



# Zooming in with...

## Eccles Rotary

September 2020

### President's piece

I attended Harry's cremation on 19<sup>th</sup> August, in the presence of a small representative group of friends and colleagues. The service was conducted by Rev. Kim Ratcliffe and was a dignified send off for Harry whose life will be celebrated once the Monton Methodist Church can be opened fully for a remembrance service.

In order that we can focus on our program for the present Rotary year, we need to hold our Club Assembly. I hope that we can finalise our ideas for the year at our project meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September with a view to holding our Assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> October. By then we will have heard from our first lockdown speaker and I will be interested to hear feedback from members on how that worked out.



### Harry C. Pickles 1940 - 2020

Harry joined Rotary in November 1981. He was working for Salford Local Education Authority and very soon brought his administrative and managerial skills to projects that continued to enhance the reputation of Eccles Rotary as the go-to organisation for getting things done. In particular he set up committees of volunteers to provide sheltered housing for the Carr Gom Society with one house in Eccles and another in Salford and a Salford branch of the Life Education programme, providing healthy living and drug avoidance resources and training to primary school children. Both ventures became very successful and continue to this day, albeit now run by specialist charities, but with volunteers from Rotary across the North West.

Within the Club, Harry took over the organisation of the Christmas Day Lunch for lonely people, a project that was enthusiastically supported by both club members and their families and later he was very involved in running our Book Shop. His final project for the Club was to collate our archive material, he was still working on this at the time of his death.

Harry held many positions both within the club and the district. He was President twice, in 1992-93 and in 2009-10, he was our Safeguarding Officer for 7 years and held most of the offices including Secretary, Editor, Speaker Secretary and Project Chair. As a District Officer he was Governor in 2002-03, an advisor to both district and Rotary GBI on Safeguarding and for three years District Training Officer.

Many people in Eccles will remember Harry dressed as Santa, with green gloves and a chair. It has always been the case that the things Harry achieved in Rotary were achieved by “Team Pickles” and that Rosemary was ever present and supportive. This was never more apparent than during his final few years when he did not enjoy good health but did continue to come to Rotary and took an active part even during our Covid-19 lockdown period.

Rest in Peace Harry.

### **Project items**

**QR project** – The scheme to provide posters to help people access local services via their smartphones is ongoing for the Salford area.

**Bookshop** – We had hoped to organise an alternative to the shop whilst Covid 19 is prevalent but this is proving difficult in the Shopping Centre. Darren, the manager, also said Christmas activities would be reduced and there would not be a grotto this Christmas due to social distancing. Book boxes will continue to be supplied to Shepway Court.

**Fortalice** – Members donated 4 bags of toiletries and towels to the refuge and Eleanor from there collected them from Rosemary and Joan at the start of August. We will continue to collect items and make another presentation in the autumn.



### **A new project – supporting the Eccles community**

Now that the support networks set up by the government during Covid 19 have reduced, Roger felt that we could run a “Can we help you” scheme and Julie mentioned a project being investigated on Brookhouse Estate by ForHousing regarding community needs. They would like Rotary to become involved and there was general support for this. We will also continue to work with Barton Moss School.

### **Forthcoming Zoom Meetings**

September 7th                      Projects

September 21<sup>st</sup>                      Speaker – Victoria Unsworth – Working with Barton Moss Primary School

### **An appeal from Mary Murphy**

Good friend of Rotary, Mary is supporting a project being run by some friends and wonders if any of our members would like to help. They are refurbishing 2 community libraries in Ghana with books being provided by Book Aid international. They have a website [www.communityactionghana.org](http://www.communityactionghana.org) where you can find out about their past and current projects and there is a Just Giving page for donations – <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/adrian-c-rosser>