



DARWEN ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN



July/August 2019

PRESIDENT

Alec Stuttard
5 Clemens Court
Darwen, BB3 1QG
Tel: 01254 481404
Or 07724086454
e-mail: stuttard.alec@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Gil Riley
30 Cloister Drive
Darwen, BB3 3JX
Tel: 01254 704844
or 07754220009
e-mail: gilriley.rotary@btinternet.com

EDITOR: Roy Chatburn, 19 Ambleside Drive, Darwen. Tel: 701926, e-mail: roy.chatburn@talktalk.net

Club News



Tower art

As part of our club's campaign to raise awareness of the need for community involvement in our bid to raise cash for the repair of Darwen Tower, an art exhibition was organised among the town's schools. It culminated in an exhibition in the Library when winners were announced. Judged by local artist Ian Morris, it was organised by Darwen Rotarian John Jacklin and Harold Heys, a Friend of Darwen Library. Pictured are some of the winners, visitors and president Alec with judge Ian.



New officers

After the president's handover from Alec Stuttard to Julia O'Hara on July 1, the new officers are Jeff Tyler, secretary, and John Jacklin, treasurer.

In-coming president Julia's hopes for her year ...



I am really looking forward to my year as president and I intend to make it a social year in which we can invite family and friends to join.

I would like to start with my social calendar as we have had a very busy few months and wouldn't like to frighten you all off, so here goes – diaries at the ready.

First of all I have booked an afternoon tea with Dolly's for 2.30pm on Friday, July 26, this year, at the usual cost of £12-95. It will be a great opportunity to get together with partners and friends and family to have a good old-fashioned natter.

I propose a trip on Friday, September 27, 2019 to the Albert Hall in Bolton Town Hall to see Oliver performed by the Catholic Choral Society, who I have seen before, and believe me, they are excellent. Tickets are £23 per head and include a fish and chips supper at the Olympus Grill, an up-market chippy which is a short walk from the theatre.

I have also booked another steak night at the Artisan Café on Bridge Street on November 14, 2019.

Next year, round about the 6th of June, a day out at Ripon Races – we can take a picnic, our own seating and table, and sit in the middle of the race course and watch the racing. Bring your own wine. I have already made enquiries for transport and for a 49 seater coach and admission it would be approximately £20-£25 per head.

To reach that number we will need others to join in. I have already had interest shown by the 41 Club and others, so it should be a good day.

There is an opportunity with these events to invite friends and potential new members, the more people you invite the more chance there is of attracting new members.

Carrying from that, the membership is going to be a priority of mine and to this end I will initiate some casual meetings to be held in between our current meetings nights. One will be at the Artisan Café on July 17th at 7pm. Jason is kindly putting on a small buffet and also designing a Facebook page event asking “do you want to help your community, come and meet us and bring your ideas”.

Also, Cathryn at Dolly's is putting on a similar event inviting like-minded people to join us for coffee on June 27 from 2.30pm. This will also be promoted on Facebook. All members are welcome to attend these meetings but I feel that maybe just a couple of us at a time is enough, then increasing if it takes off. While it may not attract people immediately, I propose to run more meetings over the course of a few months to give it a chance.

Our on-going commitments are: Life Education, the Calvert Trust, RYLA, RYPEN, Young Musician, Young Photographer/Young Writer, Painting Competition, Dragon Eggs, Rotakids, Primary School Technology, Charter Night and Market Stall Santa, and not forgetting the Tower Restoration Fund.

New for this year is the Wrap Up Lancashire initiative in conjunction with other Lancashire Rotary Clubs. We will be asking for the public to donate warm coats for homeless and disadvantaged people. This will run from the end of September until the beginning of November. Volunteers will be needed to empty the collection boxes and deliver the contents to a central store, probably in Accrington.

Fund-raising events: Petticoat Lane, 40s Day, cake stall at Food Festival, Tower Trudge (Gil Riley), Rotary Day 2020, but this time to raise money.

We have for the past couple of years talked about a Wishing Well or bench. I think we have talked enough, it needs to happen. I have had a meeting with Gemma from the Council and outlined our

plans to site a Wishing Well on the new square as well as providing a bench along the wall outside the new doors from the Market, and she will see if it is possible.

Nearly finished ... Just a bit of housekeeping for our new treasurer, whoever that is going to be. When prospective members ask the question "how much does it cost?", rather than say £100 a year – because this is when eyes glaze over and they make a bolt for the door – can we not say it's £10 a month, paid by standing order? That seems to be the way other clubs work and also the younger generation.

As you can see, we are going to be busy again, but I think that for a club of this size we have done exceptionally well in the previous year and I am sure that with your continued support we can do just as well this year, if not better.

Finally, just a reminder that the position of present-elect is still vacant and I am only doing one year as president. Thank you all for your patience. Let's see if we can make it all happen.

Minutes of open club meeting held at the Dolly's, June 17

Present: Alan Slack (AS), John Jacklin (JNJ), Tony O'Hara (TO), Julie O'Hara (JO), Alec Stuttard (AS), Gerald Eden (GE), Geoff Tolley (GT), Jeff Tyler (JT), Roy Chatburn (RC), John East (JE), Gordon Holden (GH), Tom Marsden (TM).

JNJ reported that the Art Competition had been a success. The additional Highly Recommended prizes had been well received and it meant that every school taking part had a winner.

The possibility of a photographic competition was being considered and possibly an art competition for adults.

JO reported on a successful Rotakids Conference. TO asked if we had any contacts to help fill the "goody bags" for the conference next year.

AS asked for members to let him have estimates of the hours they had spent on various Rotary projects for the purpose of reporting to RI and also to help with the application to the Heritage Fund for the tower grant.

JNJ suggested the possibility of a Crazy Golf Competition at Barton Grange to help raise fund for the Tower.

Consideration was given to club grants for this year. JNJ explained the funds available and that they were less than usual as fundraising in the past year had been for the Tower project.

The following grants were approved: Rotary Foundation £500, Bolton Mountain Rescue £250, Cancer Research UK £250, East Lancs Hospice £250, Macmillan Nurses £250, Derian House £500, Water Aid £100, Polio Plus £250, Blood Bykes £100, Maddies Butterflies £100, Rosemere Trust £100.

Diary events

July 12: Rossendale Rotary Summer Concert 7pm for 7-30, St Mary's Church, Rawtenstall, £8

July 26: Club's afternoon tea at Dolly's tea room, 2.30pm, £12-95

August 2: Penrith Rotary charity golf tournament, further information: penrithrotarygolf.org.uk

August 31: Club's charity bowls competition for Darwen Tower repair fund. Details from Archie Anthony

September 4: Life Education social evening and hotpot supper at Shackleton's Garden Centre, Chatburn, 7pm for 7.30, £12. See Alan Slack for tickets.

Speakers and Meeting Dates

July 1: President's handover

July 22: Social meeting followed by Council

July 29: No meeting

August 5: Committee night followed by Council

August 12: No meeting

August 19: Social meeting

August 26: Bank holiday, no meeting

September 2: Committee night followed by Council meeting

Just joking

Fred was amazed at the length of the funeral procession going down Main Street. He saw that the cortege consisted entirely of men and it was led by a man holding a Doberman.

His curiosity got the best of him and walked up to the man. "Excuse me for interrupting you in your time of grief", said Fred, "but I've never seen such a funeral procession. Would you mind telling me who it's for?"

"It's for my mother-in-law," explained the mourner. Tightening the leash, he gestured down at the dog and said, "My Doberman killed her."

"That's terrible," commiserated Fred, "but hmmm....is there any way you could lend me your dog for a day or so?"

The bereaved son-in-law pointed his thumb over his shoulder and answered, "get in line!"

The world's first fully computerised airliner was ready for its maiden flight without pilots or crew. The plane taxied to the loading area automatically, its doors opened automatically, the steps came out automatically. The passengers boarded the plane and took their seats.

The steps retreated automatically, the doors closed, and the airplane taxied toward the runway.

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen," a voice said. "Welcome to the debut of the world's first fully-computerised airliner. Everything on this aircraft is run electronically. Just sit back and relax. Nothing can go wrong ... nothing can go wrong...nothing can go wrong..."

One afternoon, a wealthy lawyer was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two men eating grass by the road side. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate.

“Why are you eating grass?” he asked one man.

“We don’t have any money for food,” the poor man replied.

“Oh, come along with me then.”

“But sir, I have a wife with two children!”

“Bring them along! And you, come with us too”, he said to the other man.

“But sir, I have a wife with six children,” the second man answered.

“Bring them as well!”

They all climbed into the car, which was no easy task, even for such a big car. Once underway, one of the men said, “You are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you.”

The lawyer replied, “No problem, the grass at my home is about two feet tall!”

The Rotary Club of Darwen meets at Dolly’s Tearoom, Bolton Road, Darwen, on Mondays at 6pm for 6.30pm. The attendance officer is Alan Slack, tel: 01254 704107. *The club was founded in May 1933 and is club number 383 of District 1190 RIBI. RI Club number 19873*