



Rotary Club of Derby

The Rotarian

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In this edition

- p1. President's message
- p2. Santa comes to Derby
- p3. Shoebox scheme report
- p4. Go on, have a laugh!
- p5. Puzzle & Poem
- p6. Satellite News
- p7. Foundation-End Polio Now
- p7. Olivia's Carol Quiz
- p8. Derby Arboretum

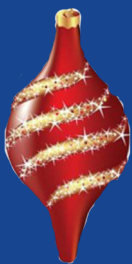
Simon Keeling on social media

- p9. More humour
- p10. Derby War Memorial Club website update
- p11. More reflections on Zoom
- p12. Christmas Greetings

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Christmas message from President Les

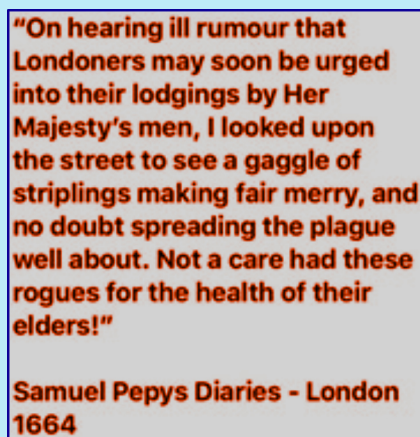
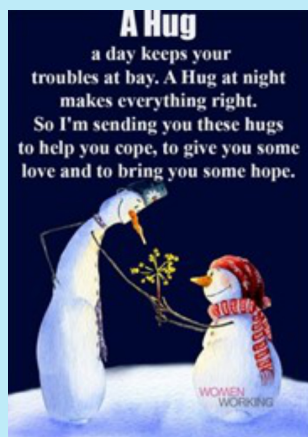


I read today that in some ways this time is just typical. Consider that we wait forever for a Covid 19 vaccine and then three come along at once!

In some ways our Rotary has been a typical year. Yes, sadly, we have not been able to socialise as much as in the past, but through the Rotary WhatsApp, Zoom meetings, phone calls and occasional one to one meetings we have continued to talk and laugh together. For my part, I have had the pleasure of learning more about many of you. I enjoy catching up on news from members who cannot meet with us on Zoom, the pleasantries exchanged at every meeting, and my regular chats with Andrew Battie on his front steps. I know this club much better and my enthusiasm for and appreciation of the club and all of you increases daily.

There are many examples of how we have risen to the challenges of this unique time. "No, no, no, no, no..... YES." We had to cancel the tea party, but yes Tony Jackson has nevertheless kept Rotary in the minds of those we work with. We haven't been able to build an eco-greenhouse, but yes Pat Zadora and Ben Benfield are still on track with schools to build more when the time is right. Satellite could not perform their Murder Mystery live, but yes their virtual event was brilliant and raised tons of cash. We cannot yet plan our Toc-H and Carers events, but yes other service projects have been brilliant. Our new environmental group has planned a speaker, organised a litter pick, and is now a firm part of our service. The clothing drive has delivered clothes to the Midland Hotel every week for months and at least 20 of you have contributed. Simon Keeling, 'Ben' Benfield, and John Worthy have been magnificent in their advertisement of our efforts. We have helped hundreds of refugees and kept our association with the Midland Hotel alive and vibrant. Mandy Trotman and Satellite have spearheaded our community allotment. Thanks to the incredible efforts of John Worthy, we still contributed 1600 shoeboxes of presents for delivery to Eastern Europe. Past President Andrew Plant spearheaded our crocus planting in recognition of World Polio Day – plaques to honour the efforts of parks, schools and churches efforts with Rotary are going up all over Derby.

continued on page 2



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Pres Les's Christmas message continued...

Only after an Herculean effort by C&V, especially elves Tim Wherly, John Cundy, and John Cheadle (with Simon Keeling's expertise) we are still bringing Christmas cheer to the children of Derby with letters and videos from Santa sent directly to them. Although we may not make as much money as most years, I think our Rotary footprint is even larger with the media campaign, including a few minutes on Radio Derby.

Work on the Loudon Lodge and in the Derby Arboretum has barely slowed during this time. Soon the new lodge will be open to support the people of Derby and its organisations. I'm thinking we might even occasionally have some of our Committee or Council meetings there.

Your generosity in contributing to the Polio Pig, the Bonus Ball and giving huge sums to the crisis fund that would normally go for lunch is heartwarming. Look at all the support we've given – Foodbanks, Village by Village, the fight against modern slavery through contributions to Safe and Sound and RAGAS, End Polio Now, and more.

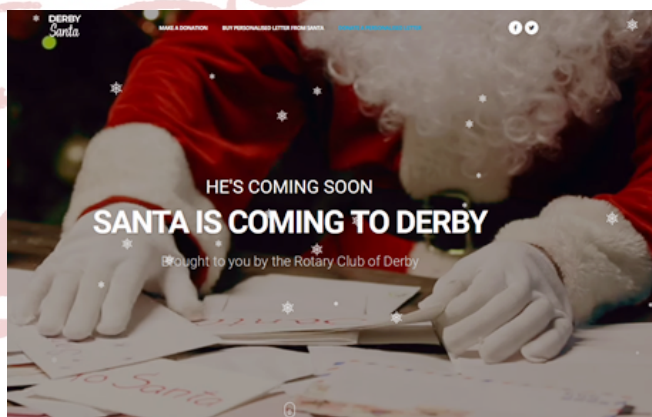
YES, YES, YES.

I must thank all the Club and I apologize for not mentioning every one of you by name. I especially thank Committee and Satellite chairs; Club Officers, Angus Currie, John Belcher and Kay Brookes; and ADG Pat Zadora for their dedication, humour, and incredible expertise. Our Club is in secure hands with them.

I know you share my pride in Our Club. Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a Joyful Vaccination.

Virtual Santa Aims To Spread Festive Cheer

Our Sleigh Team (Tim Wherly, John Cundy and John Cheadle) have adapted its annual Santa Sleigh to spread joy and excitement to even more children this year and raise much needed funds for two charities who support some of the most vulnerable local young people. In normal times, the Club Santa Sleigh would be touring the streets of Mickleover, Littleover and Chellaston greeting kids and their families. Due to the pandemic, such close contact has not been possible, but they were determined not to disappoint children who traditionally enjoy seeing and meeting Santa in the approach to Christmas.



Thanks to the expertise of Derby digital agency Think3, families across the county and beyond can visit www.derbysanta.co.uk to book a personalised letter from Santa sent by post or a telephone chat with Santa or one of his elves. Families will be asked to donate money for the Santa experiences with all money raised being split between two established local charities; Safe and Sound and Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.

Safe and Sound supports young people across Derbyshire who are victims of or at risk of child exploitation and Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre has, for the past 125 years, organised seaside holidays for disadvantaged children across the county.

Safe and Sound CEO Tracy Harrison said: "We have seen a dramatic rise in the recent months in the number of children and young people targeted and groomed by criminals – particularly online. "We are therefore extremely grateful that The Rotary Club of Derby have chosen to support us again this Christmas. Funds raised will enable us to help and protect many more young people, provide a support lifeline to their families and continue to raise awareness of the dangers facing young people in our local communities.

Bill Tomlinson, one of our members and a Trustee of Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre, concluded: "The Rotary Club of Derby's Santa Sleigh is a much-anticipated event every year and I hope that families will embrace this new initiative.

"It will not only add to children's excitement in the run up to Christmas but also raise funds to support many disadvantaged children who benefit greatly from a week of fun, education and relaxation at the holiday home in Skegness.

"Christmas will be very different for many families this year and I doubt that children will be able to enjoy any kind of Santa's Grotto experience this year. Both DCHC and Safe and Sound will therefore ensure that our young people and their siblings can also experience the magic of Christmas albeit in this very different way."

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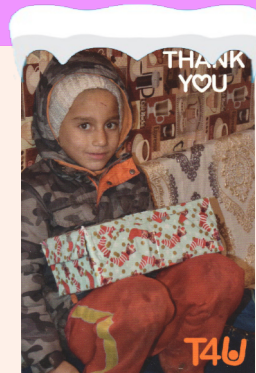
International Committee

'LOVE IN A BOX' - CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox or gave hats, gloves, toys, other gifts or a financial contribution to the Teams4U Christmas Shoebox appeal. You will bring some joy into the lives of children living in poverty in Oradea, Romania.

It has been a difficult time to go to the shops, meet friends and even to find an empty shoebox, so congratulations on helping us to collect a total of over 1,600 shoeboxes filled with gifts.

Thanks also to our team of 20 volunteer drivers, mostly from the Rotary Clubs of Derby and Belper & Duffield who, with special permits to be out during the lockdown and wearing disposable gloves, masks and ID badges, have collected across the Derby area from schools, churches, guides, the WI and a hospital. Many thanks also to people who brought their own shoeboxes to our warehouse and to Co-op Funeralcare, whose branches acted as shoebox drop-off points.



John and Ann delivering shoeboxes to the warehouse

Our warehouse team has been heroic, working with all Covid precautions in place, in the space kindly lent to us by Anthony Attwood in the Mills. They ensured that all shoeboxes were filled with suitable gifts and then sealed and packed, ready for transport.

Our local residents and parents and children from Walter Evans and the Old Vicarage Schools have been generous in their donations. Members of our two church congregations have given shoeboxes and, in one case, several bags of beautiful, knitted beanie hats. A lady from Breadsall in her 90s gave bags of lovely knitted hats, gloves and cuddly toys. One parent at St John's Primary School in Ripley brought 30 shoeboxes to include in the school's total of 103! There are so many lovely stories and reasons to be thankful.

STOP PRESS

The grand total this year is 1,824 boxes. I think that, in this difficult year, this is a major achievement on the part of those filling the boxes, donating fillers, bringing the boxes in their cars, checking them and packing them for transport. Your contributions mean that 1,824 children living in poverty in Romania will have some joy in their lives this Christmas.

John Worthy



FTSE100 Investment Competition **WINNERS!**

Three months ago 77 entries to our FTSE competition invested a virtual £50,000. This was the result...

1st	Petroc Properties	£68,528.37	who wins £150
2nd	Brewster's Millions	£61,597.47	who wins £75
3rd	Bodelwyddan	£60,392.34	who wins £50
4th	Danny	£60,251.96	who wins £25



and the wooden spoon goes to..... John Gibbs with £35,644.94
... who wins a bottle of champagne!



The competition will be run again in 2021. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to test your stock market prowess!

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Go on.... have a laugh!

(Thanks to Ashbourne and District U3A newsletter for the humour)



Breaking news:

From Monday all postmen will be working from home. They'll be reading your letters and will call you if it's anything important.

Recently I adopted a dog from a blacksmith. As soon as we got home, he made a bolt for the back door.

My mate bought a signed photo of Ronnie Barker and I bought one of Ronnie Corbett, both for 50p. So, it was a good buy for me and a good buy for him.

I bought a vintage Rolls Royce, but my budget didn't cover a driver. I feel stupid now, having spent all that money and nothing to chauffeur it.

The other day someone actually complimented me on my parking. They left a little note on the windscreen that said, "parking fine", so that was nice.

I said to someone the other day, "I'm going to enter my bread rolls in the local village bakery competition." They said, "Seeded or unseeded?" I said, "Well, it's not exactly Wimbledon."

Did you hear about the watchmaker who is half Spanish and half Irish? His name is Juan O'clock.

I watched a coughing contest on TV between residents of Botany Bay, Whitley Bay and Morecambe Bay. I love the Great British Bay Cough.



DURING THE MIDDLE AGES THEY CELEBRATED THE END OF THE PLAGUE WITH WINE AND ORGIES DOES ANYONE KNOW IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT PLANNED WHEN THIS ONE ENDS?
(ASKING FOR A FRIEND)

The best troll of the day



Doctor, when do you think covid 19 will be over?
Doctor: I don't know, I'm not a Journalist.

Corona beer changes their name to avoid association with the Coronavirus outbreak



Be good to your spouse, Remember, right now they could poison you and it would be counted as a covid death.



**NO MASK ON YOUR FACE
YOU BIG DISGRACE
SPREADING YOUR GERMS ALL OVER THE PLACE**

A grandmother was giving directions to her grown grandson who was coming to visit with his wife: "You come to the front door of the apartment complex. I am in apartment 14T. There is a big panel at the door. With your elbow push button 14T. I will buzz you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow hit 14. When you get out I am on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell." "Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow"? "You mean you're coming empty handed?"

IT'S OK IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ME.
I CAN'T FORCE YOU TO BE RIGHT.

A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" The reply, " Call for backup".

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Puzzle & Poem

AMAZING ONE WORD RIDDLE.

Never in a million years would I have come up with the answer. What if this was the only question on the exam paper to pass your English Exam. Would you pass? What nine letter word in the English language is still a word when eight letters are removed one by one?

Take a few minutes to try and come up with a nine-letter word that fits the bill, then go to the last page for the answer. Well, just go to the last page because you're never going to figure it out and such a simple word to start off and easy everyday words to follow...

Coronavirus what a pain. When will we holiday again?

Coronavirus what a pain. When will we holiday again?

Big E strokes his manly beard; 'A ray of hope has just appeared
and now restrictions have been eased, fancy the Outer Hebrides?'
decision made and maps consulted, ferries, hotels, route resulted.
Cases packed and Skoda loaded, pandemic blues now quite eroded.

On Loch Lomond's bonny banks, the sun burst out, they both gave thanks
The waters sparkled, mountains glowed, they journeyed north on empty roads
Sanitised and masked, on ferry, social distanced, solitary.
Sea got choppy, weather breezy, Big E laughed while Wife got queasy.

Island hopping, Northward ho! far-flung archipelago,
'Sea of land and land of lochs', ancient metamorphic rocks,
Darkest peat, silver beaches, standing stones that left them speechless,
Towering cliffs and rugged moorland, even so they still got broadband,
welcome hospitality, porridge, venison, whisky.

At last to Lewis, Butt of Ness, Hebridean wilderness
Top left on the map you know, further north you cannot go.
Pounding surf, the lonely skies, Atlantic gales, the seabirds' cries.
A glorious end to holiday, they pointed car to Stornoway.

The furthest point that they could roam, a mere 500 miles from home,
The warning lights all flashed and glowed, the car went into slow limp mode.
It jerked and stuttered, limped and stalled, jolted into life then crawled.
The ferry ramp – a steep incline, both Wife and engine start to whine,
Gears were squealing, clutch was burning, ferry operatives were squirming.

Against the odds reached Ullapool, breakdown service followed soon.
Mechanic stood with fists on hips, shook his head and pursed his lips,
'EGR valve, noxious gases, manifold is clogged with ashes'
'Can you fix it?' Big E asked, 'What this old Skoda? not a chance!
It's off to Derby on my lorry, but can't take you – it's Covid – sorry!'

The motel room was small and drear, The Wife said 'now I need some cheer'
Big E replied, 'you're out of luck, the wine is on the pick-up truck.'
The weather broke, new record set, the wettest weekend ever yet.
The train lines were all washed away, no hire cars until Monday.
He did Sudoku, Wife just read, they watched the rain and planned ahead.

Monday came, dispelling gloom, the sunshine played on fair Loch Bloom.
Their spirits lift, hire car secured, uneventful trip assured.
He let Wife have the final word 'Your attitude was quite absurd,
In future to avoid this plight, you won't ignore the warning light.'

Jan Shaw-Phillips



Satellite News

ONLINE MURDER MYSTERY

In July 2019, our Satellite performed their first Murder Mystery at Little Eaton Village Hall. They were due to repeat this in 2020 but then Covid-19 hit and many Rotary events were affected. Not dissuaded by the strict regulations, the Satellite team decided to perform their Murder Mystery online. This was a great challenge, trying to overcome the limitations of meeting online but their persistence paid off and the event was a great success, raising £848.90 for their charities, Safe and Sound and Storehouse.

Graham Ashurst took on the role of host, introducing attendees to the event and acclimatising them to the 1950's storyline. Our Chair, Simon was the victim, a horrible, grumpy farmer. Kay, Steve, Peter and Kay's cousin Karin were the suspects. Alex's sister, Anna performed as the writer of the mystery and Mandy was the formidable detective.

We hope to perform another Murder Mystery in the Spring and would welcome members of the club to join us.

The correct answer, following a tie breaker was won by Kathryn Caple, PP of the Rotary Club of Etwell and Hilton, who won a bottle of wine, delivered with social distancing in mind.



Derby Rotary Satellite Community Allotment



In September, Satellite member Mandy Trotman was successful in securing an allotment that Satellite members could use to grow produce that they could then donate to food banks around the city. The allotment, located on Warwick Avenue, opposite Normanton Park is in a great location and has a history of growing a great range of crops.

We would welcome any support from members of the Club, whether you have experience of growing vegetables, have anything that you can donate to the allotment such as paving slabs, sleepers, tools etc or if you just want a nice space to chill out, growing vegetables and fruit, we would welcome your support.

Christmas Social – Naughty Elf Family Party

Each year the Satellite members meet for a Christmas meal at Cosmo, joined by our friends from the Derby Club. This has been a great opportunity to relax and get to know each other a little more. This year, we will be meeting via Zoom but we thought we would have a bit of fun and make it a Naughty Elf Party, with games, Gin tasting (Bring your own) and an opportunity to wear your best Elf outfit. **No Club tabards required for these elves.**

We will be having a bit of fun getting to know each other more with a game of "Would I lie to you", providing three short statements about ourselves, with only one being true, the rest must guess which is the true story. It could be something naughty or something nice.

We would love to welcome guests from the Derby Club as well as friends and family, please let us know if you intend to come along by emailing derbyrotarysatellite@yahoo.com

Derby Rotary Satellite would like to invite you to our Christmas Social on Zoom



NAUGHTY ELF FAMILY PARTY

Friday 18th December, 7pm onwards



Open to friends and family

Dress code: Be your best ELF

Would I lie to you?

A chance to find out more about each other
Share three stories of being naughty or nice
(only one needs to be true)

Gin Tasting - See accompanying email

Please RSVP to derbyrotarysatellite@yahoo.com

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2020 and the 'End Polio Now' Campaign

In a year which no-one will forget for the truly global impact of Covid-19, are there any good news stories about Rotary's 'End Polio Now' Campaign?

Yes, let's celebrate!



- ▶ August – WHO declares the African continent free of the wild polio virus, The infrastructures developed for working with communities to deliver a systematic programme of polio vaccinations has, according to Dr Bruce Aylward, senior adviser at WHO, been “an extremely important part of the effort to tackle so many other diseases”.
- ▶ Polio surveillance teams in Ethiopia are reporting Covid-19 cases.
- ▶ Emergency polio operation centres in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan are being used as co-ordination centres for Covid-19 responses
- ▶ Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion (c. £1.6 billion) to polio eradication since the launch of the PolioPlus programme in 1985.

What next?

- ✓ Finish the job!!
- ✓ It can be done, no child should suffer the devastation that polio causes
- ✓ Make polio the third disease to be completely eradicated from the world
- ✓ Raise \$50 million each year to complete the job.



Thank you all for your support in 2020, let's continue working together in 2021 for this cause.

Do you know your Carols?

1. In which town was the first Christmas Carol Service held?
2. In what year did it take place?
3. Traditionally, where were carols sung before adoption by churches?
4. What is the meaning of 'carol'?
5. Who wrote the music for the traditional version of 'Hark, the herald angels sing'?
6. Where did Good King Wenceslas live?
7. 'We three kings' was written by John H Hopkins, in which country did he live?
8. During the Christmas 1914 truce between German and British soldiers on the battlefield, which carol did they jointly sing?
9. Who wrote the words to 'In the bleak midwinter'?
10. From which church is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols regularly broadcast by the BBC on Christmas Eve?

Answers on last page...



Olivia Dean

Foundation Officer

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Loudon Lodge nearing completion

The main building work is essentially finished with only a few items to complete such as a handrail to the staircase and the installation of external cctv cameras. There is now a great deal of decorating to do to make the building fully habitable. Unfortunately this wretched pandemic is frustrating our attempts to assemble teams to do this.

A real bonus is that we finally had the new gas meter fitted and the central heating has been successfully commissioned. This is helping to dry out the fresh plaster. The kitchen equipment has been delivered and is gradually being fitted. Over 50 chairs inherited from the bowls club have been removed to the yard at Grove Lodge so that they can be pressure-washed and prepared for use in the upstairs events room.

The Friends of Derby Arboretum have decided to name the building Loudon Lodge in honour of the original landscaper and architect, John Claudius Loudon. Thus discarding the old reference to the Joseph Strutt Bowls Club. The FDA is now exploring ways of marketing the newly created spaces to the wider community. Fortunately the group has Lottery funding to cover the first year of managing this community asset so in the mean time it is important to develop an income from hiring out the rooms.

Already several organisations are enquiring into its use but the pandemic is frustrating their plans.

A small group of members, principally Rotarians, will administer the facilities management of the building and therefore ensure the obligations under the lease with Council are met.

It is hoped that this club can find opportunities to utilise the building. Hosting events for local charities or underprivileged groups being a possibility.



Freshly decorated entrance corridor

Tony Bracegirdle

We have to sadly report that one of our long standing members, Tony Bracegirdle, has passed away. He died on Monday evening 7th December at the Shelton Lock nursing home where he had been for the last seven years. Andrew Battie, who maintained contact with Tony throughout, is preparing a piece about Tony for the next Rotarian.

Rotary Club of Derby Social Media

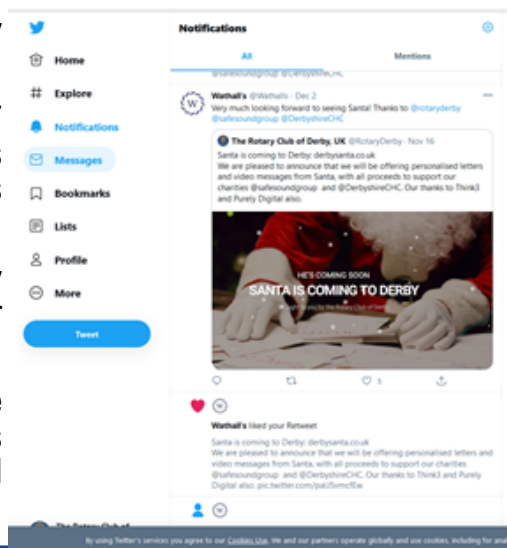
Simon Keeling writes...

Our presence on Social Media is still growing, Christmas is particularly a busy time as people usually utilise Facebook to keep track of Santa.

Our Satellite Facebook page now has 912 likes, the Club page has 207 and growing. The number of people reached through Facebook was 6604 by the Club page and 5248 by the Satellite page in the last 28 days alone (up to the 3rd December)

The posts that reached the most people were Satellite's Murder Mystery results on 18th November with 1,444 and a Black Friday post for our Santa letters which reached 1,872 people.

If you would like to access social media but have concerns, there are ways that you can manage the privacy of your page with only friends able to see what you post. Simon Keeling would be happy to help and give guidance if you need it.



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Even more humour...

Actual call centre conversations !

Customer: 'I've been ringing 0800 2100 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?'

Operator: 'Where did you get that number from, sir?'

Customer: 'It was on the door to the Travel Centre'.

Operator: 'Sir, they are our opening hours'.

Samsung Electronics

Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about'..

Caller: 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I think you mean the telephone point on the wall'.

RAC Motoring Services

Caller: 'Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?'

Operator: 'Doesn't the product name give you a clue?'

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop'.

Customer: 'OK'.

Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No'.

Tech Support: 'OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No'.

Tech Support: 'OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?'. Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.

Tech Support: 'OK. In the bottom left hand side of the screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?'

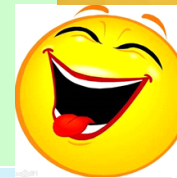
Customer: 'Wow. How can you see my screen from there?'

Question...

Due to COVID, I've heard that if you have visitors/relatives drop in unexpectedly over Christmas, the police have the power to come round and force people to go home. Is there a website where you can register/apply for this service and is it free or do you have to pay?

Paranoia has reached absurd stages...

I sneezed in front of my laptop and the anti-virus started a scan on its own



My husband and I went shopping in masks. Got home and took off our masks I brought the wrong husband home. Stay alert everyone!



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WHO SAID THAT?!

The teacher said, "Let's begin by reviewing some American history. Who said 'Give me Liberty, or give me Death?'" She saw a sea of blank faces, except for Little Hodiaki, a bright foreign exchange student from Japan, who had his hand up: 'Patrick Henry, 1775', he said.

'Very good!'

Who said, 'Government of the People, by the People, for the People, shall not perish from the Earth?'

Again, no response except from Little Hodiaki, 'Abraham Lincoln, 1863'. 'Excellent!', said the teacher continuing, 'let's try one a bit more difficult...'

Who said, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country?'

Once again, Hodiaki's was the only hand in the air and he said: 'John F. Kennedy, 1961'.

The teacher snapped at the class, 'Class, you should be ashamed of yourselves, Little Hodiaki isn't from this country and he knows more about our history than you do.'

She heard a loud whisper: 't**@@:: the Japs,'

'Who said that? I want to know right now!' she angrily demanded. Little Hodiaki put his hand up, 'General MacArthur, 1945.'

At that point, a student in the back said, 'I'm gonna puke.'

The teacher glared around and asks, 'All right! Now who said that!?'.

Again, Little Hodiaki said, 'George Bush to the Japanese Prime Minister, 1991.' Now furious, another student yelled, 'Oh yeah? Suck this!'

Little Hodiaki jumped out of his chair waving his hand and shouted to the teacher, 'Bill Clinton, to Monica Lewinsky, 1997!'

Now with almost mob hysteria someone said, 'You little t**@@:: If you say anything else, I'll kill you..'. Little Hodiaki frantically yelled at the top of his voice, 'Michael Jackson to the child witness testifying against him, 2004.'

The teacher fainted.

As the class gathered around the teacher on the floor, someone said, 'Oh t**@@::, We're screwed!'

Little Hodiaki said quietly, 'The Scotland Rugby team, 2011.'



People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

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The Rotary Club of Derby Contributed to the War Memorial Village Derby

Early in the new year, our Monday presentation will come from the Trustees of the War Memorial Village Derby (The Allenton War Memorial Village). Our Club helped to organise and raise funds for the village during its construction from 1949 to 1952. The foundation stone was laid by HRH The Princess Elizabeth and in 2019 HRH Princess Anne returned to Derby for a huge celebration at the village.

We will see a video of the 2019 celebration and have a chance to talk to the current Chair of the Trustees, Harvey Jennings and his father, the previous Chair, John Jennings. They are asking for our help again, this time in finding an executive secretary who has knowledge of building and council regulations.

Angus and I have both viewed the video along with press clippings and found them moving and they have inspired our pride in what our club helped to create. We hope that all of you will be able to attend our Zoom meeting.



Rotary Club of Derby Website *Simon Keeling writes...*

The Club website is now well established and is updated every week, where possible. There are pages for each of the committees as well as fundraisers and club news too. There are links to social media directly from the page as well so you can see what is happening across the various social media platforms.

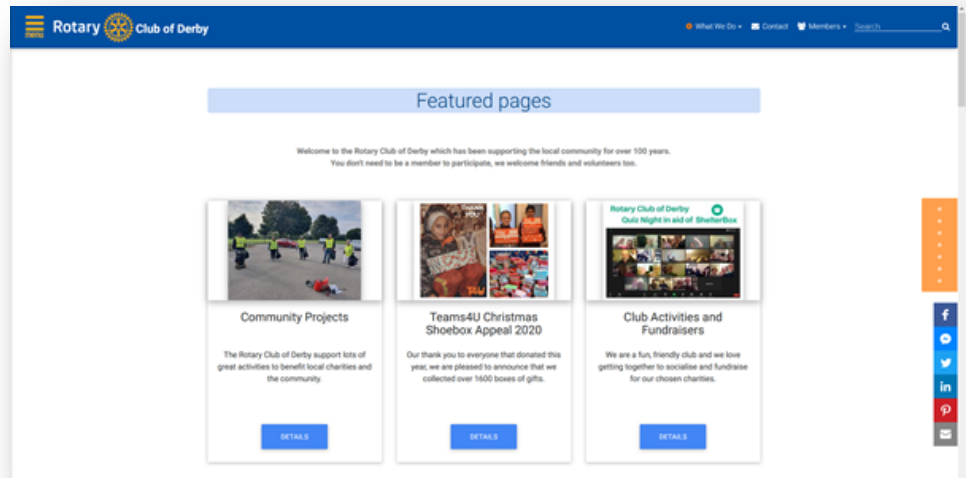
We rely on you letting us know what is happening and what you would like to go on the website, it is much easier for me to copy and paste or adapt a page of text that you have created as you know your projects the most. Please do not worry about sending too much, having an up-to-date website is important to our presence in the community, we often link articles to Facebook or Twitter, so people get to see more about what we do when they look for a particular article.

I also keep the front page so that it displays the most relevant, current projects and switch these out with other pages as they are updated. This also helps keep the website looking fresh and relevant.

The pages on the website currently are as follows (with subpages in brackets)

- Derby Rotary Satellite (Allotment, Fundraisers)
- Children and Young People
- International Projects (Shoeboxes)
- Club Activities and Fundraisers (Photo comp, FTSE, Peter's Bike Ride)
- Community Projects (Santa, Arboretum, Asylum Seekers)
- Club Meetings Update (Guest speakers, Handover meeting)
- Rotary Foundation (Food Banks, End Polio Now, World Polio Day)
- Friends of Derby Volunteers

Please let me know if any of the pages requires an update, I can only do this with your help.



A screenshot of the club's web page

Please visit our NEW website @ www.rotaryderbyuk.org

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 @DERBYRotary

Some more reflections on Zoom - or "John, can you unmute yourself!"

Do you remember a few months ago we started to talk about 'the new normal'?

Today, as we look at our own communities of families and friends that phrase is self-evidently true. The various, and constantly changing, restrictions that have been placed upon us have caused us to change our patterns of behaviour and interactions. Sometimes we can meet outside, sometimes inside. Sometimes we can meet with one, two, six other friends or family members – and sometimes we're not allowed to meet anyone as we just might get a message to self-isolate! In some respects the 'new normal' is one of constant change – trying to catch up with and interpret the latest rules.

However, there seems to be one aspect of this dreadful pandemic that has grown over the months and become, for many of us, a constant feature of our weekly schedule. We now look at our regular Zoom meetings as part of this 'new normal'. I am well aware that some people do not like 'Zooming'. I perfectly understand their reasons for not wishing to engage in this way - be it technical, ability, personal or whatever. But I have to admit that I find the medium well-suited to meeting some of my needs for social involvement. We humans are social creatures and meeting together is part of what we do. Obviously meeting via Zoom is not as good as face-to-face contact, but nevertheless, the technological developments over the past 20 years has given us a range of social media platforms that make our social lives a lot more bearable during this pandemic.

Over the past few months I've been to various weekly and monthly meetings with our immediate family and friends, choir singing and socials, astronomical societies, poetry group, woodcraft sessions from around the world, numerous AGMs, and countless committee meetings – and Rotary on Mondays. You probably all have a similar list of groups that you keep in touch with. Now, you will also have noticed that during the meetings people interact with Zoom in very different ways. So here are a few observations that might be familiar to you – and I want to say that I am as guilty as the next person for doing some of these!!!

So - "John, can you unmute yourself!" We've all done this – a question is asked of someone and they immediately begin to reply forgetting that they have been muted or muted themselves. It's perfectly natural. Just watch what everyone else does – several will say "John, can you unmute yourself!" – forgetting that they themselves are also muted and no-one can hear their advice. This leads to everyone unmuting themselves and a general cacophony ensues. 'John' eventually unmutes himself. 'John' often forgets to mute himself afterwards, as does everyone else, unless the host takes control. It's in this period that you will often hear the cry go up - "John, can you mute yourself again!" I love this interlude because whilst 'John' is still audible you get to hear all sorts of things such as - what's on the telly, whether tea is ready, what time do we finish, who's that at the door, I didn't buy any this week, it's where you left it - and so on – absolutely delicious! During this frantic activity of muting and unmuting we see the appearance of that other regular feature – 'the Zoom finger'. This also often makes an appearance at the end of Zoom sessions. The Zoom finger seems to have a life of its own wandering around the screen, in and out of view, sometimes small - sometimes massive in front of the camera, until eventually it finds the button, key, switch or whatever it's looking for. The Zoom finger is always found coordinated (but often not) with 'the Zoom eye' which follows the tip of the finger around the screen – a glorious sight!

Next - being on Zoom induces temporary amnesia. This is a well-documented condition. In more normal social interactions there are often never more than three or four people in your immediate group and you are aware of everyone who's there, but in a Zoom session you could be confronted with 20 or more on-screen, and then behaviours change. Confronted by so many, albeit at a distance, you forget that your video is always on and that everyone can see what you do. I've seen people eating, drinking, walking about, checking their mobile phone, and even falling asleep. The only thing is that they can see you as well and are being equally entertained by your antics! It's odd that again, when in a small group, you give everyone your attention. But when confronted by a sea of faces that personal approach seems to fall away and the meeting you're in just becomes part of the background. Which brings me nicely to 'backgrounds'.

I have to say that I really like this one. Some people are really creative in the way they change the background for each meeting. Most people take the line 'this is how it is' and you see a variety of backdrops – plain or patterned wallpaper, colourfully painted walls, libraries (bookshelves!), collections of artwork and so on adorning walls and I've even seen several fish tanks. People Zoom in lounges, kitchens, conservatories, gardens and even bedrooms. Some Zoomers are lost in their background – sitting so far away it's difficult to see or hear them and some are right up against the camera and their features become distorted like those in a hall of mirrors. But I do like the way some of our club members like to vary their backgrounds and keep us guessing as to where they are! Are they on holiday, on a farm, visiting Santa or on a sunny beach in the Seychelles? It's great to look at and it's all entertaining stuff.

Finally there are 'The Three Explainers'. Often in a Zoom meeting, one of the participants has difficulty with the sound, or the video, or finding the chat facility or can't see how to change the view from 'speaker' to 'gallery'. Suddenly, three other participants will leap in and give directions as where to find the appropriate button or dropdown menu. Unfortunately, because different platforms are being used by different people, the instruction 'Go to the top right-hand corner' does solve the problem. The button in the top right-hand corner often turns the application off or worse turns the device off. Then there's a 10 minute wait until you see the on-screen message – 'John is waiting to rejoin the meeting'. It's all because of our basic desire to help.

So don't get me wrong, I love Zoom. I think it has added a new dimension to how we live our lives in this 'new normal' and how we will continue with our lives once this pandemic is over. Zoom and similar social media platforms have allowed us to do things and meet with people in ways that we would never have considered a year ago. It is now so easy to talk to friends and family at any time, from anywhere, and to any part of the world. In some ways meetings have become easier, decisions can be arrived at quicker and social links can be formed and strengthened better. So, until we can meet again face-to-face for real, just enjoy those virtual face-to-face sessions. It can be just like watching a good programme on the telly and sometimes it is equally entertaining.

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Christmas Greetings

Val and David Edge wish all our Club members and their families a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Greetings from hibernation to all Rotarians, with the hope that Spring, both literal and metaphorical, will soon be with us.

Brian and Pat Seager



A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all and all your families

The Editor



Answers to Olivia's Carol Quiz:

1. Truro
2. 1880
3. Inns/pubs
4. A dance in a ring
5. Mendelssohn
6. Bohemia (now Czech Republic)
7. USA
8. Silent Night/Stille Nacht
9. Christina Rossetti
10. Kings College Chapel, Cambridge

AMAZING ONE WORD RIDDLE.

Answer "Startling"

Remove the letters in this order: -

L, T, A, R, T, G, S, N. The last word is "I"



No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test. 🤔🤔

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