

Rotary Presidential Handover – “The Musical”

A large number of members of local Rotary & Inner Wheel Clubs, partners and guests attended the formal Handover Dinner at St Augustine’s, Westgate-on-Sea, to welcome the new President of the **Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington, David Guy**. After an excellent dinner, a choir of ladies and gentlemen drawn from local Rotary & Inner Wheel Clubs performed a first set of songs from the musical “Les Miserables”.

After this musical interlude, the outgoing President, David Hearnshaw, gave a short address highlighting the Club’s fellowship, fund-raising and fun achievements over the past year. He removed the Presidential “Jewel” and installed it round the neck of the new President, David Guy, who thanked David Hearnshaw and last year’s Officers and Committee Chairs for their hard work and dedication.

The newly installed President then went on to illustrate how he intends to integrate the Rotary Club firmly into the wider community, encouraging participation at charitable events and hoping for enhanced giving. He explained that his nominated charities for the coming year will be The Kent/Sussex/Surrey Air Ambulance and “Porchlight” a charity supporting local vulnerable and homeless people. Traditionally, the donations received during our “Santa’s Sleigh” street collections in Westgate and Birchington are given to the President’s charities. The Club will also continue to support the Alfie Gough Trust with our annual “Strictly Come Rotary” dance competition, and also seek to help a wide range of local charities.

President David finished by rallying his “troops” and summed up by saying that he had nothing to offer but ***service, fellowship, fun and laughter*** - looking forward to a really successful and exciting year.

To round off the evening, the choir returned to the stage and, together with their Director, Rotarian Chris Hedges, and accompanist, Andrew Hedges, sang a further selection of songs from “Les Miserables”.