

Rotary
Club of Banstead
District 1145



ROTARY DIGEST

WINTER 2020/1

PRESIDENT 2020/21

Paul LUFFLUM



Secretary 2020/21:
David Martin MBE
Wensleydale
24 Garrett's Lane
Banstead SM7 2EA Tel:
01737 200181
davidmartin331@outlook.com
www.bansteadrotary.com

Meetings: 18:45 for 19:15
Cuddington Golf Club
Banstead Road
Banstead SM7 1RD

020 8393 0952 (office)

www.bansteadrotary.com

Contact Club: Rotary
Club of Louviers Le
Neubourg (Normandy)

Zoom meeting dates for February/March

February

- 2nd Speaker: Freda Clark; 'Furnistore'
- 9th No meeting; accessible for Committee meetings via zoom
- 16th Speaker: Rtn Alan Wolstencroft: 'Alan's Africa Project'
- 23rd Speaker: Mario Creatura: 'Working in No 10'

March

- 2nd Speaker: Rtn Peter King [Past President RIBI] District 1145
International Chair: 'Youth Exchange'
- 9th No meeting; accessible for Committee meetings via zoom
- 16th Business: Discussion: Future Meetings Format and
Committee Structure
- 20th District 1145 Council: all members welcome to connect
- 23rd Business: Club in Council: Draft Programme for 2021/22
- 30th Speaker: Associate Member Dave Goodman:
Toastmasters, Talking and Saving Money!

NB: all meetings will be run via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7pm. Secretary David has issued the link to all members in advance; anyone wishing to join us should contact him for the code NB The second Tuesday of the month will be restricted to committee meetings to be arranged through the Secretary

PAUL'S PRESIDENTIAL EPISTLE



Well, how have you been coping in Lock-down two and Tier Four?

In my rummaging`s I have found a fascinating book, "Who Put The Great in Great Britain" by Peter Ryding, which teaches history through nursery rhymes as follows :-

In the 14th century heavy taxes were levied on the wool trade whereby one third went to the King, one third to the church (sometimes called the "dame ") leaving only one third for the farmer (the "*black sheep*") – Hence

Baa Baa Black Sheep have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full

One for his master (*King*), One for his dame (*church*) and

One for the little boy (*farmer*) who lives down the lane.

In the 17th century King Charles I and his financially extravagant wife disbanded Parliament to obtain more money. As Charles was only five feet tall he was called "*Spratt*" after the small fish - Hence

Little Jack Spratt was given no fat (*money*)

His wife refused the lean

And so between the two of them they licked the platter clean.(*obtained more money*)

In 1665 the Great Plague hit London causing smelly red rings underarm plus bouts of sneezing . To prevent the smell people carried posies of herbs – Hence

Ring a Ring of roses (*underarm red swelling*)

A pocket full of posies

Atishoo, Atishoo,

We all fall down. (*die*)

In the 17th century William and Mary`s army invaded Britain, assisted by a wind change in the English Channel causing King James and his son & heir James to flee the country – Hence –

Rock a Bye Baby (*James` son*) in the tree top

When the wind blows (*wind change direction*) the cradle will rock

When the bough breaks (*invasion*) the cradle (*British army*) will fall

Down will come baby (*James junior*) cradle and all (*monarchy*)

At the end of the 18th century the Duke of York was commander of the British Army in Flanders against the French but he was so indecisive that he marched his army from place to place without engaging in battle – Hence

The grand old Duke of York

He had ten thousand men

He marched them up to the top of the hill

And he marched them down again

When George III became mentally ill his eldest son George, who was both corpulent (fat) and a philanderer, became regent. Many of the husbands objected strongly whereupon the Regent moved on to his next conquest – Hence

Georgie Porgy pudding and pie (*corpulent*)

Kissed the girls and made them cry (*broken promises*)

When the boys (*the husbands*) came out to play (*protest*)

Georgie Porgy ran away (*moved on to the next lady*).

In the 19th century the industrial revolution, with machines replacing workmen, caused them to pawn (*pop*) their tools (*weasel*) – Hence

Half a pound of two-penny rice (*meagre ration*)

Half a pound of treacle

That`s the way the money goes

Pop goes the weasel.

Before signing off, I congratulate Club Secretary **David** and his Christmas collection team for raising over £6,000 most of which was received digitally via Virgin Money. Also my congratulations to Second Vice **Steve** who obtained a District Covid grant thereby doubling up to £500 donated to Epsom Foodbank which also serves Banstead area.

So despite tier four lockdown, **keeeep** smiling and rummaging.

I wish you all a happy New Year.

Paul

Nothing like a good rummage to lift the spirits Mr President...Ed

... And More From Our President About ...



LEND WITH CARE (LWC)

In accordance with Rotary tradition of longer serving members making room for newer members, after nearly four years of management I have handed over this project to **Helga** but for the record the initial memorial tribute to **John** and **Michael** of £2,000 has, as at October 2020, increased to £8,730 by way of reinvesting in micro finance of 174 loans, thereby creating 436 jobs in financially developing countries. (*LWC figures*)

Thank-you **Helga** for taking it on.

It is a coincidence that this month (November) LWC also celebrate their tenth anniversary of this project with their thanks to sixty thousand lenders having lent a total of thirty million pounds to one hundred and thirty -five thousand borrowers.

In signing-off, I would only mention that LWC gift vouchers of £15 plus are available for purchase on LWC`s website. The donor chooses their borrower and can either cash-up once the loan has been repaid or reinvest in a second or more borrowers.

Paul

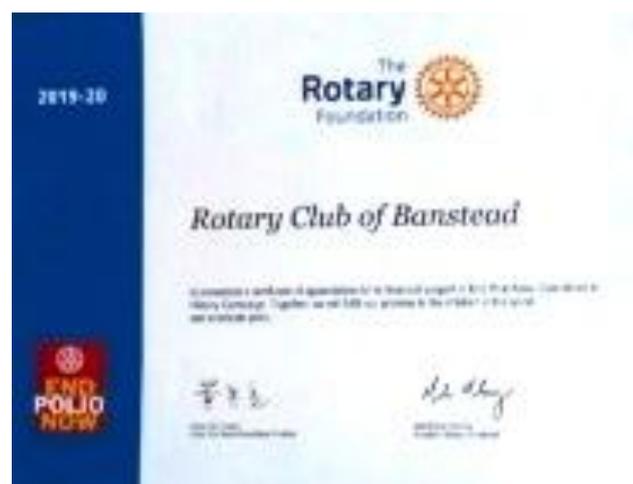
Banstead Rotary receives prestigious award for fundraising to End Polio Now from Rotary Foundation



Congratulations to all our District Clubs who recently received recognition of their work on 2019/20, Highdown and Staines were presented with Platinum certificates, the highest level of Rotary Citation.

Banners were presented to the top 3 clubs in the District with the highest per capita giving to Foundation in 2019/20. These being Rushmoor \$179.34, Midhurst & Petworth \$163.76 and Staines \$161.26

14 clubs had exceeded the \$1500 donation to the **End Polio Now** campaign in 2019/20 and certificates were presented to: **Banstead**, Bookham & Horsley, Chichester Priory, Godalming Woolsack, Guildford Chantries, Kingston-upon-Thames, Lewes, Littlehampton, Midhurst & Petworth, New Malden, Purley, Seaford, Storrington & Pulborough and Twickenham.



Inner Wheel Club of Banstead News...

Although a little belated, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope it will turn out to be a brighter one for us all.

We are still in these difficult times managing to provide a meal once a month for Leatherhead Start. This consists of a main meal and dessert for 12/14 people. At Christmas we all contributed to a hamper of goodies which was greatly appreciated.

We have recently sent a cheque for £400 to Coco Foundation. This was raised

some time ago and we had hoped to present it personally to Chris Connors but obviously covid has intervened and this was not possible.

We also managed a small donation to the Diamond Centre.

We have been meeting via Zoom on several occasions. This has enabled us to catch up with each other's news. We have also joined District meetings in this way.

Lynne Quick and Ted have now left the area and moved to Wiltshire.

It is with great sadness that we learned that former club member Joan Woods died on 13th January 2021 in her nursing home.

She became a member of Banstead Inner Wheel Club in 1975. Her husband Jim was a member of Banstead Rotary Club. In recent years she has become a Friend of the Club as poor health and mobility meant she could no longer join us for meetings. She was firstly in a home in Gomshall and more recently in Ashted.

She was President of our club in 1981-1982, 1996-1997 and more recently for our 60th Birthday in 2002-2003.

Joan was our 'Overseas Service Organiser' for many years, working hard within the Club organising fund raising events.

She was well known for her home cooking and kind hospitality.

We will miss this lovely lady.

Denise





Real Moments in a Virtual World!

Remembrance by Proxy: Sadly, but inevitably, this year's Parade in Banstead has been called off, and separate arrangements will be made with the 30 plus organisations that normally lay wreaths.

Secondly this year's poppy appeal has also suffered some setbacks. At present it appears that we can collect at Asda (but not currently Waitrose) and possibly in a few shops. This position may change as we get nearer to the collection period. In any event the national appeal will be available for direct contributions at: www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate. Locally we will be arranging for the lamppost poppies to be made available to raise awareness.

We will be putting them up in and around the Village, and supplying more for other Residents' Associations to put up in their areas and, hopefully, along the A21.



Rotary Wreath being laid on our behalf:.....Mike Sawyer, Banstead Royal British Legion

Banstead Rotary Christmas In Banstead Photograph Competition



Given the current Covid-19 situation and the challenges of a face to face Christmas Collection, we decided that, we would launch a Christmas In Banstead Photograph Competition to cheer everyone up. This provided an additional support to the Rotary Club of

Banstead's **Christmas Santa Appeal**.

The competition was launched in November by Rotarian **Steve McNeice** who is Vice President-Elect of the **Rotary Club of Banstead**.

Working in conjunction with the supermarket **ASDA** Burgh Heath, who generously donated a large hamper full of festive treats, the Christmas In Banstead Photograph Competition was intended to



help others have a Merry Christmas this year by asking the generous people of Banstead to participate and donate online.



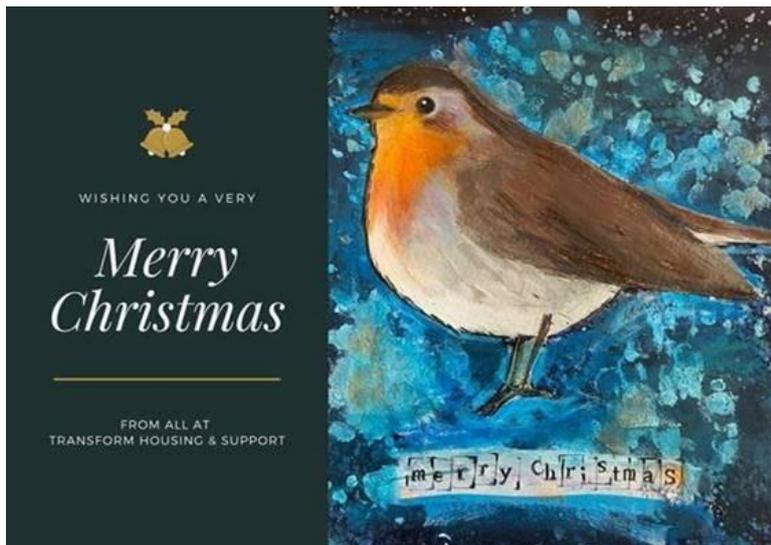
With the Competition Winner declared, the Hamper prize was duly presented to Rtn **Suzanne**, whose photo won by a landslide. Jane handed it over to Suzanne.

Suzanne decided in keeping with the spirit of Rotary to donate the Hamper and contents to The Momentum Children's Charity.

Momentum Children's Charity supports families across South West London, Surrey and West Sussex whose children are facing cancer or a life-challenging condition, providing personally tailored support to the entire family, both in hospital and at home. [Momentum : Home \(moment-um.org\)](http://moment-um.org)

Jane

Limited Christmas Activity but Still Hands On!...



A nice thank you card from **Transform Housing & Support Trust...**

Thank you and Merry Christmas from Transform Housing & Support

Hi all,

I am getting in touch today to say a **thank you** to the Rotary Club of Banstead for your support this year. 2020 will be the year we never forget, and despite the challenges it has posed

Transform, we have been comforted by the support we have received from you. Your support helps us provide vital services to vulnerable and homeless people who have needed us more than ever. Your donation was truly appreciated by everyone at Transform.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas, and hope we can catch up in person (or at least in the virtual world) very soon for me to let you know of our plans for next year and ways in which you might like to get involved to help us support more local people in need across Surrey in 2021.

David Annand - Corporate & Community Relationship Manager

...and several of our usual Christmas Collection partners helped us out with the Donation Leaflet Drops which replaced the normal Santa Sleigh house to house collections this year... Pam and friend from Homestart start their round...



... and of course the really hard work happened as usual...

Christmas Trees Donated To Local Schools

The Rotary Club of Banstead visited seven local schools in Banstead, Tattenhams & Nork to celebrate Christmas festivities with the children. We donated a Christmas tree to each school and **Rotarian Rae** acted as driver and photographer.

The schools were: Banstead Infant School, Banstead Community Junior School, Warren Mead Junior School, Warren Mead Infant School, Epsom Downs Primary School, The Beacon School and St. Ann's Primary School.

Jane

... and then there was the big one!...

Christmas Tree of Goodwill

Banstead Rotary has been busy selecting, felling & storing the Christmas Tree for the roundabout! Each year The Oak Tree Farm & Nursery (owner Premier Fruits), Croydon Lane, Banstead, SM7 3BE donates a Christmas Tree to the Rotary Club of Banstead, and in 2020 has continued this tradition of supplying the tree that will become the centre of Banstead High Street's Christmas celebrations.



First position your tree...!

...Finally top it out!



This year both mobile and static collections were denied us but our friends at Waitrose allowed us to give the kids a glimpse of Santa in grotto-like conditions... seen but not collecting!



A 'scout' Santa shows off his newly refurbished sleigh at Waitrose; all power to his elbow next year!

...All the hard work finally pays off...

Despite COVID 19 restrictions virtual Christmas collections amount to nearly 50% of normal and that's a result!

Banstead Rotary Club's Christmas Collection Raises £5,430

The Rotary Club of Banstead has raised a magnificent £5430 with Gift Aid, thanks to donations towards their Christmas collections appeal. The Club's sleigh also visited Waitrose for their two static collections.

David Martin, Christmas Collection Chairman, said: "We would like to wish everyone a happier New Year and thank you for the support you gave to our Christmas collections. "We would also like to thank our partners because leaflets were distributed by volunteers from Dyscover, Home Start, Age Concern, Maggie's at the Royal Marsden, Banstead Scouts and Banstead Rotary. We greatly appreciate the support we received from Waitrose Banstead, the staff at Santander Banstead Branch, and our Corporate partner Banstead Manor, together with other local volunteers.

"Whilst we were disappointed that Father Christmas wasn't able to parade in his sleigh as normal, we were delighted with the response to our leaflet tour of the streets so that everyone could still support us. "Our grateful thanks to those who ventured out, and, to all

those who visited our static collections, to see Father Christmas on his sleigh, whilst still maintaining social distancing.”

All proceeds have been donated to our charity partners: Age Concern, Home Start, Dyscover, Epsom and Ewell Talking Newspaper, Diamond Riding School, Princess Alice Hospice, QEF and Crossroads Care.

For more information see – www.bansteadrotary.com

Jane

...Another Very Welcome Slice of Income...

allowed the club to make a generous donation to EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK, at, a time of significant pressure and dwindling resources!

Following our application for matching District funding under the new Covid 19 Rotary grant scheme we were delighted to receive this message from: **Peter O'Keefe** at Rotary South:

Subject: Rotary South Grant

I can confirm that your Covid 19 Grant application by the Rotary Club of Banstead number 1145/20/34 in the sum of **£250** has been approved.

Regards

Peter”

Thank you District; this allowed us to boost our charity partner **Epsom & Ewell Foodban's** resources by a much-needed **£500**.

...and thanks to Steve McNeice for driving this forward...Ed



*And here's a whole bunch more of
Thank You*

Somebody said “thank you” is the shortest and biggest prayer; it makes the thanker and the thanked feel on top of the world.... Ed

From Judy at Epsom & Ewell Talking Newspaper: [after Thiery's inspiring talk: see below in Seakers' Corner.]

Dear **Jane**,

Many thanks for inviting us to the interesting talk on making web sites accessible to people with disabilities.

I apologize for having three members of the Epsom and Ewell Talking Newspaper at the event. We were very interested and anxious to support the event as well as learn as much as possible from such a generous speaker.

Susan Hoyle is the EETN web manager and she may have more questions to ask. If possible please could I have the details of the speaker so that Sue could contact her?

Thank you so much for a fascinating evening and a huge thank you please to all your members for your generous donation to our charity. We have put the money towards a second copier for duplicating the memory sticks. We can now spread the work between the houses of our two technical wizards. We are managing to produce the EETN during this difficult period when we cannot access our Studio, Our visually impaired recipients are very grateful, so thank you on everyone's behalf.

Sincerely,

Judy [Sarssam]

From the Rotary Charity 'Kids Out' after Rtn Steve Cartwright's excellent talk back in August

On behalf of us all at Kids Out, I would like to say a huge thank you to you and your Rotary Club for the **£225** donation, to go towards the Rotary Christmas Toy Box Initiative '**Every Refuge, Every Child**'. This is a wonderful contribution and I would ask you to pass on our sincere thanks to all involved for their generosity and support. The Toy Boxes will be distributed and delivered to the Refuge by the end of this week. The refuge staff have been asked to give the Toy Boxes to the mothers nearer to Christmas Day.

As you can imagine, Christmas is always tough for families in refuge, with this year set to be harder than usual. Most children arrive at refuge with **only the clothes on their back**, restricted to a single room with their mother and siblings. Mothers struggle to provide basic essentials, let alone toys for their children at Christmas. With 78% of families in refuge with no access to a TV, you can only imagine the difference these toys will make. As an aside, Kids Out has also provided 1300 families who have no access to a food bank or the school voucher scheme with a £25 supermarket voucher for Christmas. We have also sent out 7500 goodie bags for disadvantaged children.

The Rotary Christmas Toy Boxes will provide children in refuge with brand-new toys to support mental health and make the world a little kinder. The toys are given to the mother so that she can provide the toys from Santa and not from charity. This is so important for the mother's self-esteem at such a distressing time. ***"Refuge life can be difficult, especially for families, and the added pressure for parents to ensure their children have presents to open on Christmas morning causes a lot of stress and upset for our mums – especially if finances are tight. However, your toys mean we can provide our amazing families with the opportunity to have a lovely Christmas Day... please know your toys will be put towards making a child smile this Christmas."*** – Refuge support worker

Kids Out is a Rotary charity, started by Rotary and run by Rotarians – our aim is to bring a bit of fun and happiness into the lives of disadvantaged children and we believe every child

deserves to build happy memories. Thank you once again – your support has made a real difference to some of the most disadvantaged children in your local area, bringing some joy when they need it most.

From Briony Thomas: Home-Start

David Martin

11th February 2021

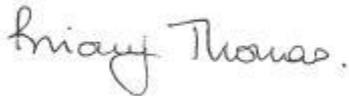
Dear David,

Re: Donation

On behalf of everyone at Home-Start Epsom, Ewell and Banstead. I would like to thank you for the generous donation we recently received from The Rotary Club of Banstead.

Your donation is gratefully received and our families and their children will benefit from your kind generosity greatly.

Kindest regards,



Briony Thomas
Chair of Trustees

From Jolene Ryan: Queen Elizabeth Foundation

Dear The Rotary Club of Banstead,

On behalf of everyone here at QEF I would like to thank you for your recent generous donation of £250. It is only thanks to the ongoing support and involvement of supporters and friends like yourself that we can continue with the vital work we do, which makes such a difference to the lives of disabled people.

Over the last year QEF has worked with around 9,000 disabled adults and children living with physical and learning disabilities or acquired brain injuries, supporting them in gaining new skills and increased independence. Whether its learning everyday life skills, rebuilding a life affected by brain injury, acquiring the skills to drive a specially adapted car or training for future employment, QEF supports disabled people to achieve their goals in life.

We really appreciate your support, particularly during these difficult times.

Thank you for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Jolene Ryan
Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People (QEF)

From The Princess Alice Hospice

West End Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 8NA
Telephone: 01372 461876
E-mail: supportercare@pah.org.uk
www.pah.org.uk

PRINCESS ALICE
Hospice

Supporter No:191512

Mr David Martin
President
Rotary Club of Banstead
24 Garratts Lane
Banstead
Surrey
SM7 2EA

22 January 2021

Dear Mr Martin,

I am writing to extend our thanks as you kindly chose to donate £250.00 to Princess Alice Hospice. The Rotary club have raised a fantastic amount and it was a brilliant idea to move your Christmas card collection online.

I feel very fortunate to be part of the Supporter Care team here at Princess Alice Hospice. We receive letters and messages daily telling us what a difference the Hospice has made to the lives of our patients, their families and friends.

In this current climate all donations are especially welcome. The Hospice seems very quiet with all but essential staff, but our lovely nurses and doctors continue to attend to patients both here and in the community, and our chefs, housekeeping team and other support staff still come in day after day to ensure the care we provide does not falter.

On behalf of us all at Princess Alice Hospice, thank you once again for your support, especially during this challenging time that we are all facing together.

Yours sincerely,



Rianna Pike
Supporter Care Assistant

...and finally one *from* us to our Corporate Members at Banstead Manor for their fine Christmas donation...

Dear Emma

We had our meeting last night and **Roger** confirmed he had received the Banstead Manor/ Hallmark Care Homes donation of **£450.00**.

The Rotary Club members were all very pleased with your fundraising on our behalf. I have made everyone aware of your NHS gift collection too.

Many thanks for all your support.

Jane



The last couple of months have produced some excellent speakers happy to join us from near and far, as Zoom permits and to share their experiences and expertise with us.

24 November: Rtn Roger Stent: District Environment Chair:

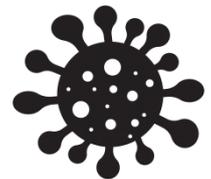
A detailed and informative survey of the impact of and planning for Rotary International’s newest focus area – that of environmental issues. Goals include carbon use reduction, clean water, biodiversity, waste reduction and related awareness education. District responsibilities are to advise and support clubs in their individual and/or networked projects and to promote access to focused funding. Value-added spin-off benefits might create enhanced Rotary promotion, co-operative partnerships, including young persons organizations, such as schools, scouts local authorities, as well as attracting new members.



and

1 December: Claire Nethersole: Anti-Biotic Research UK

Claire, describing her organization’s aims as developing new anti-biotic medicines, education and scientific support, drew a very scary picture of the monstrous advance of anti-biotic resistant organisms. By 2050 a wide range of drug-resistant bacterial infections, including Sepsis and MRSA could become the highest cause of deaths and pose the very real threat of undermining modern medicine. Potential dangers in our modern life style were over-prescribing [30% to 50% of such prescriptions said to be incorrect], self-prescribing via the internet, sharing medicines, poor hand hygiene and use in farm animal management. The currency of **Claire’s** comments were not lost on her audience.



15 December: Rtn Peter Stammers: ‘Magnificent Ladies’



At our virtual Christmas Ladies Celebration **Rtn Peter** of the Sutton Nonsuch club did not fail to entertain; not a surprise, as he had given us highly interesting and entertaining talks in the past. This time he turned his spotlight on to those magnificent women in their flying machines, who paved the way in female aviation. Women had joined men from the earliest days in “sustained, heavier than air, powered and controlled” flight. The first flying school at Brooklands was run by a woman; in the USA

Amelia Erhart broke records galore, whilst at home **Amy Johnson** flew solo from Croydon to Australia. During **WWII** in Kent **Pauline Gower** set up the Womens’ Unit of the Air Transport Auxiliary – the ATA said to stand for “Anything to Anywhere”. These courageous ladies, originally restricted to the tame Tiger Moth, eventually delivered everything from Hurricanes to the mighty Lancaster in all weathers, often to the blank disbelief of male pilots on the ground, expecting men to exit the pilot’s seat. Russian women flew front-line sorties, whilst **Hannah Reitsch** became a celebrated Luftwaffe test pilot. **Peter** rounded off a fact-

filled talk describing how women began to be awarded pilot's wings, flew Concorde and joined the ranks of astronauts; a fascinating address.

19 January 2021: Rtn Thiery Muzinda: Web Accessibility for the Visually Impaired

Joined on this occasion by a number of our charity co-partners, our own internet technocrat **Thiery** introduced us to an excellent and detailed survey of the growing requirements, some legally binding and others with recommendation status, for websites of all kinds to ensure easier access for persons of visual impairment and other sensory challenges. **Thiery** outlined the WHO data about such challenges, the legal position regarding anti-discrimination legislation applying equally to website access and the international growth of Artificial Intelligence – based web tools to achieve legal and quality compliance. **Thiery** described the accessibility tool developed by her company and, through the auspices of her Rotary Club, offered it free of charge to our charity co-partners, together with complimentary advice, fitting, support and on-going built-in maintenance.



2 February: Freda Clark: 'Furnistore'

Freda told us the engaging and heart-felt story of her almost accidental entry into the voluntary sector, initially via a personal further education qualification on retirement, only to become completely absorbed into her project transformed from academic practical exercise into an impassioned drive to create a major humanitarian work, meeting significant social needs – “Furnistore”. She went on to describe a roller coaster of problems and achievements setting up a major business lines enterprise from scratch. Put simply ‘Furnistore’ takes in and recycles good quality unwanted furniture and other practical domestic items, which would allow a homeless person to set up the basics of a home in unfurnished accommodation, provided by the local authority for example. It is however



anything but simple; the multiplicity of skills and expertise required, provides extensive hands on experience and learning for the army of volunteers needed to progress the business. Refurbishment and repair of donated items provides continuous activity for the well-known charity ‘Men in Sheds’. **Freda** was proud that Furnistore’s output is always “clean, desirable and in good repair” and presented to clients at the warehouse on a selection of choice “shopping” basis, which raises self esteem and reduces the

demeaning sense of a mere handout operation.

...**Derek**

Members' Moments

A Pat on the Back!

Under **Jane's** able guidance Banstead's significant strides in promoting both the club and Rotary generally are not going unnoticed in the higher echelons of our organization. In a

recent e-mail exchange no less a personage than the Editor of **Rotary Today**, Rtn **Dave King**, who ought to know a thing or two about the world of communication and publishing, wrote:

“Hi Jane,

Good to hear from you. *I always use Banstead Rotary's digital approach as a model of good practice to other clubs. It is very impressive...*

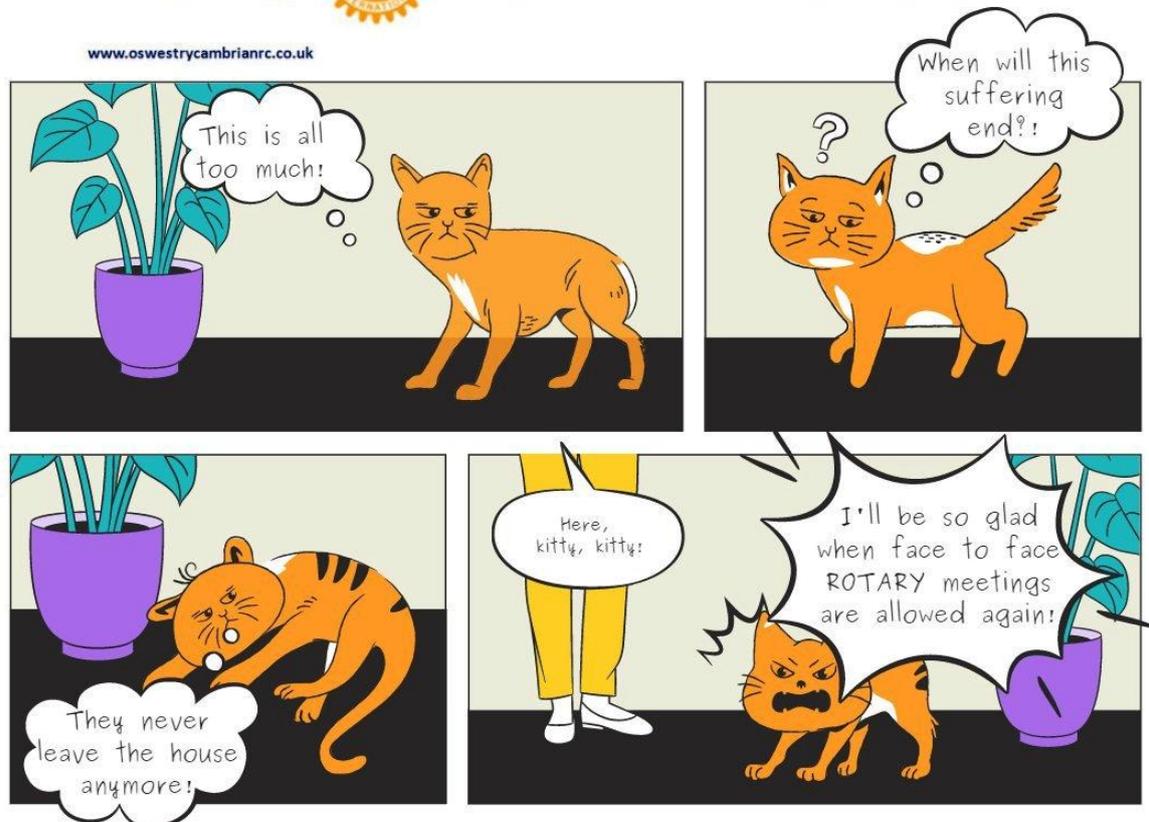
...Best wishes

Editor
Rotary Magazine
Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland

Dave King

... Meanwhile Jane, a cat lover, came across this humorous piece from Oswestry Cambrian RC

Oswestry Cambrian
Rotary  **COVID BLUES**



...and so say all of us!...Ed



A little musing on Rotary Classification...

Vocation...Vocation...Vocation...!

“ **Business!**” cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again...”Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance and benevolence were all my business.”...

Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol.

Am I mistaken or does the **V** word ring less frequently in our Rotary ears than before? Do Vocational committees still exist? Do we pay less attention to the ‘classification’ of potential new members in our haste to recruit or is the concept of vocation just a little bit outmoded these days? Or is recruit selection via the filter of job/ career/ calling in itself inimicable to diversity?

Well I believe we allow the significance of members’ vocation to fade into history at our peril. When **Paul Harris** first conceived of his new humanitarian organization, he built it, like Samson’s Temple, on the twin foundation pillars of **friendship** and **vocation**; remove either one and the edifice collapses. So why did **Harris** value vocation so highly?

Let’s step back a hundred or so years. Social caste, perhaps surprisingly, was just as rife in the USA -land of the free – as back home in pre- WW1 Europe. As in the UK, landed gentry ruled the roost; then came the Professions – the Vocations if you like – Church, State, Law, Medicine and to a lesser extent Education, followed a long way behind by artisans and commerce, equally demeaned on both sides of the ‘Pond’ as **Trade**. We catch a flavour of this discrimination in the work of authors like **Hardy**, **Wilde** and others as well as in TV sitcoms such as **Downton Abbey** or **Mr Selfridge**.

In addition to his humanitarian dream **Paul Harris**, a lawyer, was determined to bridge this social gulf and his new organization was an ideal platform for doing so. Thus at that first Rotary meeting in Chicago in 1905, just look at those first three companions he invited to join him in his great enterprise; a coal merchant, a tailor and a mining engineer – solidly **Trade!** And the first project to engage those Chicago Rotarians? A public lavatory; splendid example of practical expertise meeting a most basic humanitarian social need.

Of course clergymen, government officials, lawyers and doctors were also to join the growing Rotary movement in their thousands providing a reservoir of diverse professional expertise and therein lies the genius of **Harris**. By bringing together a mix of occupational skills in a friendship group he simultaneously created a formidable work unit equal to any social project, and a platform for all members to ‘dignify’ their occupation by devoting their individual talents and skills jointly to humanitarian service at home and eventually across the globe. This dual benefit of an organization based on diversity of talent is unique to the Rotary movement and should be treasured.

And what a multiplicity of talents and skills! In 1966 **Rotary in Britain and Ireland** published a survey of all known occupational classifications in clubs in these islands. They came up with some 90 major categories such as 'Agriculture' or 'Education' and over 2000 'sub-classifications' ranging from 'Abattoir Management' to 'Zoological Exhibitions'!

Today the somewhat rigid regulations on classification range within clubs have been considerably relaxed but the fundamentally important principle of occupational diversity remains. Dilute or remove that ethos and Rotary will lose its unique strength.

“High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;”

...Object of Rotary [my underlining]

Derek



...Another Member - Helga - takes Rotary Today Editor Dave King to task over plastic!

Helga writes to **Dave** about the apparent paradox between the latest magazine's heavy focus on environmental protection and its wrapper...

Dear **Dave**,

Isn't it time for Rotary GB&I to 'walk the walk' rather than just 'talk the talk'?

I'm a member of Banstead Rotary Club and Banstead U3A and have recently received the official magazines from both organisations in the post...

...In spite of the fact that U3A annual membership fee is just £12 vs £120 at Rotary GB&I, the U3A manage to distribute their magazines in PEPC certified paper envelopes, whereas the Rotary official magazines come in plastic sleeves, and

I wonder whether the plastic sleeves are biodegradable & environmentally-friendly.

I doubt it, somehow!

Surely, prevention is better than cure. Rotary GB&I needs to 'walk the walk' and join the Rotary International movement to 'EndPlasticSoup' in line with your article in the Feb/Mar 2021 issue of RI Official Magazine by delivering the magazines in environmentally-friendly packaging. If U3A can do it, surely Rotary GB&I can too.

How can we 'recruit community-minded volunteers' and 'inspire environmentally-awakend students' to join Rotary, Rotaract and Interact clubs if Rotary doesn't lead by example?

I sincerely hope Rotary GB&I will do all it can to ensure the next magazine comes in environmentally-friendly packaging.

Helga Stelzhammer

Banstead Rotary

...and received a very timely reply..

Helga,

Thank you for your email. I'm not sure if you have read Rotary magazine yet, but can I respectfully ask you to read pages 20 and 21?

There, the article outlines the sustainability of Rotary magazine and tackles the issue of the wrapping. The wrapping itself states clearly that: "the magazine is printed and wrapped in 100% recyclable materials".

Rotary magazine currently uses a plastic shrink wrap film made from low-density polyethylene (LDPE), which can be easily recycled. The majority of local authorities and major supermarkets recycle LDPE.

This option was chosen because of its environmental impact and cost. However, we know we can do better. So, over this next year, Rotary GB&I will be exploring other options, such as a paper wrapping the magazine using materials from Forest Stewardship Council-certified forests.

We are also looking at a potato starch wrapping, which is biodegradable and compostable. The magazine carries an FSC logo, recognising how seriously we take the environmental impact of this publication...

...To address your point directly, though, Rotary magazine is looking to improve its packaging and become more environmentally-friendly. That will happen this year. We are walking the walk, but we are going to do it more purposefully!

Please pass on my best wishes to Banstead Rotary. Incidentally, should your club ever be looking for a speaker, please bear me in mind for a Zoom chat about telling Rotary's story in a post-Covid era - and that includes Rotary magazine!

Best wishes,

Dave

Several other Rotarians wrote to Dave in similar terms... Following Helga's interchange Dave agreed to speak to the club and will zoom in May. Thanks for raising an important issue where it matters...Ed

...Sad To Relate...Hon Rtn Brian Smith 1928-2021 R.I.P.

A phone call a few days ago brought a tear or three to my eye, the caller was **Roger**, the message the sorry news that our dear friend, the gentle **Hon Rtn Brian Smith** had just died two days before his 94th Birthday. The words in **Roger's** subsequent e-mail cannot be bettered in this context, so I reproduce them here: ...**Ed**

*"Very sad news for all who knew **Brian Smith**, even if only fleetingly.*

I had a call from his daughter, Jenny Clarke, this morning to say that Brian died at about 2.00 a.m. today. [20 February]. He had been in St Helier this week and was able to communicate with family until about Wednesday. He made it very clear that he was ready to go and just didn't want to wake up any more. He retained his sense of humour to the last - a sense of humour we knew so well.

Brian's wife Jean, an Inner Wheel member, died in 2008 and he managed on his own with tremendous support from his close family, Jenny, Helen and their families.

We will all have our special memories of this lovely man. He was in every sense of the word, both a gentleman and a gentle man who will be greatly missed."



Roger



NORMANDY NEWS...culled from the weekly bulletins of our contact club of Louviers le Neubourg...

First a related note from our International chairman **John**:

INTERNATIONAL REPORT.

I have been in touch with **Eva** regarding our visit to Louviers in 2021.

The date of our visit to Louviers has been set for the 28th to the 30th May subject to the virus. Those interested in making the visit should contact me by e-mail to confirm. I would at this stage not advise you to book your crossing to France until we see how the virus progresses.

International committee is mindful that we still need to raise funds for International Charities and the committee will start to plan events as soon as we are able to.

John Draper

Louviers club meetings have resumed perforce via zoom, attracting a respectable average of 19 'zoomarians' per meeting. One birthday was recorded in the last couple of months – that of **Dany Bonnel**, to whom very best wishes. Just as in UK uncertainty about the timing of lifting restrictions makes it difficult to plan ahead and the annual "pre-premiere" film night for a brain injuries charity, supported by Louviers for several years has been pushed forward from March to October. Pharmacist **Guy Mailhan** has been involved in Covid testing and several members report how businesses are being adversely affected.

The official visit by District Governor **Thomas Duflocq** took place via zoom, consulting first with Council and afterwards with all members [an interesting division] and not surprisingly focusing on membership, retention and mentoring. He also raised the issue of corporate membership currently under consideration by the club council as well as the fundamental values of ethical service, diversity and the new Rotary focus on environmental protection. He also congratulated the club for its award for contributions to Rotary Foundation and the 1000 Euros raised for Covid services.

As always speakers were varied, interesting and 'home-grown'. **Patrick Viallard** gave a fascinating address on a local 19th C **Dr Auzous**, raised from humble beginnings to qualify in medicine and to invent a process of building life-size human bodies from papier mache but perfectly and precisely reproducing 1100 associated organs and body parts as models for medical students, thereby reducing the need for real cadavers and simultaneously providing training and skilled work for over 80 local residents in the Neubourg area. To this huge medico-commercial success he was able to add enlightened management well ahead of his time with significant humanitarian and social benefits locally. A truly Rotarian story. Youth Exchange candidates **Apoline Lecerf** and **Jean Lefort** made professional presentations of their case to the club, which has supported this type of youth service for many years. Due to Covid 19 exchanges this year are limited to Europe. Their material was supplemented by an address from **Elizabeth Huard** District Youth Exchange Officer, who announced that, with 100 exchanges per annum, District 1640, of which Louviers is part, has the highest rate in France. Our great friend **Eva Lecuyer** told the story of her walk with her friend 'Along the



Stevenson Way', a 272 kilometers long distance path from Le Puy en Velay to Alès in the Cevennes hills. Why 'Stevenson'? Because this is the route taken by our own Robert Louis Stevenson celebrated in his 1878 book *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes*; **Eva's** account was accompanied by wonderful powerpoint pics. **Eva** wrote to me saying:" we didn't have a donkey, we had our rucksack on our back!! And every evening we read the chapter relating to the stretch we had just covered." Not to be outdone **Yves Buffetaut** cast his professional history eye on the world-changing event in December 1941, when the

Japanese Air Force bombed the American fleet at **Pearl Harbour**. Visitors **Claire Riguideland** and **Rtn Jen-Noel Richir** spoke about an 'Entrepreneurs Network' a facilitating/ advice service set up to help and support new young business people with financial help and 3 year long mentoring in a bid not only to create new business but increase employment thereby. **Past president François Thommerel** mixed history with personal experience in speaking about his time [as a 5 year old] in Berlin during the Soviet 'Blockade' in 1948 – a scary time. Personal experience again saw **Dany Bonnel** telling the story of his family, which, he said, was a family which 'ploughed its own furrow'!

Back in November **Nicole Gaillard** mentioned the French poet **Sainte-Beuve** in a historical talk to the club. This immediately brought to mind a series of visits we Rotary 'old-timers' used to make to the home of a Boulogne



Rotarian **Pierre Landrot**, friend of a former Banstead member, at his ancient former farmstead home at Wierre aux Bois near Boulogne. **Pierre's** hospitality was legendary and we wined and dined there magnificently. But what **Nicole's** talk reminded



me of was a short phrase carved into the stone lintel above **Pierre's** main doorway, as follows: "Ici le poete Sainte Beuve aima et fut aime" [In this place the poet Sainte Beuve loved and was loved]. All **Pierre** could tell us was that the poet fell in love with the farmer's daughter; nothing known of the outcome or the farmer's feelings about the *affaire!* **Nicole** confirmed that her research showed that the poet had indeed been born at Boulogne and that this was a nice history/ literature/ Rotary connection.

Finally two very sad reports but containing immense respect for great friends and wonderful Rotarians. First a message from our old friend **Alain Gubian** concerning **Brian Smith**:

Dear Banstead Friends,

At this sad time when your club has lost an eminent member, an outstanding rotarian and a dear friend, we wanted to express our deepest sympathy with you all.

Brian will be missed by the members of our club who were fortunate enough to meet him and they will cherish happy memories of times spent in his company. He was such an interesting and considerate person. Please accept all our condolences.

Alain Gubian, [Past President].

...and secondly we were doubly shocked at the news of the sudden passing of our great friend **Rtn Pierre Lecuyer**. On 25 January **Roger** sent us the following sad e-mail. His words echo all we think and feel about **Pierre** and of course our hearts go out to **Eva**.

"We have just received a phone call from Patrick and Christine with the sad news that **Pierre Lecuyer** died last night. They think it was his heart. For those of us who have been to Louviers or enjoyed meeting the French Rotarians when they have visited Banstead, we shall miss **Pierre** with his stick, his songs and his risque sense of humour. For many years he was the organising force behind our visits to France and as far as I can recall, he had not missed a visit!

Our condolences go to Eva and the family.

Roger/ Derek



...A New Year Word from our District Governor

[See also his comments in the Birthday Section below... Ed]

From your District Governor

With 2021 having arrived along with some vaccines there is the possibility that in the late spring things will begin to return to normal. In the meantime, it is important that we follow the guidance to stay safe, especially as things are likely to get worse before they get better.

It is safe to assume that Rotary will remain online for some time to come. The District wide E meetings will continue every Thursday evening with a varied programme of speakers and discussions. We will continue to publish the District Coronavirus Bulletin every Wednesday for as long as necessary.

Clubs and individual Rotarians are starting to become involved in helping with the vaccine roll out. We are building a team to help coordinate activities under the leadership of Mike Thorn.

There are a number of innovative fund raising ideas coming from clubs. I encourage you to share them through the Community Whatsapp page or Rotary South News or District E meetings so that others can get useful ideas for their clubs.

I would like to congratulate the Rotary Club of Billingshurst and District for being awarded the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians Youth Service Award for their work raising funds for the local scout troop through the Billingshurst Show back in 2019.

Nick Drake
District Governor



In the meantime, it is important that we follow the guidance to stay safe, especially as things are likely to get worse before they get better.

... Time for a just a couple of Colorado Chuckles before we go... [showing the famous signpost!]



Birthdays

Three in December: **Roger de la Perelle** on the 23rd, **Chris Bourner** on Christmas Day and **Steve McNeice** on New Year's Eve; and one in February – **Helga Stelzhammer** on the 20th. Very best wishes to them all! Also in February we record a special one to us all on the 23rd!

“On 23rd February 1905, **Rotary International** was founded by Chicago-based lawyer, Paul

Harris. This year, 'Rotary Day' will celebrate 116 years of our incredible organisation!

During that time, Rotary has united people in a common purpose – making connections and making a difference. That ethos is happening right now in Rotary South in a variety of ways. Despite the ongoing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have found ways to stay connected and serve our communities when they need us most.

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland President, Tom Griffin, has recorded a special Rotary Day message, which I encourage you to watch here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AdS1oUp8CQ>

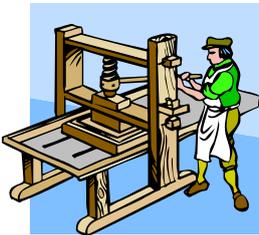
Days such as Rotary Day are a wonderful opportunity to say 'thank you' to all the members in Rotary South for your continued dedication and commitment to Rotary. Our impact truly does start with you.

I hope that those hosting events or activities today have a great time. Rotary Day is also a great opportunity to promote what you're doing in the community. There are a number of resources available for clubs - social media posts, graphics and a press release template can be downloaded here – www.rotarygbi.org/rd2021 “

Nick Drake

District Governor

Ed's Envoi



The changes this time, consequent upon the decision to issue every three months plus the bumper crop of copy mean that, inevitably '**Newsletter**' has to become '**Digest**' or some similar nomenclature necessarily depicting an historical and commentary focus rather than currency and 'news'. The next 'Spring' edition will most likely appear in late April, so copy, comment, letters, items of interest and even argument [in its correct sense] will be very welcome at any time before then. [What about tackling: 'What has Covid 19 done to our club?'] In the meantime any thoughts you may have about the direction this instrument is heading will be most welcome..

Derek