

# Rotary Club of Rotherham Sitwell – District 1220



## Club Bulletin

No. 28.04                      October 2020  
Meetings: Thursday evenings via ZOOM!!

Email: [secretary@sitwellrotary.org](mailto:secretary@sitwellrotary.org)

### 2020 -2021

#### Officers

President	Trish Lister
President Elect	Steve Burns
Vice President	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	Tom Knight
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 October All 6.00pm on Zoom

01 October	Fellowship – Inter Committee 'Pointless' competition – teams have been selected!!
08 October	Committee Meetings: Business and Social meeting
15 October	Speaker: Richard McCann – see later in the bulletin
22 October	Full Club Business Meeting
29 October	Speaker: Angela Wood, Chief Nurse Rotherham Foundation Trust

### Council Meetings

MONDAY 5th October at 6 pm. By Zoom

Even though Council still have to meet via  
Zoom, attendance as observer is still  
available to members, please come and see  
what happens!!

Next: MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> November 6.00pm

### Club Meetings for November

05 November	Fellowship A Musical Evening (hopefully not drowned out by socially distanced fireworks)
12 November	Committee Meetings: Business and Social meeting
19 November	Speaker: Audiology and Hearing Awareness
26 November	Full Club Special General Meeting

### 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*



Throughout these trying times there have been many positives, not least the remarkable resurgence of community spirit. Help for neighbours, support for elderly relatives, the NHS, foodbanks and the homeless are but a few. Lewis Atkinson of Wortley Rotary who has arranged the provision of more than 10,000 items of PPE is just one amazing example. Similarly there are so many of our own Rotarians quietly getting on with doing their bit, be it as part of our response to Covid or to other causes dear to their hearts.

The last few months have also opened up new opportunities and contacts. Pushpa Venkatraman and her friends continue to support us with the provision of bedding, towels, clothing and food to support our work with Rotherham Foodbank and Shiloh. VAR (Voluntary Action Rotherham) have supported the recent distribution of PPE. They have also invited us to be involved in a forthcoming film highlighting the impact that voluntary groups make in our community. If you have any video footage or photos to illustrate the wide range of work that we do please email them to Roger.

Our community work has enabled us to raise our public profile with reports in the Rotherham Advertiser and Rotherham Life. Our Publicity committee is currently working overtime preparing coverage for the forthcoming illumination of the Town Hall to mark World Polio Day.

I would hope that it gives us all a renewed determination to maintain the dynamic nature of our Club in whatever way is appropriate for you. If you haven't been able to attend as many of the weekly Zoom meetings as you would wish please come and join us. For many of us they have proved a welcome distraction and it has been very rewarding for those who have worked so hard on the programme to see the spirit of fellowship and bonhomie amongst members.

The International Quiz was very well received and Paul and Roger are pleased to announce that they have solved the mystery of playing music on Zoom. The quiz ended with a communal rendition of Amarillo amongst gales of laughter. I can hear you saying, has it come to this? Yes it has and it's wonderful when we can let our hair down and enjoy fellowship then go on to do what Rotarians do best – helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Tony and Steve have been able to confirm that we will be unable to return to the Carlton Park before January at the very earliest. In the event of Zoom meetings continuing into the New Year I would welcome ideas for Fellowship meetings or maybe a Committee could offer to organise an evening. There is an abundance of Speakers out there and these could also enliven our programme.

I hope that Committees have been able to exchange and develop ideas. Smaller groups are an ideal opportunity to support each other and even on Zoom an hour of conversation and banter between 6 or 7 people could be just what the doctor ordered.

## *Make a plan and prepare for an opportunity*

The Sensory Room is now up and running, such a wonderful addition for the very special children at Newman School. More information and photos later in the Bulletin. At the Business meeting I was able to announce our first major fundraiser arranged by Start-a-Heart 24:7 for the benefit of Framework for Giving. The Outdoor Christmas Market will be held at the Woodman on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December complete with Santa, live Reindeer and much, much more. Get the date in your diary now.

We gave a warm welcome to District Governor Jill Bethell at the end of September. My thanks to all of you for painting such an impressive picture of everything that Rotherham Sitwell has achieved and is currently involved in.

My warmest wishes to you and your families as we enter yet another phase in this curious journey we're on.

*Trish*

*Make a Difference - Save a Starfish*



## 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

I'm guessing you all managed to sign up for Easy fundraising as I didn't get any emails asking how.

**Your task this month** is to sign up for Amazon Smile -again they will give us money for nothing!! Just search for Amazon Smile through the Amazon website and select 'The Rotary Club of Rotherham Sitwell Benevolent Fund' as your chosen charity. When you buy from Amazon log in through Amazon smile <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and what you spend will generate 0.5% for FFG at no cost to you!!

*Trish*

*Makes a Difference !!*

### **Next Bulletin**

The next bulletin is scheduled to be published in early November. Any contributions will be most welcome, please email to me by October 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to this month's contributors – please keep things coming!

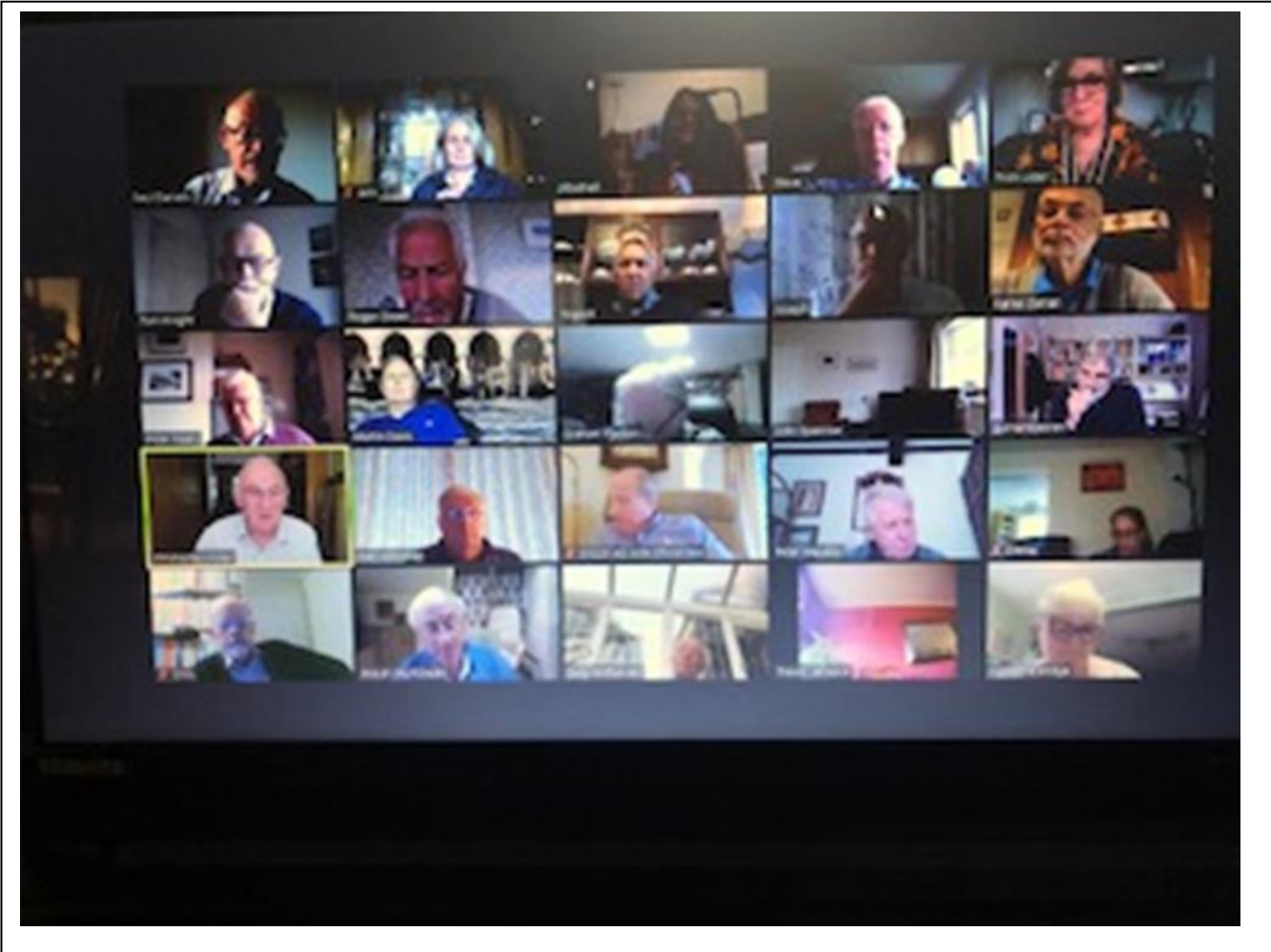
### **Fundraising Donations**

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.

Donations can be taken for Response to Covid, for our nominated charities of the year through FFG or for Foundation/Polio Plus. Please tell Jackie where you want the money to go either on the bank transfer or by email.

Thank you to all donors

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The Rogues Gallery at our meeting on 24 September with DG Jill Bethell and AG John Box in attendance. Not saying who has nipped out to refill the glass of wine (or whatever...)

### **Social Media**

[www.sitwellrotary.org.uk](http://www.sitwellrotary.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/RotherhamSitwellRotary](https://www.facebook.com/RotherhamSitwellRotary)

[www.linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)



DG Jill addresses the meeting with some very kind words about our club and some interesting ideas on membership



**STIG IS STILL WAITING IN VAIN TO HAND OVER THE VICE PRESIDENT'S CHAIN**

**WAKE UP STIG! THE MEETING IS ABOUT TO START!**

# CONGRATULATIONS

This month go to two sets of grandparents!

Tom and Judy Knight on being able to meet their ninth grandchild, Mollie Elizabeth, who weighed in at 3lb 10oz last month and is now home.

And to MEEEE!!!! Our first grandchild was born on 24 September. Chester John weighed in 7 lb 11oz and is happily at home (but sadly for us) in locked down Leeds.



Our speaker for 15<sup>th</sup> October, Richard McCann – look forward to seeing you then

**Resilience Strategies for Covid & Beyond**

Richard McCann knows a thing or two about resilience. Brought up on the 'At Risk' register, a children's homes, foster families and then brought up by his often violent and alcoholic father took away any self-esteem that he had. He lost his mother in tragic circumstances and then left school with no qualifications. After a number of dead end jobs followed by being kicked out of the army before turning to drugs he reached rock-bottom before finally deciding to find the gut wrenching determination to turn his life around. He wrote a book about his journey which was a Times No1 Bestseller selling almost 1/2 million copies and has now been translated into 11 languages. He became the founder of The iCan Academy inspiring audiences across the globe as far and wide as Iran, Malaysia, Italy, Germany, Canada and many more. In this virtual seminar he will share not just his story but the strategies that helped him not just survive but thrive because of his adversity. We promise it will be a presentation you will remember for many years to come.

## Newman School – Sensory Equipment

Despite all the issues presented by the restrictions caused Covid-19, new sensory equipment has been installed at Newman School. The equipment should stimulate multi-sensory communication and contribute to an improved quality of life for children and young people with physical disabilities, medical needs and complex learning needs.

The equipment was purchased with the support of Rotherham Sitwell Rotary, Rotary District 1220 Foundation Grant plus Friends of Newman School.

More information will be given on this latest example of support from Rotary, once we get more feedback on how the equipment has helped to make a difference to the children and young people of Newman School

Paul G Daniels 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020



### *Birthdays in October*

*This month we are celebrating these Rotarian birthdays !*

*13th – Mike Frost*

*24th – Jackie Saunders*

*Have a great day!*



District Governor Jill Bethel MBE sent an email to us all on 1 October. The message came by Rotary DMS message through Chris Elkin and was headed DG Jill's Jottings – 3 months on in a year like no other....

If you missed it, let me know and I will forward a copy. It is well worth a read, updating news from round the district and celebrating the imagination and strength of Rotary in these uncertain times.

## Tips for using Zoom

Set up your computer so that light is in front of you rather than behind. This should help prevent your face being in shadow. Apparently natural light is the most flattering but it has to be on your face, not the back of your head.

Most of us use the microphone that is in the device – try to be as close to this as possible. Alternatively wear headphones with a mic (e.g. like the ones used to play music and speak on the phone). The further you are from your mic, the more echo your voice has. This is then picked up by everyone else's device which is why it sometimes sounds as if we are in public swimming baths.

Even more effective is to turn your device to mute and only unmute to when you have something to say. This should prevent others hearing snoring dogs, "The Archers" theme tune or Trevor asking if his tea is ready.

The above are the easiest actions to put into practice. If you can, though, consider the following tips.

Be as close to your router as possible to ensure a strong signal. Test your signal for wi-fi and if it's low, consider getting a better deal from another provider (if you are out of contract).

If you use Compare the Market, Go Compare, Money Saving Expert, Confused.com or many other comparison sites, you could not only find a better deal than the one you have now with faster internet, but also facilitate a donation from Easy Fundraising for Rotherham Sitwell Rotary Benevolent Fund.  
<https://www.sitwellrotary.org.uk/easyfundraising>

## Some words of wisdom for uncertain times:

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you."

Walt Whitman

"If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely"

Roald Dahl

Life has got all those TWISTS and TURNS. You've got to hold on tight and off you go!"

Nicole Kidman

In the light of the troubles we have today,  
There's just a few things I'd like to say,  
Although the days of this feel long  
Together as a country we stand strong.

Share your kindness and your love  
Its no time to be mean, push and shove  
Hold on to your loved ones, hold them tight  
Listen to the rules and do what's right.

Spend the precious days with your family  
Read, do puzzles, play games and be silly.  
Watch Blue Peter, snuggle up on the sofa  
As mummy no longer needs to be a chauffeur.

Take time to enjoy all the little things,  
The small things and the pleasure it brings  
But most importantly of all,  
Stay safe, be brave, we shall not fall!



This poem was written by 10 year old Marcie from Wiltshire at the start of the Lockdown in March. It was awarded 'post of the week' by Blue Peter

## **Speaker Meetings on Zoom**

Even less than a year ago, if anyone had suggested it would be a good idea to have Rotherham Sitwell Rotary meetings using videoconferencing, they would have been fined on the spot for living in Cloud Parrot Land. Following our first meeting, using Zoom, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020, we have however become quite accustomed to it with some meetings having reasonably high attendance rates.

For example, just five months after that first meeting, 24 Rotherham Sitwell Rotarians signed in for the meeting to hear and speak with District Governor Jill Bethell (24<sup>th</sup> September). We were also joined by Assistant District Governor John Box.

Of course, Zoom has its limitations but one of its strongest advantages has been the opportunity to hear and talk with speakers who might otherwise been unable to be with us. Our first speaker on Zoom was Professor Derek Rosario who joined us that evening a little late as he had to complete a surgical procedure at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. It really brought home the marvellous work he does and why Immediate Past President Gurnam had chosen Sheffield & District Urostomy Association as his chosen charity for our Framework for Giving.

In July we had a presentation from Michael Peel of the Financial Times. It would be difficult to think that Michael would be able to travel from Brussels, give a presentation to our humble Rotary Club and then go back to Belgium. Even the lure of President Trish's renowned culinary skills would have made that a particularly hard gig to achieve! What we got from Michael's presentation and exchanges was exceptional in that this was someone who had reported on regions of the world such as West Africa, the Middle East, South East Asia and now Brussels.

I got a lot out of the meeting but really needed to find out more and Michael's recent book "The Fabulists" was a most engrossing read. In it he explores the impact of leaders who create fictions which then exploit the fears and imaginations of people in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Thailand and Syria. The author's journalistic fact-checking regularly shows how leaders routinely tell "alternative facts" to support their preferred narratives (There are parallels with President Trump and to some extent the UK / EU divorce.) One of the impressive elements of the book is how ordinary people are affected by these leaders. "The Fabulists" is fascinating and well worth reading. It was published before Covid-19 so in many ways the narratives are still being spun. You really don't need to agree with the author's own perspectives, but his thorough approach in checking facts is what makes this such a great read.

It is probable that we would have been able to enjoy the other speakers at the Carlton Park Hotel: Steve Prosser of Rotherham Foodbank and District Governor Jill Bethell would more than likely have come to visit us at the Hotel and we would certainly have gained much from that personal exchange. Zoom, however, is allowing us to explore areas as Rotherham Sitwell Rotarians that we otherwise could not achieve in "normal times". Maybe when all these restrictions have been lifted, our meetings can still be enriched through videoconferencing as well as sitting together with a meal.

**Paul G Daniels**  
**September 2020**