harris Fellowships to our Treasurer Michael Ginn and to Keith Wood, our Community and Vocational chairman.

Both of them have dedicated their time and effort in helping their local community and those overseas, and are stalwart and hard-working Club Officers. I hope all Members will join me in congratulating our new Paul Harris Fellows". He illustrated the citations with slides provided by Peter Greene (see below).

### Michael Ginn - Trusty Treasurer

Michael Ginn joined the Club in my golden year in 2010 – ten years ago and he has been active in Rotary ever since.

Rotarians quickly noted his skills and he became our Treasurer and, in 2014-15, our President.

His spell as Treasurer included the very testing job of Treasurer on the day for every Soapbox Derby, involving the handling of many thousands of pounds.

Additionally, outside of Rotary, Mike has played a very active part in the church, again as



Treasurer, and other jobs including being a Churchwarden of Little Burstead church and serving nine years on the Diocesan Synod, a fact perhaps not known to many of us.

Moved by the plight of many countries lack of water and poor quality water, especially from his own personal experience of this in Asia, he took on the important role as Aquabox Ambassador, a job that involves spreading the word about the needs of the many whom the Aquabox charity supports. Amongst other things, this involves talking about this to other Rotary and Service Clubs.

I am delighted on behalf of the Rotary Club of Billericay to appoint you, Mike, as a Paul Harris Fellow – very well deserved."

**Why Me? But Thank You All - By Mike Ginn, PHF**  
*"I was invited to join Rotary just over ten years ago by the then President Ben Clarke in the Club's Golden Jubilee year. At the meeting to explain what becoming a Rotarian was about, it was Roger Kettle who said the crucial words that convinced me to join our Rotary Club.*

*Ten years on, I cannot remember what those words were. But I have had such an interesting time.*

*In 2014-15, I was privileged to serve as Club President. I remember vividly the Club's visit to Beausoleil in France and that amazing evening in Monaco when I dusted off my*

*(continued on Page 6)*

# Outstanding Community Service (cont.)

*(continued from page 5)  
language skills and addressed  
those assembled in French.*

*Towards the end of my  
Presidential year, I took nearly  
30 otherwise sane adults for a  
ride on the Bluebell Railway.  
The day was topped off by  
seeing the House at Pooh  
Corner in Ashdown Forest.*

## **No Script!**

*Another fond memory of  
that year was being asked to  
propose the toast ex-tempore  
at Basildon Rotary's Charter  
Dinner. Well, set me loose  
without a script at your peril  
and I managed to get some  
things very wrong indeed and  
bring the house down. But to  
put the record straight five  
years later, Roger IS privileged  
to be married to Sal.*

*After my presidential year, I  
was succeeded as President by  
Ed Harrison. I served under  
him as Club Secretary and  
demonstrated what a lousy  
Secretary I was. Thanks to Ed  
for bailing me out on many  
occasions.*

## **Colossal Help**

*But the next year, Ed was  
succeeded by Mike Sinclair.  
Mike had been Treasurer, so I  
stood in for him and am still  
doing so. Mike is a Chartered  
Accountant. I am not. But  
over the intervening years,  
Mike has been colossal help  
to me as he has explained  
how things should be done. So  
thanks, Mike.*

*I am proud to be a Rotarian  
and humbled to be ranked  
as worthy of the Paul Harris  
Fellowship. Sundry people  
have told me that I deserve it.  
I find it hard to accept this.*



*All through my membership,  
my wife Sue has supported  
me. Pinnacle of her support  
was going into a High Street  
bookmakers to get change  
when we were running short  
at the Soapbox Derby. They  
obliged. Thank you, Sue.*

## **Keith Wood - Club Stalwart & Community Servant**

Keith Wood has been an active Member of the Club for over twenty years, serving as our President in 2002/3 and subsequently and more recently in 2013/14. He has rarely been without a job in our Club and is currently Chairman of the Community and Vocational Service committee.

Additionally, and probably more generously, he is our linkman for catering with Reids. What you might call a no-win job!

Outside of Rotary, Keith continues to dedicate his time to our community. He was Chairman of the Reading Rooms for many years, also carrying out refurbishment that enabled the hall to be available for use by Billericay residents.

As well as being a former school

governor, he still serves on the Billericay Educational Trust. It gives me enormous pleasure to make Keith, on behalf of the Club, a Paul Harris Fellow."

## **Before My Very Eyes - By Keith Wood PHF**

*My immediate reaction when  
finding out (within the Zoom  
Meeting) that I had been  
nominated for the Paul Harris  
Fellowship was astonishment  
Minutes earlier Mike Ginn,  
our Treasurer, received the  
award, and I suspected he had  
been told earlier but asked  
to keep quiet. Then it was  
there in glorious technicolour,  
our illustrious President  
Ben handing the treasured  
memento to Michael Ginn.*

*Within seconds, on my own  
computer, before my very eyes,  
a swift and concealed sleight  
of hand and there I was too,  
evidenced as also receiving  
this prestigious award. Fiction  
or yet another "photoshop  
moment" on behalf of our  
superbly talented IT Guru,  
Peter Greene? In essence,  
yes... but countenanced by the  
courtesy of President Ben who  
had decided to honour me*

*(continued on Page 7)*

# Outstanding Community Service (cont.)

*(continued from page 6)*

*for services to Rotary and the wider Community.*

*In my 22 years as a Rotarian, serving in most capacities and twice as President, I have never felt so humble and honoured, and I am delighted to join other Members within our Club, who have been similarly honoured before me. I look forward to when we can meet with all the other Members to help celebrate this auspicious award.*

## **Church And Rotary – Two Major Players**

President Ben then handed over proceedings to Incoming President Peter Greene. Peter told Members: "It is a great pleasure for me to announce the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship to Margaret Fowler and to Les Sheppard. Their citations read:

### **Margaret Fowler - Minister and Twin Mother**

Margaret became an Associate Member of our Club in August 2015 and a Full Member in April 2016, less than a year later. Members know that since November 2017 she has been Associate Priest at Christ

Church, part of the Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry.

"Despite her numerous duties in this role, Margaret finds the time to attend most meetings and to support Club events and activities whenever she is able.

She recently worked in promoting our Rotary Club's Ciamanda Borehole Well project with Malcolm Acors, actively liaising with the local schools, Embu Rotary Club, and Church officials to ensure that our first well was built on time and on budget. She also personally carried a community Aquabox Water filter to Kenya at the end of 2019 and ensured its most welcome delivery to Katama to provide them with clean water.

### **Personal Concerns**

"Her involvement stretches back many years from when she was working at Kennedy's Law firm and it funded water facilities in Ciamanda. She has visited and worked in this area of Kenya for over 10 years. She went twice last year despite personal concerns at home and heavy commitments at the church.

"Margaret also works with both Buttsbury Primary Schools

and Brightside School as part of the Schools Ministry of the Church in Billericay, which was so influential in helping us set up our second RotaKids Club in Buttsbury Junior School.

From this link has also come her part in the raising of money at Buttsbury Junior School for a Ciamanda School, and in particular, for the fund to send the headteacher's eldest son Erik to India in an attempt to cure his leukaemia.

"Christ Church has been helping the community in Kenya for many years, making a substantial contribution from Mission Support Funds to sponsor children in secondary education (now 18 children sponsored). Also, it has helped the community at Magaca to build their church which, after 15 years, has finally been completed and in recognition of which, she was invited to the consecration last year.

As Margaret reported, even the splendid new Church toilets with safe water now had a plaque: 'Toilet Facility built in partnership with Christ Church Billericay' and bottom-lined: "For the Glory of God"!

### **Prison Charity**

Members may not be aware of an addition to Margaret's history. She spent many years working for a prison fellowship charity – the Broken Reed, providing support not only to prisoners in jail, but also to their families. Margaret's conscientious hard work was a backbone to the work of this charity and a fine example of her contribution to those in our community who need support.

*(continued on page 8)*



# Outstanding Community Service (cont.)

*(continued from page 7)*

"Finally her contribution goes back even further. I first met Margaret in 1976 and know that, as the mother of twins, she was the driving force in founding the innovative Billericay Twins Club, helping mothers of multiple births in Billericay and ALL the surrounding towns. Margaret was elected Honorary President when she stepped down, and it is a tribute to her dedication and skill that the club is still going strong over 43 years later.

Margaret – Congratulations!

## ***Doing What comes Naturally to Rotarians - Margaret Fowler PHF***

***"I was completely taken by surprise to hear from retiring President Ben Clarke that I was being given a Paul Harris Fellowship Award. I wondered if there had been some mistake! The citation which Peter Greene read out was like my life flashing before me - no-one had ever summarised my community involvement before and I had certainly never drawn a conclusion that doing what comes naturally to all Rotarians, was worthy of any special commendation. But I do thank you all for your confidence in me, and feel greatly honoured to have been given such a prestigious award."***

## ***Les Sheppard - Man of Many Parts***

Les is a major contributor to our community. He is also involved with Christ Church as Treasurer and Member of both the Parish and the District Church Councils. He uses his computer expertise as the IT guru for the church, as I have witnessed

personally at the church.

Les is equally a major contributor to the work Christ Church undertakes and funds within Kenya. He makes a major contribution in whatever organisation he joins.

For example, he is not only Trustee and Member of the Managing Committee of the Reading Rooms in Billericay High Street, but also a vital member of the team, maintaining its website. Yet again, an example of him using his expertise for the benefit of others. He is also a school governor - at both Buttsbury Primary Schools.

Closer to home, I must stress his outstanding contribution to the running of our Rotary Club:

- He joined us after Margaret, becoming a Member in August 2016, although he was previously an active Member of Rotaract.
- Less than one year later he agreed to be Vice President - from 2017/18.
- The next year he became President for 2018/19
- This year he is Vice President again.
- Next year he will remain Vice

President again, AND Secretary, willingly taking on two of the most demanding jobs in the Club.

- And the following Year he will be President again:
- In those 5 years of membership he will have been:
  - Vice-President three years,
  - Secretary One year and
  - President two years!

What an achievement!

Les - Congratulations

***Surprised! I certainly was - By Les Sheppard PHF***  
***As a relatively new boy in Rotary terms, despite my time in Rotaract, I was surprised to be made a Paul Harris Fellow. I expected to have to serve the Club for a good few years more to earn such an award. I am honoured that the Club felt my efforts to date warranted this recognition.***

***One enjoyment about Rotary is the opportunity to get involved with local, national and international community activities. It is more than just another social club and this award reminds me of the service we all provide through Rotary.***



# Buttsbury Foremost In Challenge Of Dementia

## BILLERICAY & WICKFORD Gazette

InYourArea.co.uk

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

LOCAL NEWS ALL DAY EVERY DAY ESSEXLIVE NEWS £1.80



### SCHOOL WINS SPECIAL AWARD

PAGE 9

**W**e are thrilled and delighted to reproduce here the Gazette's announcement of the award to Buttsbury Junior School, a school close to our hearts and the first school to be presented with an award for being Dementia Aware. It is the first Dementia Friendly Schools award from the Billericay Dementia Alliance.

To achieve the award, pupils aged between 7 and 11 at the school had to meet and show evidence of five different outcomes over the academic year.

Outcomes included being aware of dementia and how it can affect others, sharing the dementia friendly message across their school community, reaching out to the elderly community and reflecting on how they can best understand and help other people.

### Two-Year Action Plan

As part of the award, which six local schools have already signed up to achieve, Buttsbury has put together a two-year action plan to further increase understanding of dementia in the school and support the community.

Headteacher Ann Robinson, said: "At Buttsbury, we have always had a strong link with The Ark Centre which provides support for people living with dementia so it was wonderful to be able to involve all the children and staff in our work towards the Dementia Friendly Schools Award.

The children and staff have a good understanding of what it's like to live with dementia and are keen to support family members and the local community in whatever way they can.

"Most importantly, the children are respectful and understanding towards people with dementia."

### Special Meaning

Carl Roberts is Chairman of the

Billericay Dementia Action Alliance and Customer Relationship Manager at Anisha Grange Care Home in Billericay, and Hutton View Care Home in Brentwood.

Carl said: "It was an absolute pleasure to present the first Billericay Dementia Friendly Schools Award to Buttsbury Junior School. To be able to award this during the pandemic also gives it a special meaning when we consider the number of carers and residents living with dementia who have been isolated during this time.

Teaching the younger generations about dementia and raising awareness within the school will serve to create a truly dementia friendly Billericay for many years to come.

"Part of the stigma around dementia is the fear of the unknown and with these pupils fully committed to at least two years' worth of work to increase that understanding and raise awareness across the primary schools in Billericay, it will help to remove the stigma and create positivity for changing the way we view dementia."

For further information about the Billericay Dementia Action Alliance or become a member email: [Carl.Roberts@hallmarkcare-homes.co.uk](mailto:Carl.Roberts@hallmarkcare-homes.co.uk)

## School wins dementia award

### BUTTSBURY JUNIORS ARE SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

By SIMON MURPHY  
simon@essexlive.co.uk  
(01276 282282)

A SCHOON has become the first to be presented with an award for being aware of dementia.

Buttsbury Junior School has been awarded the first Dementia Friendly Schools award from the Billericay Dementia Alliance.

To achieve the award, pupils aged between 7 and 11 at the school had to meet and show evidence of five different outcomes over the academic year. Outcomes included being aware of dementia and how it can affect others, sharing the dementia friendly message across their school community, reaching out to the elderly community and reflecting on how they can best understand and help other people.

As part of the award, which six local schools have already signed up to achieve, Buttsbury has put together a two-year action plan to further increase understanding of

dementia in the school and support the community.

Headteacher at Buttsbury Junior School, Ann Robinson, said: "At Buttsbury, we have always had a strong link with The Ark Day Care Centre which provides support for people living with dementia so it was wonderful to be able to involve all the children and staff in our work towards the Dementia Friendly Schools Award.

"As a result, the children and staff have a good understanding of what it's like to live with dementia and are keen to support family members and the local community in whatever way they can.

"Most importantly, the children are respectful and understanding towards people with dementia."

Chairman of the Billericay Dementia Action Alliance and customer relationship manager at Anisha Grange Care Home in Billericay and Hutton View Care Home in Brentwood, Carl Roberts, said: "It was an absolute pleasure to present

the first Billericay Dementia Friendly Schools Award to Buttsbury Junior School.

"To be able to award this during the pandemic also gives it a special meaning when we consider the number of carers and residents living with dementia who have been isolated during this time.

Teaching the younger generations about dementia and raising awareness within the school will serve to create a truly dementia friendly Billericay for many years to come.

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raising awareness across the primary schools in Billericay, it will help to remove the stigma and create positivity for changing the way we view dementia."



Buttsbury Junior School awarded the first Dementia Friendly Schools award from the Billericay Dementia Alliance

# RotaKids Showcase Year Of Success



## We Invite Them To Present Their Achievements On Zoom

On Monday, July 13 at our business meeting, we were privileged to see over ZOOM a major presentation by the RotaKids of Buttsbury Junior School. Despite the odd hiccup with sound, their representative officers came over loud and succinct to all our Members and “visiting” PDG Peter Dowse.

Backed up by an excellent slide show showing their progress and, as President of Buttsbury Junior School RotaKids and School Council Izzy Cheesman announced: “Today we’ll tell you about this last year and all the exciting things we’ve done, and the challenges we have faced.”

Izzy (Isabel) was supported by Ava Wilkins, Secretary of the school RotaKids who added:

“Despite our year and ability to carry out some events planned being cut short by a third, in true Buttsbury style, we still have lots to share with you”.

### Applications Agreed

They explained their year, starting with appointment of the officers - anybody from Year 6 could apply, but their applications had to be read by teachers who then chose the best candidates.

Anybody in the rest of the school who wanted to be part of RotaKids and on the School Council, then wrote a speech read out in class and each class voted for two

Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



representatives.

Izzy said: “We were so pleased and honoured to have been chosen from those who applied.”

“In November one of our first fund raising events was to take part in Children In Need” Ava told us. Izzy added: “We dressed up as we wanted to be when we  
(continued on page 11)

### Children in Need:



£565 raised for Children in Need this year!



Both the children and teachers dressed up and took part in the Joe Wicks 'Big Morning Move'.



# And A Bumper Sum For Children In Need

(continued from Page 10)  
grew up and even managed to get the teachers involved too."

## Giant PE Lesson

We also took part in Joe Wicks "Big Morning Move" said Ava, "Like a giant PE lesson with all of year groups!" School councillors helped promote the event and voted on how the children and teachers should dress. "We raised a fantastic £565 for Children In Need. And everyone had a brilliant day" said Izzy.



"The Rotakids (and some teachers) had helped Rotary sell its Raffle tickets at last year's Christmas Market. We all had a brilliant time and loved encouraging members of the public to buy tickets.



A fantastic day and everyone got into the Christmas spirit."

RotaKids' other activities included:

- Organising Sport Relief in March, "We all dressed up in our favourite sportswear. Highlight was the dance workshops. We raised a fantastic £394."
- Gaining the Dementia Friendly Schools Award. (see report on

## Sport Relief:



£394 raised for Sport Relief this year!



Page 9). "We became the first Billericay school to win the award and the plaque is now displayed in the school", said Izzy. "We have gained so much knowledge and experience of what it takes to be more understanding and patient. We have worked to spread the message in our community."

## Reducing Isolation

- Spent much time at the Ark Day Centre which provides stimulating environment to help reduce isolation for the elderly. Eight school council members

spring terms with other Billericay schools. Based on their Dementia Friendly Schools Award.

Summing up, Izzy said: "Sadly the year was cut short and we missed out some events we were looking forward to." Ava added: "Next year the school plans to continue our work with Dementia Friends and slowly getting back into the swing of things and more fund raising."

After a Questions and Answer session, President Peter praised them for their professionalism and thanked them for their

## The Ark Day Care Centre:



visit every two to three weeks. "We are always complimented on the way we interact with the centre and enjoy playing games, complete puzzles, dance and talk," said Ava.

- Took part in pupil events and workshops during autumn and

presentation, and PDG Peter Dowse praised their efforts, commenting that he hoped to visit the school again soon.

Youth Service chairman, Mike Sinclair proposed the vote of thanks to the RotaKids.

# Membership Zooms - New Man In Our Club

## Welcome To Michael The Third!

**O**ur newest Member, Michael Stanton-Dunne (sorry Michael, from now on you are plain Michael Dunne to us!) joined our Zoom meeting on July 6. That makes you Michael No 3 but welcome just the same!

Immediate Past President Ben and this Rotary year's President, Peter, chose the moment to greet and welcome Michael into the Club.

Normally a new Member has to stand up over lunch and give a talk about his history so we can all get to know him. We have all feared this "opportunity" and remember it well - Lucky Michael - he's been spared this by Coronavirus and Zoom. So, Members, here is Michael's history.

### *Dedicated Rotarian*

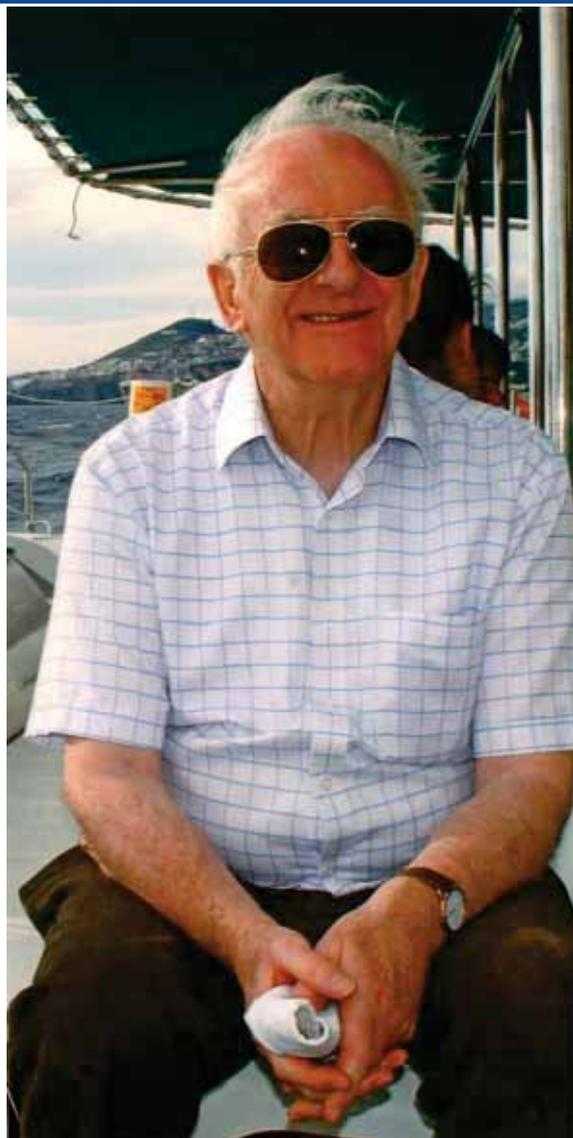
Michael is a long time Rotarian, joining Rotary over 30 years ago

in Basildon Concord Club where he was a Member for 15 years, running several club offices including International and PR, and where he received his Paul Harris Fellowship.

During this time, he fulfilled a number of Rotary jobs at District level including PR Chair, Area Assistant Governor, and was our District Governor in 2003-4.

He moved in 2004 to the Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham Club where he stayed for the next 15 years. No shirker of responsibility, he again performed a number of club offices and served a term as Club President.

Finally, on the demise of that club he joined the national Great Britain and Ireland Rotary e-Club, but he wanted a more sociable and closer relationship and joined us in July 2020 for the new Rotary Year.



President Peter ended his welcome with "**We are very pleased to welcome such a dedicated Rotarian to our membership.**"

## A Brief History Of ~~Time~~ Michael

### Here is Michael's CV ....

- **Basildon Concord**, 1989-2004. International, Public Relations. Paul Harris Fellow.
- **Stanford le Hope & Corringham**. 2004-2019. President. Club Council. Community Service for two years
- **Rotary Club of Great Britain and Ireland**. 2019-2020
- **Rotary Club of Billericay**. 2020 - .....

### Rotary District.

- Chair of Public Relations.
- Assistant Governor.
- District Governor 2003-2004

### Career and other interests

Salesian College. Cowley, Oxford. G C E. seven 0 levels

**1955-2020**. Family Business in poultry farming, latterly the sale of pet and animal feeds and letting of commercial units.

**1958-1961**. Founder Member & Secretary of local cricket club

**1981-1984**. Year of the Disabled, Chairman of Church Committee responsible for conversion of old school to accommodate Seniors and Juniors with disabilities.

**1992-1997**. Basildon & Thurrock CHC. Vice Chairman 1995-1997

**1996--Present** The Abbeyfield Basildon Society.. Regional representative 1997-2010. Regional Chairman 2003-2010. Chairman Abbeyfield Basildon Society 2010 - the present

# Life Under Lockdown!

## Wait For One - Then Three Come Along!

Lockdown has presented us all with problems. Not least those who seek fellowship in the church. Last month we featured how Church Associate Priest Margaret and Treasurer Les were coping with providing community support from Christ Church. For Keith and Gillian Wood religious life as Members of the Church has not been quite so easy.

**K**eith Wood explains it has been one thing to want to go to church. It has proved quite another to find where to go to be able to do so.

Like most of our generation I was brought up to go to church. Our parents encouraged it. And, yes, as teenagers we drifted away. Other interests, wife and family.

It took my late wife Kathy's cancer to spur us back to the church. A customer said that "miracles happened every day" in her church. And we were looking for a miracle!

We found Trinity Church in Brentwood in June 2007, but Kathy passed away the following Christmas (it seemed God didn't agree with my plan!), But I continued to go to church and it enabled me to carry on my life as it is today. Formally baptised in August 2008, I became a born-again Christian.

### **Meeting Gill**

Two years later I met Gillian at a social event at Sandown Park racecourse. Gill was already a Christian, although I didn't know it, worshipping at a church in Surrey. We married before fellow Rotarians and our whole church (about 500 people) in 2011, and continue to enjoy church life.

We have our house in Spain and go to the Spanish church in Turre on a Sunday. It's evangelical, much smaller than ours, more the size of a local shop and drawing its congregation from a few English

locals and swelled by visiting holiday makers like us.

So, to end at the beginning. At the end of last year, we started to feel a little unease in our church and we trawled a number of other churches including one in Little Baddow, called Danbury Mission, which we went to several times, revisiting Trinity too, and also Turre Church in Spain, being fortunate to be able to go to Spain more often last year.

### **Finding a Way**

Churches under lockdown realised they had to be creative to reach out to their congregation and beyond.

- Trinity made their Sunday Service available on YouTube.
- Danbury Mission built a small studio in their church and modified their website to include a smaller site for church members only. Their whole Sunday Service is pre-recorded and then live streamed through their website, the main sermon posted on YouTube too.
- Finally we heard that Turre Church was live streaming through their site so we gave that a go too. It was great to see in our own home, faces that we only see in Spain and we are able to join the service with them.

### **No Strain in Spain**

So through a combination of iPad, YouTube and Chromecast we can be in three Sunday Services all on large screen TV and all without moving from

our sofa (not strictly true as sometimes technology gives its own problems). Also we will sometimes take communion, having prepared bread and wine beforehand as we take them joining across the world in remembering the Last Supper.

In some strange way, we are lucky; able to visit our three churches in Spain, Brentwood and Danbury all on a Sunday morning and go to church in three locations in one morning.

The process has become enjoyable. We feel we have got even closer to our churches and got to know the individuals more than we did in real life. They have all become inventive in the way they deliver the service, catering also for children and gathering material for praise and worship to broadcast to churches nationwide.

### **Welcome Aboard**

Our Sunday now is a morning of great joy. We can worship in the comfort of our own home, and virtually meet with others of the same faith. More people than ever before have reached out in a similar way using Google and other search engines to access church services and the word "prayer" has been searched more than ever before.

We stay in Sunday morning lockdown. Choose to join us? You will all be welcome and all without moving from your own home.

## *Editor Trevor witnesses something different happening in the garden*

It wasn't the first time the President's chain has changed hands in a garden (Mike S to Peter G in 2017) but then the sun shone and Members and partners gathered for a lunchtime celebration. Fine wine and great food. This time not the first but surely the oddest?

Trust Peter to be involved again (what a bizzzy-buzzy fellow he is!). Against the background of lockdown different this time; different circumstances and, thanks to self-isolation and a threatening virus, we all had to share it on a wonderful ZOOM Chaplinesque black and white video culminating with the toasts in full colour that IT geek Peter and son-in-law Richard had brilliantly put together. (OK, there was the odd jerk – no, not incoming Peter nor outgoing Ben – just the film!). Just great, Peter.

The handover left nothing to regret or grieve over; despite our virtual presence only, as ever conducted by a past and present President with due decorum and in the manner that represents how seriously Rotary and our Club take such responsibilities.

Peter, in his address, thanked predecessor Ben, repeated his aims for the year and gave us some good fund-raising news in looking ahead – read on. Summary of the Handover speeches starts here.

### ***Our Club In Safe Hands***

Immediate Past President Ben Departs With A Strong Message (as seen and heard on video).

I am standing here in the lovely garden of Wendy and Peter

Greene. We are about to begin the short ceremony of the 61st Billerica Rotary Club President Handover.

This year, it is all so different from previous years, circumstances demand that we Rotarians keep away from each other as I say this. Hopefully, that will all change in the near future.

### ***Unknown Times***

In Peter, we have a President that we know will take us, and the Club, forward with great success; a dedicated Rotarian and one in whom we can have complete confidence knowing that he will be able to steer us through these very difficult and unknown times.

That said, we should remember that the huge support you gave me during my year, must now be transferred to Peter. If we are able to give him that help, then this year, will prove to be merely a nasty hiccup in the Club's long history. It is with great pleasure Peter, that I ask you to don the Chain of Office and I am very happy to confirm that you are now the new 61st President of The Rotary Club of Billerica.

### ***Thank You Ben And Let's Take It From Here***

New President Peter's response: "I must record my admiration for Immediate Past President, Ben Clarke, who has done such an outstanding job in his 90th/91st year, and in the 60th Anniversary year of the Club. Despite the impact of Covid-19 Ben bore the mantle of President with good humour, and we profited from his abundant experience

and above all, his desire that the Club continued to prosper.

Thanks too to Les Sheppard. He has again agreed to be Vice-President and also at the same time, to be secretary, two of the most onerous jobs in the Club, after serving as President himself only the previous year.

### ***Bonus News!***

We may have lost two prestigious fundraising events, Soapbox Derby and Summerfest and the Christmas Market Raffle and the Fun Walk are at risk with social distancing preventing us gleaning the income we need to support our charitable activities even if they happen.

Well, good news. The Fun Walk is ON, and with the usual BONUS! But it will be a virtual event. Participants will walk wherever they wish in September with photographic proof needed to glean the benefits. I will provide more information at our next Club meeting.

### ***Three Initiatives***

So to our aims. Basically, how will we manage in the coming year with still less clarity due to COVID-19? My priorities based on our three initiatives are: .

1. Membership – with our task force of Keith Wood, Mike Sinclair and Ed Harrison helping Membership Chairman, Peter Strong.
2. Fundraising – with Ken Smith as our new technology Fund-raising Leader to investigate any new opportunities for "Online Events".

*(continued on Page 16)*

# District Forum By Les Sheppard

The District Forum was held as a Zoom webinar on July 15. DG Keith Brownlie (the "Tartan Tornado") opened the session, welcoming 123 participants (of 137 who had registered) representing 42 clubs. 14 clubs didn't register.

In presenting his report, he reiterated that membership is his top priority objective for the coming year, with the aim of creating eight new clubs (one to be a Rotaract Club and one an eClub). He then asked each District Team Leader to report and answer questions.

- Membership & Public Image – Jed Brooks had nothing to add.
- Foundation – Robert Macaulay thanked all clubs for donations to Foundation, enabling us to reach the PolioPlus total needed to qualify for the maximum possible donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He noted that, although Polio vaccinations are on hold due to Covid, the immunisation infrastructure developed by Rotary is being prepared to deliver Covid vaccinations when available.
- Community & Vocational – Bob Barclay highlighted that Kids Out is currently transformed to Kids In. Also, the committee hopes clubs will support the RGBI campaign to end loneliness – more details to follow.
- International – Tish Storey was not online
- Youth Service – Peter Dowse noted that he can provide a digital version of the new Youth handbook.

- Administration – Dave Eagles had nothing to add to his report.

Paul Chambers presented the Secretary's Report, reminding clubs to send their signed compliance forms if not yet done.

Bob Booker presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that this year's outcome looks to be broadly in line with the budgeted £33,000.

## *Read All About It – On-Line Only!*



### **Resolution Defeated**

The main item of discussion was the future of 1240 News. At the last District Forum on May 21 the District Support Team had reported its decision to discontinue 1240 News as a cost-saving measure, but a resolution to reverse this decision and continue publishing it in its current printed form had been submitted to this meeting.

Neil Macalister of the Rotary Club of Ingatestone proposed the resolution. Lengthy discussion followed. Points made included:

- Respect for the environment

by not producing a paper magazine

- Inability to leave a digital copy in doctors' waiting rooms
- The alternative of a hard copy annual (or perhaps twice yearly) report
- District Bulletin costs us nothing to produce
- This was never envisaged as a replacement for 1240 News, cost of which is about £8,000 per year, approximately 25% of the District budget.
- Trend outside Rotary is to move to digital formats for similar magazines
- People not avid computer users will miss out with no printed copy.

Voting on the resolution to retain the printed 1240 News was by email to the District Secretary and defeated by 70 votes against to 30 votes in favour; 27 clubs against and 15 clubs in favour.

### **"Purple Nessie" Initiative**

Keith closed the meeting by encouraging clubs to think about Crowdfunding as a different way to raise funds

He also introduced his 'Purple Nessie' initiative for clubs to arrange a tea party involving children & families to raise money for Foundation – Nessie is Purple for Polio. There will be prizes for a children's competition to write about Nessie's journey from Loch Ness to a tea party in Essex. Watch out for details.

The next Forum will be on Saturday November 21, at Writtle or by Zoom!

## Charities under Covid-19

### **Blood Runners Hit 'Staggering Total'**

Ken Smith, who is a hard working member of Essex Blood Runners team of volunteers, updates us on news from this organisation. He has sent your Newsletter the following message from their controller, Carol.

"From January 1 to June 30 the total of runs completed for all the hospitals of Essex and East London plus EHAAT (Essex and Herts. Air Ambulance Trust) is 2,294 (Cf. 2000 in the whole of last year!). We have completed a staggering 1,795 runs since March 15 and I want to thank all the team for making sure that anyone that needed us got help.

"We will carry on serving all our hospitals and the people of our county 24/7 for as long as they need us all to. Well done team!"

### **Barrow Farm Looking At Phase-In Restart**

Barrow Farm Riding for the

Disabled is considering a phased-in approach on re-opening plans. While they state that it is unlikely driving will take place this summer due to self-distancing and vulnerable categories, they are looking at:

- Smaller initial rides, probably only one or two at a time
- Outside rides only
- Pilot scheme: Small trial of riding for a few of their more independent riders
- Someone from the same household being trained to help with mounting and dismounting.
- Scheme will be evaluated before offering riding to more people
- Riders will be contacted about the trial. Asked not to contact the Farm.

Chairman Martin Wood says: "Please bear with us at this difficult time. Our priority is the safety of our participants, volunteers and staff. We will update as plans to open on a phased-in basis become available."

## Have a Giggle

### **Falklands Veterans**

Posh city gent in striped suit and rose buttonhole sees Falklands veteran begging.

**Gent:** "My dear fellow. What a wonderfully brave job you did over there. As a fellow soldier in the Irish Guards, I admire you" He gave him a £50 note. As he walked away, the **Falklands vet shouted:** "Muchos Gracias, Señor"

### **Food For Thought**

- We thought we'd have flying cars by 2020
- Now we are teaching people how to wash their hands!
- Only in America ... do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering

### **Worrying Isn't It**

- It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone

## Now All Yours Peter (continued)

(continued from Page 14)

3. Crowdfunding – with Margaret Fowler and Les Sheppard helping Malcolm Acors to progress our registration on GlobalGiving, for our Kenya Borehole well project.

Our new District Governor

Keith Brownlie, has some key mottos which I think are particularly relevant:

### **Get Rotary Noticed**

Whatever we do, we must make sure we make it clear that we are part of Rotary and our Club in particular.

### **Make Membership Memorable**

Difficult to say, maybe difficult to do, but let's hope we can achieve it

So, let's hope for a good year!

**Birthday Congratulations to Michael Sinclair (August 2), Michael Dunne (August 9) and Michael Ginn (August 26)**

## Future Meetings and Events

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

**Our Video meetings are on Mondays at 14.00.**