



DARWEN ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN June/July 2018



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Club News

The building of our Lego Darwen Tower has been officially completed following the receipt of 15 per cent of the money raised by Harry Todd, who suffers from muscular dystrophy, on a sponsored walk where he raised a total of £578 for St Cuthbert's Church. Alan Slack is currently arranging a Perspex cover for it and it will stay in the Market Hall with a collecting box for the restoration of the real Darwen Tower. Secretary Gil is seen placing the final piece at the top of the Tower.

Diary Events

June 10: Ribble Valley Cycle Ride, organised by Rotary clubs of Clitheroe and Accrington. Register on www.ribbonvalleyride.org.

June 20: Steak night at Artisan.

June 23: Ribble Valley Pub Walk organised by Ribblesdale Rotary club in aid of East Lancs Hospice. Contact East Lancs Hospice.

July 1: District Officers' Handover Garden Party at Sizergh Castle, Kendal.

Life Education events ... *(details of all will be circulated nearer time)*

June 9: Talent contest, St James Church hall, Clitheroe, for children aged 7-11 years.

July/August: Fun day at the Legion, Clitheroe.

September: Wine tasting at the Legion, Clitheroe.

October 5 or 12: Race Night in Darwen.

November 6: La Vespa Italian meal, Clitheroe.

December 4: Christmas Meal, Station Inn, Clitheroe.



Speakers

June 11: No meeting.

June 18: Speaker: Sam Taylor - ideas for change to move the club forward and to attract new members, followed by Council.

June 25: No meeting

July 2: President's handover.

July 16: No meeting.

July 23: Speaker: Olive Carroll on Ivro, Western Kenya, followed by Council.

July 30: No meeting.

August 6: Committee Night followed by Council.

Club Assembly Reports

In-coming president's report

My plans have been thrown into some disarray by recent events, not least of which was a hip replacement operation just three weeks ago. I am glad to say that I am recovering well, but it is restricting my movement somewhat.

My major project for the year has also hit a stumbling block. The aim I had in mind was to light up Darwen Tower, something which has been a dream of many people and organisations in the town for years.

However, as many of you will have heard, the Tower itself is badly in need of considerable repairs estimated to cost in the region of £100,000 and it is clear that those are a priority at the moment. So I am putting forward a "Save Our Tower" project as my major plan for the year. I believe a fund already exists, set up by Friends of Darwen Tower with a special Just Giving Page, so I will be appealing to the people of Darwen as well as organisations and companies to make their donations to that fund.

Anyone who wishes to pay by cheque should make it out to the Rotary Club of Darwen.

It is worth recalling that when the Tower was built it was paid for by public subscriptions from the townsfolk.

I hope you will support my efforts to put Darwen Tower at the top of the agenda once more.

My other plans for the year are:

1. To make further effort to recruit new younger members following Tony's tremendous year in which we have made much progress in that area.
2. Look for new money-raising schemes following the amazing Lego Tower achievement.
3. I would like to help the Darwen Food Bank. Perhaps we could have a collecting box at our meetings for members to donate tinned goods.

Alec Stuttard

Community and Vocational Service Committee

One of our main planks of fundraising has come to an end with the completion of the Lego Tower. Having raised £25,000 for both local and international charities we need to turn our thoughts to future events. The Tower will however continue to raise funds. Arrangements are being made for a permanent site in the Market Hall and it will have a donation box for a selected charity for a set period. The first one is for funds to help with the renovation of the real Tower.

Our thinking will be an ongoing process and I am sure that with such an array of talent within the club we will find some other unique way of extracting funds for good causes.

In the meantime:-

- 1) We will continue with our work with Rotakids. Currently we only deal with four schools. It would be good to expand this but it will need more input from members other than those already involved.
- 2) Our support of the Calvert Trust will continue. We have had a number of successful participants in recent years and it is hoped we will find someone to help this coming year.
- 3) We will continue to work with a local school on Rypen. Last year we had a setback with late withdrawals but it is hoped with closer liaison with parents this can be avoided in future.
- 4) Our support of Life Education will continue.
- 5) Following a meeting between the chair of the committee and the heads of the local Aldridge schools it was ascertained they would like to be more closely involved in activities in the community. The new Studio School were particularly interested in the Rotary Photographic Competition. This contact needs to be followed up.
- 6) We will continue to support Rotary's Young Musicians competition, probably by supporting someone wishing to take part.
- 7) The Market Square has been booked for Saturday, May 11, next year for our proposed Rotary Day. Tentative plans are for a marquee in which all good things connected to Rotary will be displayed, Iron Lung, Water Aid, Shelter Box, etc, etc, while outside there will be stalls for local charities to display their work and raise funds. There will be musical entertainment and children's activities. It is hoped to attract a wide spectrum of people and to educate them in the work of Rotary as well as entertain them. We hope other clubs will join us on the day. Anyone booking a holiday on this day will be heavily fined!!!

I cannot think of any other planned activities but I am sure other ideas and plans will emerge as the year passes.

John Jacklin, chairman

International Committee

Plans for the coming year...

At this stage there are no specific plans and the chairman would welcome contributions from committee members at the first meeting in the forthcoming Rotary year.

Two guest speakers have been invited to the club to give presentations on July 23 and August 20 about work they are currently engaged in in Kenya and Gambia respectively. After these two presentations we will be in a better position to decide where to put our efforts.

We will continue to respond to any requests to help where there is an international disaster, in the normal way.

Through Rotarian East we will also continue to support local refugees. Considering that for many years Darwen Rotary have generously supported Rotary Foundation without ever requesting a Foundation Grant then this is something as a club we should consider doing. However, bearing in mind limited resources, any project would need to be well thought through and maybe better positioned and allocated to a local project rather than an international one.

Les Frankish, chairman

Just Joking

**HELVETICA AND TIMES NEW
ROMAN WALK INTO A BAR.**

**"GET OUT OF HERE!" SHOUTS
THE BARTENDER. "WE DON'T
SERVE YOUR TYPE."**

**DID YOU HEAR ABOUT
THE CLAUSTROPHOBIC
ASTRONAUT?**

**HE JUST NEEDED
A LITTLE SPACE.**

**WHY DID THE CHICKEN
GO TO THE SÉANCE?**

**TO GET TO THE
OTHER SIDE.**

**WHY DON'T SCIENTISTS
TRUST ATOMS?**

**BECAUSE THEY
MAKE UP EVERYTHING.**

The Rotary Club of Darwen meets at Darwen Masonic Hall, Hawkshaw Avenue, Darwen, BB3 1QZ, tel: 01254 702594, twice monthly 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