

Welcome to the first edition of the Rotary Club of Kenilworth's monthly Newsletter.



The Newsletter aims to keep members of the Club informed about the things that the Club is doing, planning and achieving.

The articles in the Newsletter are written by members for members.

STREET COLLECTION **(a.k.a. The Tin Rattle)**

It is Club practice each year to hold a street collection in Kenilworth in aid of a charity registered by the Charities Commission.

Permission each year needs to be sought well in advance from the Licencing Department of Warwick District Council by a Club member, who submits the application and thereby becomes responsible for ensuring the collection is carried out in accordance with Council regulations. This year the Warwick DC permit allows the Club to collect for the whole of Saturday 9th May on any street within the town. After submitting a risk assessment, we have received a permit from Cobalt Estates (Kenilworth) Limited to collect in Talisman Square on the same day between 09:00 and 16:00.

The collection is in favour of The Kenilworth Centre at Abbey End, run by a charitable company with liability limited by guarantee. It was established in 2011 and registered as charity number 1144518 with the object to provide activities and facilities for residents of Kenilworth and its surrounding areas with a particular emphasis on provision for young people.

Our Club has about 20 collection boxes but these need to be relabelled and fitted with new ring seals every time they are used. The benefitting charity can often loan boxes already sealed and labelled but, as yet, the Kenilworth Centre has no boxes. 30 boxes, which were recently donated by Isons undertakers, can be given to the Centre after the collection. David Tall has designed labels.



Control on the day will be at the Kenilworth Centre. Jerry Duckett and/or an assistant will hand out and receive the collecting boxes. A rota, in preparation, lists collection locations and times. Volunteers are asked to collect for an hour or longer if possible. As well as town centre sites we are trying Leyes Lane precinct, this year, as footfall there is reportedly good.



When the collection is complete, a certified account of proceeds and expenses with a statement of the balance handed to the charity is submitted to Warwick DC to confirm the collection has been carried out properly.

A big thanks to Colin Wilding for organising this year's street collection. Lets hope that we collect a good amount for the Kenilworth Centre.

TWO CASTLES RUN

This year's annual Two Castles 10km Run takes place on Sunday 14th June 2015. Starting at 9am, there will be over 4,000 runners.



This annual and much respected event has changed significantly over the last ten years. In the last six years, it has seen changes, which hopefully would make its creators and their successors proud of what they started so many years ago.

The present Two Castles Run committee has not greatly changed in recent years: it is just about the right mix of Rotarians and athletics minded people.

IT – Website and Registration

We have been fortunate to have Steven Timberlake on board as a volunteer. He

has used his considerable IT knowledge and skills to completely revamp the Two Castles Run website, whilst retaining much of the previous data, which is still accessible.

In addition Steven has undertaken to keep the website as up to date as possible. This will enable us to see if we can use the website as a means of generating more funds.

Steven has also revamped the online registration form which runners use to apply to enter the Run. Whilst he has not been able to change everything, suffice to say that he has improved it significantly: the number of post-registration e-mails reduced from 500+ in 2014 to less than 30 in 2015 – a relief for us all!



It was not that many years ago that all the registration was undertaken by one Rotarian – David Sims. We have come a long way since then!

Preparations

Planning for the 2015 Run commenced in September 2014 although, even at that time, many boxes in the 'to do' list had been ticked, on the basis that 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'.

The membership of the teams, which organise the start of the Run in Warwick Castle and the finish in Kenilworth Castle, remain pretty much as they have been in recent years.

I cannot emphasise the importance of the help provided by the Explorer Scouts in Kenilworth Castle - they could possibly set everything up almost on their own! It is a credit to them, and their leaders and parents, that they work on Saturday evening until 10pm then start again from 5am on the Sunday. It makes them an integral part of the planning for the event – without them, or similar young people, the event would be very difficult to put on.

Philip Austin has secured a number of sponsors again, including RA Bennett Estate Agents, who will appear on the back of the T-shirt with Blythe Liggins, solicitors, who have been the Run's principal sponsor for the past four years.

Richard Poynter, a volunteer on the Two Castles Run committee, has again undertaken the task of ensuring an adequate number of marshals are on board.



Still, boxes in the 'to do' list remain to be ticked: so it is very important that all Club members do whatever they can to assist or just be there on the day.

*Philip Southwell
Chairman, Two Castles Run committee*

TEN PIN BOWLING

The choice for our latest Social evening was ten pin bowling on Monday 30th March at the Leamington Spa Bowling Alley. It was another of the Club's regular social events, following on from the

Chinese New Year meal and skittles events earlier this year.

Twenty four Rotarians, family and friends gathered to enjoy a convivial evening of bowling. After an initial delay, for some, in mastering the procedure for the input of names in the electronic scoreboard, the games were underway, participants being divided into four teams of six.



Various bowling techniques and abilities were on display, including

~ "the Barnes Wallis" [ball bouncing its way merrily down the bowling lane],

~ "the In/Off" [cleverly bouncing the ball off the Gutter Guards helpfully in place along the sides of the bowling lane to assist bowlers] and

~ "the Snail" [sedate passage down the lane to, on occasion, strike the pins].

It was not taken too seriously by anybody and the emphasis, as ever, was on fun and the enjoying of each other's company.

John and Alison Boothroyd both demonstrated particular skill and were the individual stars, John winning the coveted title of champion, with our President David Johnson bowling with considerable skill and leading his team to the team prize.

Along the way, bowlers were sustained by chicken and beef burgers and chips (not at all bad) with some garlic bread thrown

in for good measure. Alcohol was consumed!

Thanks are due to Roy Shearing for organising what was another enjoyable, relaxing and happy occasion.

THE GUTEMALA LITERACY PROJECT (GLP)

The growth of our involvement in the GLP is a typical example of how Rotary service can benefit needy communities, especially through the power of International Rotary.

When I joined the Rotary Club of Kenilworth, not all that many years ago, I was asked to join the International Services Committee, where I found a small project, which we supported, called the Maya Child Care. It ran a pre-primary school facility (Centro Infantil Bellota) for disadvantaged children in Quetzaltenango (Xela), the second largest city in Guatemala. The picture shows the 2013/14 President of Xela Rotary at a ceremony to fix a plaque, which had been sent by the Rotary Club of Kenilworth, on the wall of the child care centre, stating that our Club supports the charity.



In efforts to develop support from other North American Rotary clubs, I came

across the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP). It was set up in 1998 just after a peace settlement, which ended over 60 years of civil war in the country. The indigenous Mayan population were seriously disadvantaged and suffered disproportionately. This project was aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty, by providing the children of the seriously underprivileged Mayan community in Guatemala with an education, enabling them to lead a better life; it provides books, teacher training and computer labs on a “**hand up, not a hand out**” basis.

A very small payment is made by parents, so that the project renews its books and equipment every five years. It is thus a **sustainable** project. The project has grown rapidly over the years, with 118 International Rotary clubs and 18 Districts joining together to raise collectively, last year, nearly US\$450,000. District and Rotary Foundation grants were added to make this total.

The project teams work with Guatemalan national, state and local education departments and schools to identify suitable candidate schools, in which to introduce these programmes. The project also identifies children with potential whose parents can't afford the cost of education. Many Rotary Clubs or individual Rotarians and other project supporters pay for scholarships for many of such cases. The Rotary Club of Kenilworth is sponsoring two children at the moment – Sonia Ixén Cocón and Saider Buch Toroc.

The costs of this work on the ground, the administration and the marketing are met

by a non-profit organisation called Cooperative for Education (CoEd).

Last year was the first year that an RIBI Rotary club joined in this project. The Rotary Clubs of Kenilworth, Rugby Dunsmore and Tamworth all contributed, with District 1060 providing match funding.

The aim is to introduce this most Rotarian of projects to the rest of RIBI; to this end our Club supported a stand at the recent RIBI Conference, held in Belfast on 10th - 12th April.



The pictures above show a volunteer Rotarian (from the Cayman Islands) helping deliver books to a Guatemalan school in February last year; also my daughter and myself at another school.

*John Stanton
Chairman, International Committee*

CLUB FUND RAISING PROJECTS

The Fundraising Projects Committee has, for the past two years, considered another significant project in addition to the Two Castles Run, partly to add to our annual income for distribution to charitable causes and partly to ensure that there is no great decrease in funds raised, in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising with the run.

A considerable amount of work was undertaken by Paul Seward, with input by Colin Sallis (forever thinking of new ideas!), that an Eggfest might be the answer. This did seem to fit the bill: it was recognised that although, in the early years, the event would be relatively small, it would provide PR for the club, and there were quite a number of ways in which the event could grow year on year.

The event could prove to be extremely popular within the town and beyond. However, it was shelved due to the lack of a sufficient number of individuals to organise it to a reasonable standard. Without more members willing to take on the work involved and commit time and energy, as has had to be done with the Two Castles Run, the project has to remain on the 'back burner'

Having said that, the club has organised an annual Art Exhibition, which at one time, seemed to be a considerable amount of work for little reward. But, perseverance seems to have paid off as the 2014 event was regarded as a success and a platform to plan for future events. Credit must be given to Anna Poynter for much of the initial work ably

assisted by Peter Robson with a not insignificant input from Paul Seward. Plus of course many Rotarians and others during the time the event is on.

Whilst the event may not raise large amounts it should raise sufficient to provide encouragement to organise future years and just as importantly provide an advertisement for Rotary.

Similarly the annual switch on of Christmas lights provides the club with exposure with the soup kitchen and the organ always an attraction for young and old. The money raised goes to Children in Need.



Associated with this event is the Tree of Light. It has been a disappointment in terms of funds raised and, in response to this, John Kelley and Philip Southwell have met with Myton Hospice for advice. They have provided 'pointers' as to how we should think about the plan for 2015, although the comment was that generally we are organising it in much the same way as other local clubs.

We hope to move forward on this with the added input from Myton Hospice, although it does seem to be an ideal project for a couple of maybe newer members to spearhead this and enable a worthwhile contribution to be made to Myton Hospice. We should have a target of £2,000 for this.

We also have annual street collection (see page 1) usually for a local charity or good cause. This again provides an advertisement for Rotary, although in cold wet weather it can be a difficult time! It does however provide £500/£600 to a good cause each year.

We could do more at all the events we hold to promote Rotary and our club to the public. How many times have we heard the comment 'what is Rotary?'

Fund raising requires commitment, energy and the desire to improve, which brings us back to the question of newer, younger members!

WHAT'S NEXT ...

Like buses, bank holidays come in twos during May! That means that we will not have Monday meetings on the 4th and 25th May. However, as mentioned in the first article, our Street Collection for the Kenilworth Centre takes place on Saturday 9th May.

At our meeting on Monday 11th May, Andrew Lansberry will be giving us a talk about L.A.C.E.

Week commencing 18th May is our week for committee meetings. The meeting of Council, which is a combined meeting for this year's Council members and the 2015/16 Council members, has been rescheduled for 28th May.