Rotary Club of Rotherham Sitwell – District 1220

Club Bulletin

No. 28.03 **September 2020**
Meetings: Thursday evenings via ZOOM!!

Email: secretary@sitwellrotary.org

2020 -2021

Officers

President	Trish Lister
President Elect	Steve Burns
Vice President	STILL Our Stig
Secretary	Paul Daniels
Treasurer	Jackie Saunders
Imd. past President	Gurnam Basran
Assistant Secretary	Ann Ogley

Chairmen of Committees

Admin/Club Service	Steve Burns
Membership/Social	Roger Green
Publicity/PR	Peter Waudby
Community/Vocational	Catherine Bridge
International/Rotary Foundation	Chris Croker

Other Officers

Attendance Officer	Steve Burns
Assistant Treasurer	Alan Holloway
Archivist	Chris Williams
Environmental Officer	Phil Crutchley
Welfare Office	Trevor Johnson
Health & Safety Officer	Tony Eden
Safeguarding Officer	Maggi Clark
Sergeant at Arms	Peter Short
Bulletin Editor	Ann Ogley

Club Meetings for September All 6.00pm on Zoom unless current guidance changes

Club Meetings for September

03 September Fellowship – An International Quiz – hope you did your revision

10 September Committee Meetings: Business and Social meeting

17 September Full Club Business Meeting

24 September Speaker meeting
District Governor Dr Jill Bethel MBE
Let's all make Jill feel welcome

Council Meetings

MONDAY 7 September at 6 pm. By Zoom

Even though Council meet via Zoom at the moment, attendance as observer is still available to members, should any of you so wish – contact Paul for the link.

MONDAY 5th Occtober 6.00pm

Next Bulletin

The next bulletin is scheduled to be published in early October. Any contributions will be most welcome, please email to me by September 25th. Thanks to this month's contributors – still room for plenty of individual contributions…..

Club Meetings for October

01 October Fellowship – Inter Committee 'Pointless' competition – should be some interesting contributions…..

08 October Committee Meetings: Business and Social meeting

15 October Speaker: Richard McCann

22 October Full Club Special General Meeting

29 October If possible, Friends and Partners tbc will depend on rules & venue availability

Apologies

Are not currently needed whilst we remain on Zoom – if you need assistance to sign on, please contact Paul Daniels who can talk you through it.

Please come and join us – attendance has been impressive but there's always room for more.

There are a small number of Rotarians who are not comfortable with the tech – why not invite one of them to share your screen if you feel able to let another Rotarian into your personal bubble to share the fellowship?

Greetings from President Trish

As we move towards the end of summer unpredictability seems to be the new normal. Be it guidelines we must follow, the weather or the world at large. However, as Rotarians we are moving forward steadfastly with purpose and commitment.

I thank everyone for their support of our response to Covid. Member donations have been so very generous and time and effort have been given willingly in response to the current situation.

We have recently been approached by Wortley Rotary offering to supply visors and masks to Rotherham food banks. Long standing Rotarian Lewis Atkinson has negotiated the supply of over 10,000 items of PPE to those in need throughout South Yorkshire. Through Wortley's generosity and the support of VAR we are now able to supply 90 Visors and 170 Masks for circulation to food banks in Rotherham.

Thanks to Peter and the Publicity Committee for spreading the word of what our Club are achieving. Recent publicity has included a piece in Rotherham Life and VAR's latest email Bulletin. Interestingly it was through reading publicity of our support for Rotherham Foodbank that Wortley Rotary made their offer of PPE.

Since the last Bulletin we have enjoyed two Fellowship meetings. We were entertained by the Balloon Debate with some truly outstanding over-acting and no expense spared costumes. In the spirit of Rotary dear Edith Cavell was the survivor with a very gallant Mohammed Ali refusing to challenge her for the final place.

The Treasure Hunt was attended by a select band of pioneers with some quite fascinating tales to tell about the items they had found. It was a fun evening with lots of laughter often generated by the exaggerated claims from a certain Rtn Peter Short. Our thanks must go to Roger for organising both these enjoyable events.

Our Speaker this month was Steve Prosser from Rotherham Foodbank which confirmed how much our support is both needed and appreciated. Thanks to Ann for including a full report of his talk in this Bulletin.

Make a plan and prepare for an opportunity

Committees met or communicated during the latter part of the month and I congratulate all Committee Chairs for their commitment and thank everyone for their contributions. There have already been some imaginative ideas put forward for fund raising. I also welcome views on the concept of 'Friends of Rotherham Sitwell Rotary' and of our Visioning Target of working with the elderly and lonely.

Speaking of fund raising, a small Christmas Working Group met recently and came up with recommendations to be presented to Council at the meeting on 7th September. Guidance will be sought from RMBC regarding the potential to hold our usual Christmas collections. As we are all aware this has traditionally been our main fund raising event and any limitations will have far reaching effects.

Refurbishment continues apace at the Carlton Park however there are no immediate plans to fully reopen. Our thanks to Tony who continues to monitor the situation on our behalf whilst keeping abreast of the latest Government guidelines.

Trish

Make a Difference - Save a Starfish

Ed's note - credit is due to Peter Waudby for the report on Steve Prosser's talk - I was unable to attend the full meeting due to work commitments

Charter Night

The date for your diaries is

Saturday 10th April 2021

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to both the Club What's App groups, RotaryRotherhamSitwell and Let'sHaveALaugh. You can still join the groups, to enjoy the banter or simply keep up to date.

Club News

The Club's COVID-19 response is continuing through August and has been praised by our local MPs - see the Rotherham Sitwell Newsletter issued on 1st September. In the past month, £200 has been spent on masks and £2312 on Foodbank donations. The money is being spent wisely so we can continue to support Rotherham folk in need in the coming months.

WARNING

There is a warning of a potential scam related to a global grant related to Covid19. It purports to come from a Brazilian Rotary President and asks for personal details.

If you do get the email, treat it as a scam and delete it.

Foodbank Fundraising Donations
Don't forget you can still make donations in lieu of attending meetings and having the joy of cooking your own meals and drinking your own wine – year to date contributions are £1880 from members.

Thank you to all donors

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Birthdays in September

Another solitary Rotarian birthday this month – quite a barren couple of months it would appear – nice to feel special, eh Roj?

26 September – Roger Green

Social Media

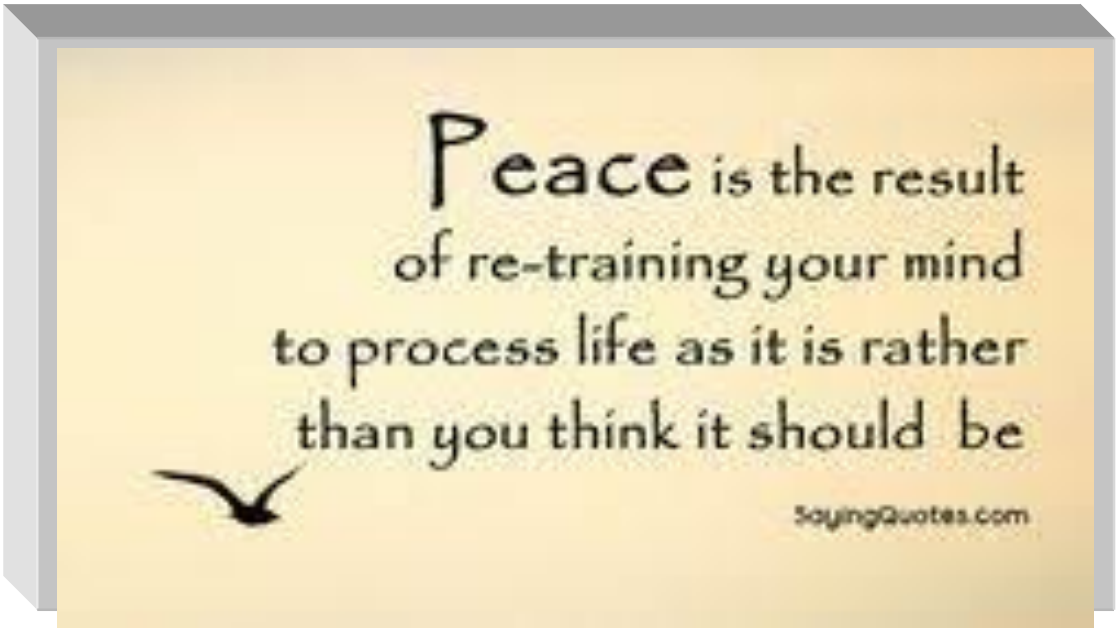
www.sitwellrotary.org.uk
www.facebook.com/RotherhamSitwellRotary
www.linkedin.com

Apologies for the slightly late bulletin, but we have been enjoying a short break near Glencoe – what's not to love about this sunset on the banks of Loch Leven??

CONGRATULATIONS

Go to Emma Varnom on her re-joining the nation's workforce after her 'Gap Year' adventures

Good luck with the job, Emma!



DON'T FORGET
Easy fundraising is just that – and has raised £699.24 for the Club so far with no effort other than simply signing up to get vendors to pay a small commission when you buy online from participating stores
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

If you need help to sign up – just email me ann@maes-group.co.uk

FIVE OF YOU STILL OWE SUBS – PLEASE MAKE CONTACT WITH JACKIE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR PAY DIRECT INTO THE CLUB (NOT BENEVEOLENT FUND) BANK ACCOUNT

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Contributions to Rotary Foundation should be sent to the Benevolent Fund (see Foodbank donations) – please make sure Jackie knows it's for Foundation.

OOHH AAARGH me hearties – that was a fine Treasure Hunt that was! President Trish holds sway over the miscreant hunters at the recent meeting…

Reflections on the Rotary Together Talk on Volunteering

This talk really struck a chord, particularly as the article in a recent Rotary magazine suggested that we had missed a golden opportunity at the 2012 London Olympics with the lack of Rotary involvement. Currently there are many thousands of people volunteering in every imaginable way in response to Covid-19. Let us not miss another chance to swell our ranks.

How can we capitalise on this enthusiasm? Through our Facebook page we are already illustrating what we are about. There are so many reasons to join Rotary. Volunteering connects people to a common goal and together we can achieve remarkable things. Being sociable brings longevity, a feeling of satisfaction in helping the community and recognition by our peers. We get things done with vision and purpose. It's a crowded field for getting new members so what can we offer that's different?

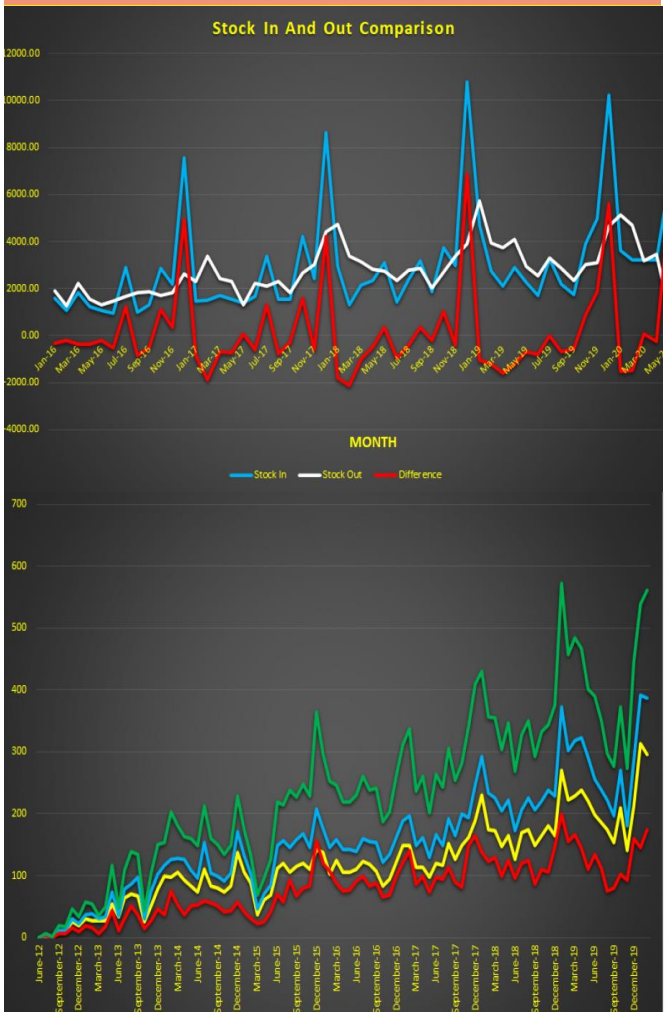
Why are you in Rotary? What has Rotary given you? Why have you stayed? Rotary was originally set up by people in their 30s. Are we missing an opportunity for Leadership Development in communities such as Waverley Advanced Engineering Complex and local NHS? Why isn't there a line of people waiting to join us?

So many questions and maybe a starting point to tap into the current climate.

Our battle cry should be
'Don't put it off. Come and join us!'

Trish Lister

ouchers	Adults	Kids
64	80	44
560	721	322
1122	1426	617
1185	1567	771
1338	1789	1068
1638	2137	1311
2018	2678	1403
2505	3314	1555
1124	1473	588



Speaker Meeting 20th August 2020 - Steve Prosser of Rotherham Foodbank

The meeting on 20th August was a speaker meeting and was given by Steve Prosser of Rotherham food bank. As has been widely reported both online, in the Rotherham Advertiser and Rotherham Community Life Magazine, Rotherham Sitwell Rotary Club has been supporting the Rotherham Foodbank during the covid-19 pandemic. Steve thanked the club for this support which had proved invaluable to Rotherham food bank.

Steve is passionate about his charity work and is even supported in his endeavours by his two daughters. Before moving to Rotherham food bank he worked for several years in South Africa helping to feed hungry children and families. He went on to talk about his current work in Rotherham and presented several slides showing the performance of Rotherham food bank in terms of people helped and stock levels throughout the year. Several slides are shown below and the key pieces of information were as follows:-

1. On the table of yearly statistics, PPV = People per Voucher and is the number of people helped during the year divided by the number of vouchers processed in that year. You will notice that 2020 is the second lowest ever in this regard, as more vouchers represent single people than has been the case in recent years. This has reduced the number of people helped a little compared to last year, though the voucher count remains high.

2. You will notice from the Stock Comparison chart that stock usually reduces by 1-2 tonnes per month from February through to October. This pattern was repeating itself again this year until Rotary stepped in to boost stocks. The blue line on this graph shows the huge spikes usually encountered in donations in December and the rapid drop off once you get into the new year. The smaller spikes tend to be as a result of ad-hoc summer collections organised with supermarkets when stock is getting so low that we were unlikely to get through the summer. The white line on this graph also shows a winter spike, albeit a much lower spike, but demand does not drop off as rapidly as donations during the course of the year.

3. The stock income chart just shows the methods by which donations arrive at the foodbank. "Individuals" refers to any giving that is not through either a collection or via a supermarket collection box.

It was very interesting talk and gave members a clearer insight into how and where their donations were helping the Rotherham community. There was a good attendance of members on Zoom to listen to Steve's talk and at the end Steve Burns gave the vote of thanks.

REPORT BY PETER WAUDBY - SEE NEWSLETTER ON THE WEBSITE FOR A BETTER VIEW OF THE GRAPHS