



# Rotary Club of Derby

## The Rotarian

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## President's view

I have been contemplating our situation as we find ourselves in at the moment and thinking about Rotary. Not just Rotary in Derby and Derbyshire, but further a field. One thing that we as Rotarians are aware of is quite similar restrictions on our activities and places we can visit, but most importantly those family and friends we cannot spend time with. This seems to me to be happening all over the world and not just here. We have friends in Italy for example, but thankfully they are in rural Italy near Scario, which is at the ankle joint of the eastern coast. They appear to be well and safe.

I have also, like many others become aware of the questions that arise when we consider our position with regard to unlocking this current situation. These times are a quite unique in my lifetime and also in many of yours, but we shall find a way through, in the end. What we must consider is a way forward to ensure that Rotary survives this period and that we continue our efforts after this situation is alleviated. I think we shall all learn a lot from this experience, namely the use of different ways of communicating, community spirit, helping others more and also overcoming reluctance to help one another. Another aspect of this is how are we going to carry out our community commitments with social distancing being practiced?

My favourite event of the year is the TOCH games evening. How are we going to fulfil our commitments, maybe not this year, but next year if we still have restrictions in place? We will find a way forward and a solution to these important situations.

In conclusion I would like to thank you all for your support during this period of lockdown and encourage you to prepare for a return to Rotary, but be prepared for some changes and compromises which may challenge us all in different ways from those we have been used to.

Best wishes and keep safe, Andrew



Taken in Markeaton park whilst on my daily walk



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# I stand to be corrected....!

To the Editor :-

Something is said at all of our Rotary Club lunches and dinners which has puzzled me for many years. I would not be surprised to learn that it has also puzzled other members. At the end of the meeting, the president requires us to rise from our chairs and does so by asking us to be "upstanding" for the final toast.

I would never claim to be an English Scholar but, according to my "Oxford" dictionary and in a "Collins" dictionary, there is no verb to "upstand" in the English language. The word "upstanding" is an adjective, meaning "of good character."

Therefore, at the end of our Club lunches and dinners, the fine, upstanding Rotarians should be simply asked to "stand" for the final toast.

I find it very strange that this incorrect use of the word "upstanding" has, seemingly, become self-perpetuating in our Club over many years. It would not surprise me to discover that the same mistake occurs in some other Clubs in R.I.B.I.

Now that I am an octogenarian, and with an arthritic knee, the rebellious gene in me has, increasingly, almost persuaded me to remain "downsitting" for the final toast, even though asked to be "upstanding"! Let us hope that, when the coronavirus pandemic eventually dissipates, and our weekly lunches resume, all the upstanding Rotarians will be well enough to attend and "stand" for the final toast!

Andrew Battie.

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# A tribute to Tony...

Article produced by John Lound  
and Les Bryan

The gentle purring of a Jaguar registration T123ONY will no longer be heard by Derby Rotary for Anthony Charles Southgate died peacefully on 3 March 2020 at the age of 91.

Tony served the Club for 53 years having joined at the invitation of Past President Trevor Clarke on 10 January 1966. He immediately became a stalwart member of the International Committee serving as secretary until four years ago. Being a part of the International Committee suited him for he had a keen interest in travel and languages; he enjoyed practising his French when he visited the Club in Rochefort-sur-Mer, which was twinned with Derby, including a Rotary exchange programme. Tony kept an active correspondence between the two clubs for many years. He and his first wife Marlene made many visits to France and the USA where they promoted exchange visits.

Tony served as President in 1978-79 and he received the Cyril Weston Award for club service in 1999 and was a Paul Harris Fellow. In 2016 he received a certificate from the President of RIBI for his 50 years of service.

Tony met his wife, Marlene, when he moved to South Yorkshire in the 1950s. They married in 1960 after Tony had come to Derby to open the Gleed's Quantity Surveyor's office in James's Street. They had two children, David and Philippa. Sadly, Marlene died in 2006. He and Gloria Nichols married at Broadway in the North Cotswolds in 2010.

Both personally and professionally, Tony led a fulfilling and busy life. He was a long-time fan of Derby County and watched them regularly at the Baseball Ground. After an exhilarating trip with Rotarian Norman Thorpe and his wife Marion sailing from Dartmouth to Salcombe, they became keen sailors. He and Marlene with children David and Philippa, spent two weeks cruising around the Mediterranean with Tony as skipper for 12 consecutive years. At times they were joined by Rotarian Barry Wood, wife Pat and son Tim. He was also an avid photographer and gardener.

Career wise, Following the death of his father when he was 19, he joined the Gleeds Quantity Surveyors in Bristol, where his father had been a chartered quantity surveyor. In the 1950s he came to Doncaster to establish an office for Gleeds and then in 1958 he opened the office in Derby. He served his professional institution, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Quantity Surveying Division as chair of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire and was a national chairman.

Tony was born in Twyford, Berkshire, on 6 June 1928 and his family moved to Bristol where he attended Bristol Grammar School but was evacuated during the war to Felstead School at its temporary home at Goodrich Court, Herefordshire.

Tony Southgate was a perfect example of a man who served in many capacities, not least as a Rotarian.



Tony with John Cundy and John Rice out collecting for Rainbows Children's Hospice



Tony next to celebrity auctioneer Anita Manning at a Rotary Showcase event at Kedleston Antiques and Collectables

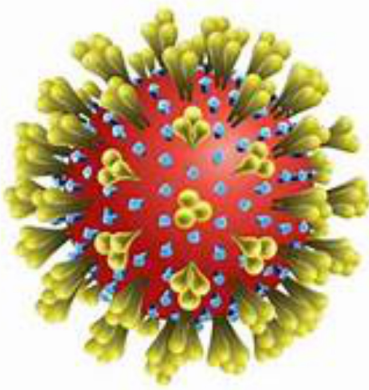
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# Reflections on recent events

*"Live simply so others may simply live" - Mahatma Gandhi.*



It was somewhat ironic that the last time we all met for lunch and fellowship, our speaker Graham Truscott engaged us in an excellent discussion about climate change and the effects it was having on the planet. The coronavirus epidemic was there, very much in the background of our discussions and we agreed to cease our meetings until further notice. That was on March 16th and now in the middle of April (as I write this article) the country is in lockdown, personal movements are restricted, relationships are being both strengthened and strained, home-schooling is now mainstream, government hand-outs and bail-outs are the norm and the once unthinkable is now government policy.

Since the first reported cluster of cases of Covid19 at the end of December last year, we have seen unprecedented changes across the world. In 100 days the world has become a very different place and you could not have imagined then, what it would be like now - remember what Christmas was like last year! That's a world away now isn't it? Worldwide the statistics are grim - millions now infected and tens of thousands have already died and thousands are dying daily. But it will come to an end, and in all of this, through all of this, we have begun to notice different things, we have begun to value different things, we have begun to live and work in different ways.

One of the very first changes in the past few months that I noticed was that the sky was blue. We had several beautiful days in March and looking at the sky there was not a single con-trail to be seen. No planes were flying - anywhere. Yes, the occasional freight plane took off from East Midlands Airport, but that was the exception. I just stared at the sky - a beautiful blue from horizon to horizon - uninterrupted by the white trails and drone of millions jetting off on business or holiday. The skies were clear, city centre traffic pollution fell overnight. The air over huge swathes of land in industrial areas saw atmospheric pollution drop dramatically. I'm sure that there will be a reduction in traffic accidents and public health will improve. Fossil fuel consumption has plummeted and using up of the world's valuable resources has all but stopped.

I come back to our last lunchtime speaker, Graham Truscott, and his message about what we collectively needed to do to avoid the worst excesses of climate change. What governments had repeatedly said they could not do, they have now been forced to do - by a microscopic virus - how ironic! Now, I do appreciate the toll this is having on lives across the globe as a result of a international shut-down and I am very much aware of all the downsides to the present crisis in terms of jobs, security, world-wide health initiatives and a thousand other things! But ...

When the dust settles,  
we will realise how  
very little we need,  
how very much we  
actually have, and the  
true value of human  
connection.

shared by silversurfers.com

In my reading of many of the on-line news agencies over the past few weeks I have come across a couple of super quotations. Here's the first - "As one Hong Kong graffiti artist put it: *"There can be no return to normal, because normal was the problem in the first place".*

So coming out of this crisis gives us all, in our own way, an opportunity to create a 'new normality'. At the moment we are all still struggling to come to terms with this, but we are all finding new ways of interacting, communicating and doing business. We are all looking at what is of real value in society by realising what we are temporarily losing : the inability to share in joys and sorrows has highlighted how precious are our

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own family and friends; curtailment in our usual shopping habits has brought a new awareness of local suppliers and what we really need; our restrictions on movement has highlighted what there is to find in the local environment if we take a daily walk; our lockdown may have highlighted hidden talents or given you the opportunity to complete projects at home or in the garden; and even our loss of Monday lunches has highlighted the value of the fellowship and fun that we often have as a Rotary club. One thing's for sure and that is we are all looking at life differently.

What's true on an individual level will be true nationally. My hope for when we come out of this major health crisis is that we, as a country, as a world will wish for a 'new normality'. I hope that collectively we start to value all people - old and young - skilled and unskilled - the familiar and the stranger and especially those who contribute to looking after us and keeping us safe and healthy. The crisis has highlighted, for whatever reason, how precarious are our current societal structures to a sudden shake-up. There is very little resilience or slack in the system - as has been shown by shortages of everything from food to hospital equipment. Some aspects of globalisation and 'just-in-time' have not served us well during this crisis but, in contrast, our inter-connectivity has, and we are all (almost all) using the Internet and social media platforms in new and exciting ways. I suspect that business and industry will re-evaluate many of their working practices and many who currently have to work from home will continue to work from home. Business that can be conducted via video conferencing will mean a sharp reduction in 'business-class' flights around the world. Already some airlines, looking to the future, are ripping out business class seats from their aircraft - there simply won't be the custom. That surely is part of a 'new normality'.

Sadly, at the moment, many of our Rotary initiatives worldwide are on hold. Even the infra-structure to deliver the End Polio Now Campaign has been turned to help with tackling the Covid19 pandemic. What is perhaps even more sad is that when the world comes out of this crisis the need for our Rotary initiatives will be even greater as the communities and countries in which we have been working start to re-build their lives. Reading the latest edition of RI in GBI *Rotary* magazine reminds us of many long-term, on-going Rotary international projects from Nepal to Sudan and across the African continent. Our own International Committee project with the charity Village by Village is very much a long-term initiative which we will continue to support generously after the epidemic has passed.

This Covid19 pandemic crisis has also brought into stark relief the need for evidence-based decision-making in society. Never before have our medics, scientists and mathematicians been so highly valued. We have seen week by week, the difference between those who simply 'talk the talk' and those who day-in and day-out put their lives on the line - for you and me. Another re-evaluation is going on here - another 'new normality' in the offing.

I always found it difficult to repeat the words of the second Object of Rotary which includes the words *'the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations'*. I've often wondered why the word 'useful' even needs to be there - but this crisis should at least have made us reconsider what a *useful* occupation is.

I really do hope we emerge from this epidemic into a different world - a kinder world, a cleaner world, a more generous world. A simpler world perhaps, echoing the quotation from Ghandi at the head of my reflection. And in that light here's the second of those super quotations I came across recently. This one from Lanza del Vasto (Italian philosopher, poet, artist, and nonviolent activist), who once urged: *"Find the shortest and simplest way between the earth, the hands, and the mouth."*

So until we meet again - keep safe, keep sane and keep well

Peter Branson



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# THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON A SMALL CHARITY

Rtn Bill Tomlinson. BEM,

I hope that you are all keeping well and clear of the virus. Delphine and I are fine and going for a walk each day, mainly down to the brook and in the fields. How lucky we are that we have a garden and countryside all around. Our daughter Joannah and partner, Gary, being teachers are on rotas at their respective schools and they have set work with electronic education direct with their pupils whilst at home. It surprises me that even with the less fortunate in our society they have total cover to all through tablets and 'phones. Their schools also loan out some devices. Although we try not to put on them too much they are looking after us with a 10-day weekly food shop etc which is Delphine's normal rota.

I realise that many in our society are having a hard time, not just with their health but with some losing their lives, others their jobs, or on furlough or being made redundant. The lock down too, is very difficult for many people and the closing of businesses is a great worry. With all this in mind I bring you to the situation the Holiday Centre.

The majority of our events in late Spring and Summer have been cancelled or postponed. Those cancelled for 2020 include the Skeg Vegas 100mile cycle ride for sponsorship, Lady Scarsdale's Open Garden, the Summer Spectacular at Repton School, Those postponed until later this year include the Charity Golf Day at Morley Hayes (now 23rd September) and the James Bond Red Carpet Premier "No Time To Die" (now 13th November). The canoeing event at Girton Sailing Club whereby teams undertake a return crossing of the channel for sponsorship is also postponed.

We can add to these the effect on giving to our collecting boxes and the events that schools pledge to do for our funds. Furthermore, presentations and talks have been cancelled and the effects of this has already cost our charity over £60,000 which is a big hit!! This of course could go on for quite a while and our losses increase accordingly. For example, Duncan Hogg's annual Milton Extravaganza in July is now cancelled and events at the Nags Head Pub in Belper and the Windmill Inn at Heage etc., are at risk of cancellation I appreciate that the Centre is closed and many staff are on furlough, but we still have ongoing expenses. I also appreciate that all charities are having a hard time and that all are thinking of doing something special.



Our cash in hand is relatively small and an average season costs our charity approaching £400,000. So you can see that once we return to our holidays and the children who have been so very disappointed are allocated another break, operationally it could be difficult. All this is when a break for a deserving child is so very much needed. We have served the Derbyshire community for over 125 years and plan to do so for another 125 years.

We have been busy trying to do what we can following a week, at the start of all this, feeling so disappointed at having one event after the other cancelled following so much hard work undertaken in preparation by all the team. So, Fund Raising Officer David Harris has made 24 applications for support from councils, clubs, groups, churches, lodges and other trusts etc. who have supported us in the past and I have also supported him in this with further bids and a few more to go. David has already had one positive response!! The eighteen members of the Centre Support Group have been asked if they have any ideas for fundraising that can be done from home. We keep seeing things on the TV and thought that between us we may come up with something. Some wonderful ideas have already been mentioned and we will work on these and meet via social media to discuss. Also, we have put it to a keep fit group that they consider doing an event online for funds and a cyclist to do a sponsored ride on a static bike.

A further blow was discovering the DCHC website had crashed halfway through April and couldn't be recovered for 14 days. That too has had a detrimental effect on donations.

If you have any ideas for fundraising within Rotary for DCHC, or indeed other charities please share them with others and then we as a Club have something to share around and help charities that are in a very difficult position and may be for years to come.

How wonderful it will be to see people in the pubs, restaurants and shops once again and to meet at Rotary. I wish you all the very best and keep safe,

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# Social Media - the antidote to social distancing

WhatsApp, Zoom, Houseparty, Skype, Facebook, Facetime, Twitter, Instagram and so on and so on... all platforms for live communication with our friends and family. Many of us will have managed to take advantage of this over the past month or so allowing interaction not just with one location but several at the same time.

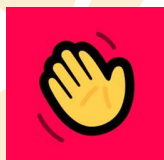
At Easter time our family has a tradition of meeting up with other families to go egg-rolling. We'd get together, paint our eggs and then all descend on a certain steep road in Belper to see who could get their egg to roll the furthest! This year that wasn't possible so our family attempted to recreate this over Skype. We each created our own ramps and took it in turns to roll our eggs. We'd then measure distance travelled to see who'd won. There was even a prize for the best painted egg.

Others have had their regular social gatherings over Zoom, 'sharing' a beer or two, a bottle of wine perhaps. but catching up on each others' news, jokes, thoughts and advice. At a time when connection with the outside world became threatened, social media is playing an essential role in keeping our nearest and dearest together. We even watched how people in other countries were getting by with home made videos of their collective singing from balconies, individual covid19 songs, humorous examples of how they were coping.

And then there are the virtual meetings; closest to home being Satellite's recent social gathering over Zoom. Choirs are able to virtually get together for rehearsals or just having fun. Fund raising has been continued by musicians getting together over one of these platforms to perform a new song. The recent 'Big Night In' presented a new song that involved several well-known musicians from around the globe all linked together by social media.



zoom



Whether we like or not we are seeing a massive growth in the way we all connect together through social media. All generations have learned how to positively use this media and maybe people will continue to link up after this crisis is over and use it as a means of communication rather than travelling miles to meet others in the flesh.

For further guidance there is some useful links on the RGBI website:

<https://www.rotarygbi.org/members/club-district-support/meeting-online/>

## Other News

The Tea Party premises are booked for Wednesday 9th December; however, the Party will obviously only take place if the Covid-19 status is such that it is fully safe to proceed.



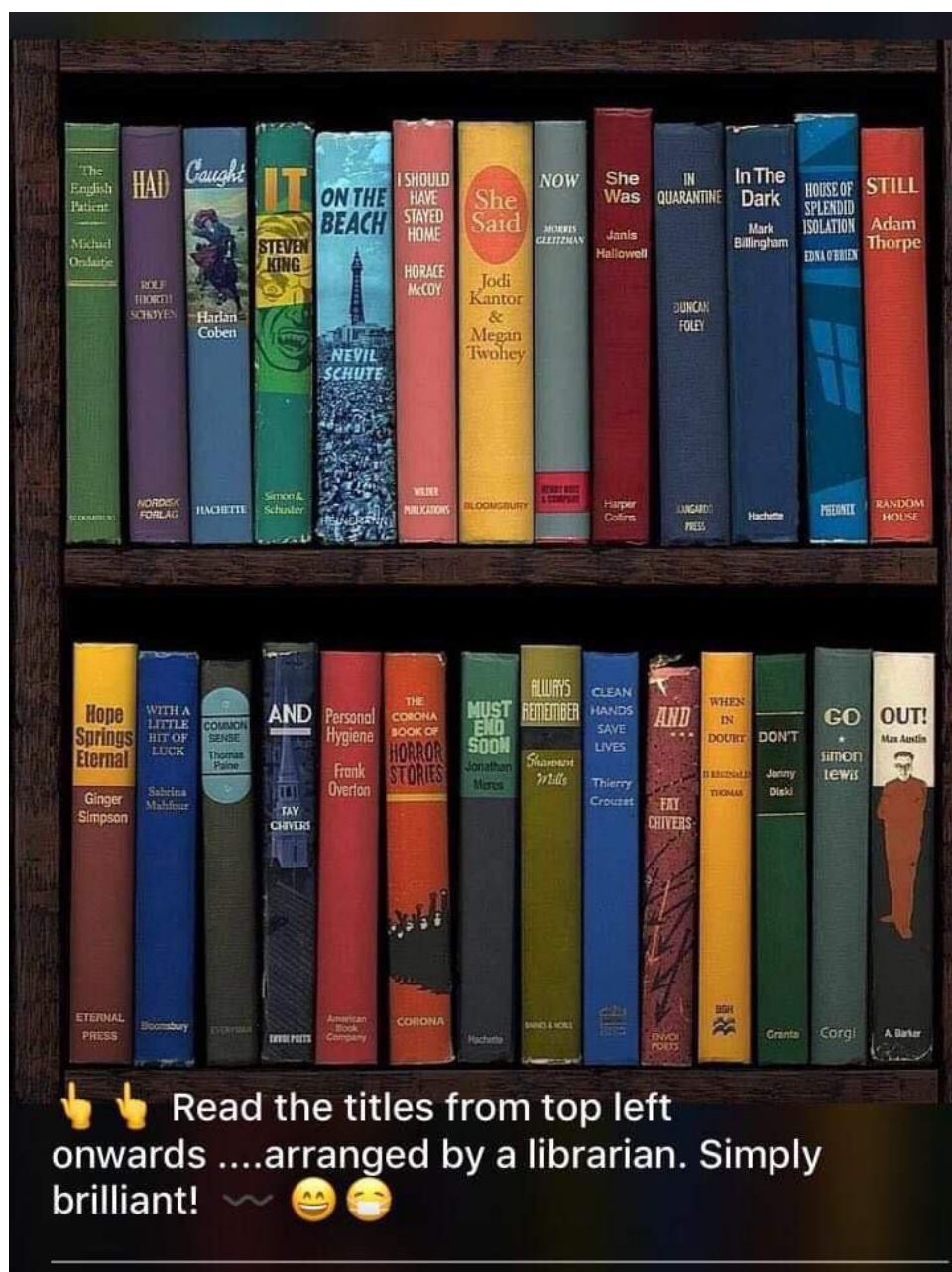
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# Derby Arboretum

Despite the current restrictions progress is gradually being made with the renovation of the Joseph Strutt Pavilion. The Lottery Fund has now set up the arrangements for drawing down funds and so the first invoice for part of the works has been submitted. In the meantime we have followed up on the funding pledge with the Garfield Weston Foundation. Having applied for funds over a year ago they pledged £7,500 subject to the FDA securing the full project cost. This has also progressed and the FDA should receive the cash in the near future.



Our builder, MJB Building Services (Midlands) Ltd, is prepared to recommence works recognising the current Covid19 guidelines. Two of his operatives will start the plaster boarding and plastering the walls to the first floor. This will be in conjunction with the electrician who will start the first fix electrics.



## A little light relief

*Some humour taken from the Club's WhatsApp community contributions!*

After suggesting injecting disinfectant to cure Covid 19, Trump has been charged with a Bleach of the peace and Domestos abuse 🤪



Pam Ayres  
@PamAyres

At last, we have a cure for all!  
Ailments large and ailments small,  
Good health is not beyond my reach,  
If I inject myself with bleach.

Radiant, I'll prance along,  
Every trace of limescale gone,  
With disinfectant as my friend,  
Like him,  
I'm clean around the bend.

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# Foundation Report

## End Polio Now, a Double Tragedy

Olivia Dean, Foundation Officer

The World Health Organisation, which co-ordinates the international response to the polio eradication programme, took the decision earlier this year to:

“ for the next four to six months, knowledge and operational assets and human resources, from global to country level, will be made available to enable a strong response to COVID-19, while maintaining critical polio functions, such as surveillance and global vaccine supply management.”

So why do I say ‘double tragedy’? Not only is it tragic that we are all affected by a pandemic that is leaving no part of the inhabited world untouched, but for now we have to accept that the End Polio Now campaign has been modified.

All the more reason to plan for renewed efforts in the forthcoming Rotary year to keep the polio eradication programme on the world’s health agenda and play our part in fund-raising to support that.

### Wild Poliovirus cases to date (28 April) in 2020

Afghanistan - 5

Pakistan - 41

### District Foundation Activity

Over the last few weeks the District Foundation team have co-ordinated a response to support local food banks. Clubs have been able to apply for a District grant, match funding, where they have evidenced the support for and of a local food bank.

This has been possible by using the remaining 2020 District grant funds not previously allocated to any club. All funds have now been allocated and those benefiting are clubs which range from Burton in the south to Rotherham in the north, Buxton in the Peak and Market Rasen in Lincolnshire.



# International Report

Eric Shaw Phillips – International Chair

Like all facets of life, the coronavirus pandemic has affected the activities of the International committee. In mid-March, on the first day of the lockdown we had an international meeting scheduled which we replaced with an “email meeting”, which worked reasonably well, and a second email meeting took place in mid-April. We have had to postpone the Hothouse Orchestra Concert Event which was scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> May until a future date, to be determined once we know when lockdown restrictions are relaxed enough for an event of this kind to take place – late Autumn 2020 seems to be the most optimistic date, although it may have to move to 2021. To show what we are missing the following is a picture of the orchestra playing at a recent event we look forward to welcoming them when we are able at the Little Eaton Village Hall. This orchestra were scheduled to play at the Tokyo Olympics this summer, which of course has also been postponed.



## Recent Fun Wine Quiz Event

Our ever-popular Fun Wine Quiz, which we ran with our Satellite Club, took place in the Riverside Centre in Pride Park on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The wines were sourced by John Beswarick, who also devised the quiz, which consisted of several multiple-choice questions about each wine. We provided a light meal consisting of bread, cheese, pâté, olives, pork pies, salad etc to eat whilst tasting the wines. A good time was had by all and we managed to raise a total of just over £1,100 which will go towards the provision of clean drinking water to the AbuAbu School in Ghana (see later).

**Continued over...**

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## Update on International Charities we are supporting in 2019/2020

Charities we are supporting this year include:

Classroom furniture for two classrooms in a new Junior High School in Abenta, Ghana: A picture of the desks in use at the new school is shown below – all built by local craftsmen using local materials – it also shows the plaque on the wall showing that the desks were provided by Rotary

Clean Water for a school in AboAbo, Ghana: This project is to provide clean drinking water to a school in AboAbo, a remote village in Ghana. The school already has hand washing facilities provided by Village by Village, as part of their “Clean Hands Saves Lives” initiative. This involved providing the AboAbo Primary School with a poly tank and rain water harvesting system and asked the children not to drink the water as it’s only for hand washing. However, they have discovered the children are drinking it regardless of VbyV asking them not to even though it could easily become contaminated from lizard and bird pollution. So now VbyV want to double the amount of water being harvested and add a system to take away the lizard and bird faeces that come off the roof and that the children are drinking plus putting a Chlorine Filter into the system with a push tap (So the kids cannot leave the tap running). The project includes supplying and maintaining the system with replacement filters for 2 years. A picture of the system that has been built in AboAbo is shown below:



## Update on Village by Village (VbyV)

Like many charities, VbyV are suffering the effects of the worldwide corona virus pandemic. Most of their work is in Ghana (they also started some projects in neighbouring Togo in 2019). Ghana has closed all of their borders and their major international airport as well as introducing travel restrictions within the country, and lock-downs in their major cities. Funding was been reduced due to VbyV having to stop taking volunteers (who pay for the privilege) and also some of the companies who are regular supporters have had to stop making donations due to their businesses suffering with the pandemic.

The Clean Water project at AboAbo School has been completed by VbyV staff in Ghana apart from the insertion of the chlorine filter which needs to be purchased in Accra – the school is closed (as are all schools in Ghana) so the system couldn’t be used anyway. VbyV are now focussing all their efforts in Ghana on their “Clean Hands Saves Lives” project, which has been running for a number of years and is very appropriate for the current pandemic. For all our events, which raise money for the international charities we support, we are very dependent on the generosity and support of all our Rotarians, their partners and friends, without which our events would not be successful. As well as attending events, Rotarians donate excellent raffle prizes and many make donations when they are unable to attend. We are very grateful for all this support.

## “Love in a Box” (shoebox 2020)

John Worthy writes:

Last year, we collected 2,207 shoeboxes for the charity Teams4U, contributing to the total of 64,000 that went to needy children in Romania Belarus, Bosnia, Moldova and Uganda. Here is a link to a video taken in Moldova:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Rrw-jlK2tg&t=10s>.

We were pleased with our collection in our first year with the charity. The outcome this year is very unpredictable, as we expect schools and businesses will be working hard to recover from the current crisis. We can only work to find a way to collect as many shoeboxes as possible.

On 1st February, Teams4U held their annual briefing session at their headquarters in Wrexham, to report back on last year’s campaign and listen to comments and suggestions from representatives of local groups across the country. Anthony Attwood and I represented our Club, with Pat Charge and Joyce Baldwin from our warehouse team. It was interesting to hear about other teams’ experiences. There were some amusing tales, including the shoebox that was collected containing a dead budgie. The donors had buried the wrong shoebox in the garden!



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Last year, our Club formed a Shoebox Subcommittee, to deal with the issues arising from switching charities. It comprised Eric Shaw-Phillips, John Fleming, John Cartmell, Celia England, Anthony and me. We intended to meet again this year to have a 'brainstorm' on how to increase shoebox numbers. It hasn't been possible to get together, but we have pooled our ideas by email and come up with the following suggestions:

- Get more business and commercial organisations on board. East Midlands Chamber of Commerce would be a good place to start.
- Create more publicity - local directories, Radio Derby, Derby Telegraph, social media.
- Create a pamphlet explaining the campaign and its importance.
- Expand the number of schools and our geographical range.
- Invite neighbouring Rotary clubs to take part (Belper and Duffield already work with us, Etwell & Hilton support a different shoebox campaign).
- Expand our range of churches to include non-Christian faiths.
- Invite more hospitals to take part.
- Approach Multi Academy Trusts, as they influence their schools' choices of charities.

We hope that prevailing conditions improve in time for us to build on last year's collection and implement the above suggestions. We need help, please!

**If you can contribute in any way, please let us know.**



## Coronavirus: 'It's not over until it's over everywhere'

Coronavirus is affecting all of us in some way, but those living in refugee camps or in makeshift settlements are particularly vulnerable.

The need for humanitarian support is greater than ever for families already living in inhumane conditions. That is why we're working around the clock with our trusted partners all over the world to get emergency shelter and essential aid items to families who need it now, more urgently than ever.



Our aid is unloaded after arriving at a camp in Syria. ReliefAid workers are taking extra care during distribution, including wearing face masks and gloves, frequent hand washing, and maintaining a distance from people in the camps.

In the poorest countries of the world – many also shouldering the burden of disaster or conflict – there are fewer medical facilities, and countless families without proper homes to isolate in, living in incredibly crowded conditions. Coronavirus can and will spread like wildfire.

To put it into perspective, there are 6,000 people per square kilometre in Wuhan, where this outbreak began, but 40,000 people per square kilometre in a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh. We must realise that as bad as things have been here in the past month, we are nowhere near the catastrophe faced by displaced communities around the world, where coronavirus could spread unchecked without testing and access to hospital care. It was reported this week, for example, that the Central African Republic has just 3 ventilators for its 5 million population.



A woman collects ShelterBox aid. Many families don't have the basics they need to protect themselves, like shelter and soap.

## Operations Update

The Ops Team are working to identify the particular challenges Covid-19 poses in each of the countries where we are currently working - all of which are identified as priority countries in the Global Covid-19 Humanitarian Response Plan.

In **Cameroon**, for example, transmission is already placing huge strain on an under-resourced health system. Some health care facilities have come under attack from armed groups, reducing capacity further. The distribution of ShelterBox tents will help to give everyone more room and help measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

In **Ethiopia** our partner, IOM, is focussing on life-saving interventions including their project with us. We are finding ways to use distributions to push Covid-19 health and prevention messaging.

In North-West **Syria** there are currently no restrictions on international borders nor on internal movement. Our Partner, ReliefAid, has been taking precautions including wearing face masks and gloves, frequent hand washing, and maintaining a distance from people in the affected communities. Soap and a hand basin will now be included as part of the household items package. In North-East Syria, the border with Iraq is closed and there are restrictions on internal movement, which means that aid is currently held up in a warehouse in Iraq.

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# Satellite News

## Simon Keeling writes:

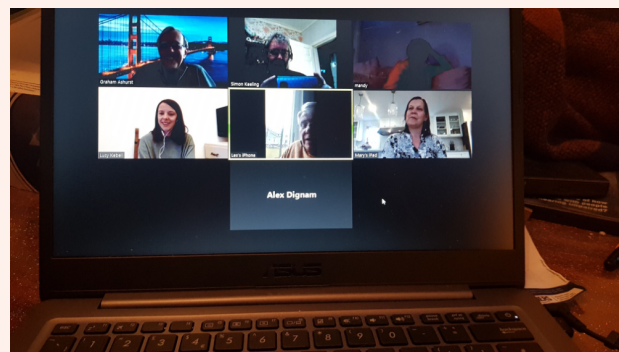
Sadly due to the Coronavirus crisis our forthcoming events, the Race Night in April and our Murder Mystery, which was planned for June have had to be cancelled but we will be re-visiting these when we are able to.

We have been keeping in touch through having meetings online using Zoom, we've even had a fun social evening joined by members of the Derby Club including Les Bryan, who attended from his family's house in the States and a guest from a Club that Graham had visited.

We also set up a successful WhatsApp group where members share jokes and help cheer each other up when lockdown leaves us a little crazy.

We are still in touch with our charities and we are looking at ways we can support their online fundraising activity including an online Race Night and a cycling challenge that could be done at home or when out exercising, we will be in touch when anything is finalised.

Our next meeting, in May will be a special one for us as we are having a team Quiz Night, for a bit of fun. Hopefully, if this is a success then we will see if we can repeat this for friends, family and supporters.



## Graham Ashurst writes:

### Linking up with the Rotary Club of Clinton, New York.

Graham and Gill Ashurst visited the United States during October last year. Graham had always intended to make contact with a local Rotary club, and the opportunity arose when he and Gill were staying in Clayton, New York. Clayton is a very small town just over 250 miles North of New York City. It has only around 2,000 inhabitants (5,000 including the outlying districts), and is a tourist destination, situated on the St. Lawrence River. Boat trips are available in season to the famous Thousand Islands located in the river, which forms the border with Canada. Clayton is a very friendly and welcoming town.

Making contact with the local Rotary club couldn't have been easier. The club Secretary, Mary Zovistoski, turned out to be the owner of the local deli, where we bought our sandwiches and pastries. She told us that there was no regular Rotary meeting that week, but the club, which has about 20 members, was organising the town meeting where candidates for local office (Mayor, Town Council, etc.) running in the November elections would be questioned by the voters. So we went along and found it very interesting - there is still a vibrant and civilised local democracy in the US. The Clayton club is clearly very active. During the Easter period they took the large Easter Eggs normally used for a children's egg hunt, and used them to decorate the garden of a retirement home.

We agreed to keep in touch and this has really taken shape during the coronavirus restrictions. Graham attended a Zoom meeting of the Clayton club a few weeks ago, with another 'visit' planned, and Mary has joined in a Satellite social as well as the April business meeting. We hope that this will enable us to establish a link for the future and to share our varied experiences of Rotary life.



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