



CHICHELE CHAT

**we're for communities
locally, nationally and
internationally**

**WHAT'S ON THIS
MONTH?**

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY IS ROTARY
PEACE-BUILDING AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION
MONTH

24th February. Speaker
ALEX TURNER

MARCH

2nd March.
BOB & SHEREE ENTERTAIN
NB AT ARTHUR AND MARIAN'S
HOUSE,
2, Oak Street
Rushden
NN10 6DX

3rd March.
CLUB COUNCIL

9th March.
FULL BUSINESS MEETING

16th March
SPEAKER FROM NHFT. JW

23rd March ?

30 March
MEMBERSHIP NIGHT

APRIL

6th April. SPEAKER Betty

13th April. BANK HOLIDAY.
NO MEETING

20TH APRIL. ST GEORGE'S
NIGHT



FUN AND FELLOWSHIP IN ROTARY



60 members, Friends and guests took over the local Italian Restaurant for their annual St. Valentine's Dinner on 17th February

Good food, good humour and good entertainment was enjoyed by all. Bill, Mary and Barry made sure everything ran smoothly - thank you boys and girl!

Just to remind us of Rotary Service to others Bill squeezed another quid out of us with his raffle and John Walker asked us to sponsor a deserving London Marathon runner and Cesare's son told us about the Children's Cancer Trust. So we were all winners!

UK FLOODS

At our Business meeting on 10th February we re-committed ourselves to making a donation to the Rotary districts in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire who were suffering the results of excessive rain and the resulting flood damage. Our Charity Account was in a healthy state so we agreed to raise our donation to £1000.

Since this meeting the UK has been visited by Storm Dennis which has devastated new areas of Yorkshire, the West Midlands and Wales. And there's more to come!

We shall need to recalculate and do all we can to support the work being done by Rotary in these areas.

CLUB NEWS

SPEAKER IN FEBRUARY

Richard introduced Ann-Marie Hamilton who was accompanied by her husband Robert a member of St Neots St Mary's RC and by origin an Irish farmer.

Ann-Marie told us the story of her life as a farmer's wife. We've all heard of (and joined in the chorus of) "To Be a Farmer's Boy" so we can concur that a farmer's boy has it easy when you compare his life with that of a farmer's wife; he just offered... "To plough and sow, to reap and mow" but if Ann-Marie's experiences are anything to go by her chorus would include "organise the honeymoon (although they only ever had one holiday together), drive the tractor with no training, look after and run the whole business, bring up the children, guard the Irish farm and the family from "The Troubles", entertain 35 Lutherans for lunch, clear up and re build a dilapidated farm in Leicestershire, hold down a job and do many more country jobs.

But Ann-Marie really wanted to tell us about the lot of many poor farmers in our country areas. For most of us, farmers are those we see on "One Man and his Dog" and Countryfile with Adam Henson working hard but doing better than making ends meet. Smaller farmers are literally worrying themselves sick about where the next meal for their livestock and their family is coming from.

Her family moved to Huntingdonshire and began another period of hard work getting their new business up and running. Ann-Marie was soon aware that all was not well in her farming community. Reports were that 90% of farmers were struggling for one reason or another so she took on a caring position for the farmers - she wrote a regular magazine column, she set up a rural support group in Bedfordshire and has become a practical "Agony Aunt" for farmers and their families. She would not quote case histories but did tell us of one farmer who was at the point of committing suicide after his wife left, his money had run out, his 200 sheep were starving and he had 2 children to care for. Ann-Marie was able to help through her own personal contacts. The help often comes free and is practical. Farmers, by the very nature of their work and situation, can feel very isolated, but now, in her area, they know who to contact for support whether it be for the family, the farm and its livestock, financial difficulties or simply friendship. In times of really great difficulty - like a Foot and Mouth outbreak - there is a great need for support and it is people like Ann-Marie who provide it or who know someone who can.

Ann-Marie has enjoyed many good moments in her life as a farmer's wife and particularly when a problem is sorted out and a farm is turned round. (And, she modestly admitted, when she was awarded the MBE for services to the farming community).

Her latest Service is to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital as a supporter of children and carers and her final word to us was: please use your eyes and ears and report to the police any information about rural crime - machinery theft, animal theft (common in our county) and dumping of rubbish.

CARERS BOOK.

The Club's support for Natasha Krywald's Young Carers Booklet and the eventual successful distribution of it was a worthy project and we can be sure that at least three thousand youngsters will have benefitted from its advice. Now we have agreed to let Natasha go ahead with her wish to make an digital copy of her book which she will distribute to still more vulnerable young people. She will give guarantees not to involve the club in any way if she changes the content. Natasha wants to make it available to groups she has been in contact with as she goes through university.

[footnote: Bob found 100 books among his archives so we shall give those to Natasha who can give them to those needing one in Leicestershire.]

MEMBERSHIP IS STILL A PROBLEM FOR US ALL

District 1070 has reported that the (relatively) healthy state of a net +20 members at the end of November had fallen to a net -9 by the end of the year. The current overall figure now stands at 2233 members - a net loss of 7. Rushden Chichele has been doing relatively well but there is absolutely no room for complacency. In this connection the club was very pleased this month to welcome Roger Townsend as an Associate member. He is keen and willing to support both our regular meetings and our events. Roger has been a frequent visitor to the Club over the past few months and was introduced by President Elect, Judy Webb who will act as his sponsor / Mentor. Roger enjoys the comradeship of our Club and I am sure you will all make him very welcome.

An idea that is being investigated by our District is Co-operation with the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce. Having reviewed a scheme being run by District 1220 whereby Rotary clubs and Chamber of Commerce members combine to deliver community projects, the membership team feels that there is scope to work this into a District-wide project. Practical membership guides have been distributed to all clubs and a new information leaflet to be used for publicity and recruitment purposes has been agreed. There is space on it for clubs to add a stick-on label giving club contact details. This leaflet will be ready for collection at the next District Council meeting.

Sad News! The Rotary Club of Kettering Tresham has decided to surrender their charter and operate as a satellite club of Kettering Huxloe from the end of this Rotary year. None of their current members is in a position to assume Presidential duties so they have had little alternative than to close altogether. However, the Rotary Club of Oundle, who currently have just four active full members and were similarly considering surrendering their charter, have bravely decided to continue with the status quo albeit with a less ambitious schedule.

CLUB ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Before our February Business meeting a group of Club enthusiasts met to discuss a Club Policy for the Environment. Last year a talk by Environment expert Rtn Dr David George from the Rotary Club of Northampton had spurred the club to begin thinking and now David and Carol Kendrick have taken up Rotary's wish for clubs to become more officially involved. We are fortunate to have an expert on practical / business environmental issues in Liz Wykes and from the reception the ideas of our group put forward, it looks like "from little acorns great oak trees grow".

Carol was elected to be our Environmental Officer and we shall soon be starting Chichele's projects. The thinking is that we shall begin with small projects as outlined in our Business meeting minutes and then go on to develop them in ways that will involve our community, young and old.

At District level, Steve Howe says 'Rotary's Vision is this: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." What this policy tries to do is to break it down into practical bite size chunks that enables people to get their head round the problem, identify how the situation affects them and others around them and then feel they are in a position that they can make a contribution to address the situation.'

Current Rotary GB & I Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. Comply with current environmental legislation.
2. Appoint an Environment Officer or allocate ES responsibility to somebody.
3. Integrate ES into club decisions and activities.
4. Promote awareness and education of ES.
5. Encourage Rotarians and their families to foster ES principles.

Guidelines:

1. Avoid single use plastic, e.g. bottles and bags, and coffee cups.
2. Reduce energy consumption, e.g. gas and electricity. Reduce carbon footprint.
3. Minimise waste: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" or compost.
4. Reduce fuel consumption, e.g. use a bike, public or shared transport, drive slower.
5. Consider ES in purchasing decisions, e.g. buy local food, recycled paper.
6. Reduce consumption of water and other natural resources.
7. Use renewable energy and rechargeable batteries
8. Minimise ecological footprint / reduce environmental impact.
9. Reduce pollution and emissions, e.g. from cars, planes, smoking.
10. Travel responsibly: "Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints".
11. Protect and conserve the local environment and biodiversity.
12. 12. Plant trees.

KIDSOUT!



KidsOut is a charity that Rushden Chichele will be supporting again this year.

Several years ago we reached a point where asking local schools to suggest deserving children fell into slight disrepute - it resulted in just one class going irrespective of special need. So, at the suggestion of Julian, we turned to "Gateway" and with his help we were able to take deserving young adults that he could recommend as deserving a treat.

This worked well but now we have reached a point where

our Gateway candidates have failed to turn up and the day out has proved to be a costly exercise with only a few youngsters benefitting.

Our recent involvement with Rowan Gate School, however, has changed things completely and we shall be taking two coaches full of severely disabled children and their carers to Wicksteed Park for the day. John Houghton will organise the event for the club but he will need a few Rotarians to help him with Bus-parking. Please tell him you can help with your bit of Rotary Service.

For more information about KidsOut! Look on their website but to give you a brief explanation... the nation-wide organisation called KidsOut! gives disadvantaged children across the country the chance to be a child for the day and forget the hardships life may throw at them. Whether they have escaped domestic violence or live daily in poverty KidsOut believe that all children deserve fun and happiness in their lives and work every day to make it a reality.

Our children at Rowan Gate are physically or mentally disabled - many of them on the autistic spectrum. The charity's Chief Executive, Gordon Moulds, has thanked Rotary members for their "staggering achievement" in making these events happen.

DID YOU KNOW.....KidsOut! began as a Rotary project run by the Rotary Club in Kingston, and quickly became so successful they registered as an individual charity, but still have strong ties and support from Rotary GB&I.

Twice a year Rotary hosts Annual KidsOut days with Rotary members volunteering and helping take out children all over the country. However KidsOut also hosts numerous events throughout the year.

The first National Rotary KidsOut Day took place in 1990 and since then it has turned into the biggest single outing for disadvantaged children in the UK. With more than 28,000 children participating in 2019.

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To make the National Rotary KidsOut Day the success that it is, more than 10,000 Rotarians volunteer on the day at over 100 venues.

Whether they live with critical health issues, in a refuge or with a disability, children across the country are taken on a fun day out to the zoo, a theme park or even the seaside, often for the first time in their lives.

Now KidsOut! and Rotary are looking to the future to help more disadvantaged children than ever before.

CEO Gordon Moulds, said, "I want to congratulate and thank all Rotarians who made the 29th Anniversary

Rotary National KidsOut Day such a resounding success with over 28000 children taken on a very special day out". "In 2019 over 130 different venues across the UK were utilised. This is a staggering achievement and one that all Rotarians should be so proud of".



For the past few years Rotary and KidsOut have come together to organise a Festive KidsOut Day. Christmas should be one of the most magical times of the year, However, for many children across the country this can be one of the hardest times to go through. KidsOut and Rotary decided to do something about this and created a festive day out for the most vulnerable children within our society.

The Festive Day Out has been a huge success with 53 Clubs taking over 5700 disadvantaged children to a pantomime or providing a Christmas party. On top of this, KidsOut provided a further 10,200 children a Festive Day Out, giving all of these children a magical Christmas experience.

KidsOut have set a target of 35,000 children having a great day out for National Rotary KidsOut Day by 2023, with a target of 33,000 for this year.

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

The name Emmaus belongs to a charitable organisation whose President is Terry Waite he who spent four years of his life as a prisoner in Beirut. The biblical story behind Emmaus is that two disciples met a stranger they came to recognise as Jesus as they walked along the road. healthy. She will also not have to walk for