



**We're for communities**

## Roundabout August 2016

Happy New Year! Well, it is in Rotary world anyway! The beginning of July sees the induction of new Presidents and other officers from Rotary International right down to club level.



**Congratulations to Eugene Kraft** who received his chain of office from Immediate Past President Robert Macaulay on 4 July. We were delighted that his wife Penny could be with us to celebrate. **Congratulations also to Pat Prestney**, President Elect and **Colin Brodie**, Vice President. Colin kindly helped Pat out by kneeling down to receive his new ribbon!

Ian McMeekan delivered a poem (verbally and framed!) to Robert Macaulay. The poet was Alan Clark, Immediate Past District Governor, who had included many of Robert's achievements in his words. Thank you Alan. Eugene congratulated Robert on his excellent presidency.

Eugene was born in South Africa, where he gained a degree in engineering. He then moved to join Marconi in Chelmsford, followed by other telecommunications companies and then self-employment as a consultant. Rotary, which he joined in 2009, has become a large part of his life and he has come to understand the true meaning of "service above self".

## Festival of Music and Dance

What a wonderful Festival of Music and Dance we had in June, culminating with the Dance Gala on 1 July and the Music Gala on 2 July. Robert and Eugene both thanked festival chairman Pat Prestney and her team of volunteers for all of the hard work involved. Everyone who had seen the performances was bowled over by the high standard and enthusiasm (and fun!). Details of the winners are available in a special report. There are so many to mention!

Find out more at <http://colrotfest.org/> and on the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/colrotfest>

## Marks Hall Garden & Country Show

Gosh – July was busy!! After eighteen months of planning and preparation, we were all greatly relieved that the weekend of 16 and 17 July was hot and sunny. We had such an amazing event with more than 5,000 people through the gate, all raising money for Essex Air Ambulance, Marks Hall and our club. Watch this space in the September newsletter for news of the amount raised. We heard many positive comments about how much people had enjoyed the event (as well as a few comments to take on board for the next time!). A huge “thank you” to everyone involved, including the sponsors and those who donated silent auction items.



## Tuesday 19 July

We welcomed guests Dylan and Samantha Christopher who had enjoyed the music festival. Not surprisingly, there was a buzz of excitement at this meeting about the success of the Marks Hall event!

Jess from the **Colchester Town Watch** gave a fascinating illustrated talk about this group, formed in 2001 from a desire to recreate and promote an important part of Colchester's rich heritage – the Tudor era. Since its formation, the Mayor of Colchester and other civic dignitaries have honoured the Watch by joining it in the annual perambulation of Colchester's ancient town wall, in furtherance of the ancient tradition known as "beating the bounds". In his vote of thanks Dick Barton noted that the Watch would have originally received cakes and ale as thanks from the townsfolk – a tradition the Watch is happy to continue!



[www.colchester-townwatch.org](http://www.colchester-townwatch.org)

## Tuesday 26 July

President Eugene's first duty, after welcoming everyone, was to induct our newest member. **Nigel Humphreys** was introduced by President-Elect Pat Prestney. He has recently retired as a family solicitor. We all hope that he will enjoy his membership as much as we enjoy ours.



IPP Robert Macaulay reported on his recent attendance at the **Action for Family Carers** awards day for young carers. Our initiative in supporting this very worthwhile organisation has resulted in the whole training and awards scheme being rolled out across the county.

Dick Barton reported on the distribution of about 180 **Dictionaries4Life** to five local schools, and was thanked for his continuing work for this project. These dictionaries are beautifully produced, suitable for 9 year olds and upwards. Over 40,000 have been shipped into the UK, and thanks to generous supporters, they have been distributed around the country. Most of them are given to Year 6 leavers from primary schools. All the Colchester Rotary Clubs are in the scheme, as are most Clubs in District 1240. The books from our club all have the recipient's name handwritten by our tame calligrapher.



Rotarian John Tillett was reported to be continuing to improve and hopes to return to us before much longer. David Casey read out a letter of thanks for our support of Holidays4Heroes Jersey.

When we came to 100 Club Draw, it was mentioned that Ivan Hewitt never won. Well...he did this time – not only first, but also second.

Brian and Carole Willis gave a fascinating presentation on WaterAid and their own involvement. Brian acknowledged Rotary's involvement since the earliest days – 1981 - which has helped to raise the profile. Carole pointed out they never interrupt each other - during presentations - which they have adhered to since they became "speakers" for the charity in 2013.

WaterAid now has sponsoring bodies in 37 countries, and supports clean water and sanitation projects (and thus health and education) in 25 developing countries; 1400 children die every day from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and lack of toilets. They are installing one new water source per day, working locally with residents, especially women.

Carole got involved when running the London Marathon in 2012, and, despite a road accident, she and Brian have taken part in sponsored climbs. The couple then showed a short film, “We are WaterAid”, showing the improved supplies of water, and sanitation projects. The good news is that the UN resolution last autumn calls on all countries to assist in providing clean water and decent sanitation by 2030.



**Rotary Great Britain and Ireland** has launched the Purple4Polio campaign, which encourages everyone to join together in the final push to eradicate polio worldwide.

Backed by singer-songwriter, Donovan, and former Blue Peter presenter, Konnie Huq, the campaign was launched at a prestigious event on the River Thames during the presidential handover from Peter Davey to Eve Conway.

Tower Bridge was raised and glowed purple on the backdrop of the river as the campaign was launched aboard the Dixie Queen. The colour purple was chosen for the initiative to represent the children whose little fingers are coloured purple to signify their immunisation against polio.

This campaign will see Rotary clubs across Britain and Ireland taking part in wide, varied and fun activities highlighting the **Purple4Polio** campaign to help Rotary End Polio Now. One exciting part of the campaign will be a collaboration, which will see Rotary team up with the Royal Horticultural

Society's Bloom Groups to transform public spaces and brighten up local communities by planting five million purple crocus corms across Britain and Ireland.

Rotary has a long and successful history in its fight against polio, which it started in 1985, and continues to play a key role including raising funds and through its advocacy. When it started this challenge over 30 years ago there were 125 endemic countries and now there are just two.

In 2015 there were 74 cases of polio recorded, and to date this year there have been 18. Through the **Purple4Polio** campaign, Rotary aims to reduce this number to zero.

Rotary **Purple4Polio** Ambassador, Donovan, explained at the launch event why it was a cause so close to his heart: "I'm proud of this polio campaign because I had polio myself when I was a wee child in Glasgow."

Eve, Donovan and Konnie explain more here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t5Lu9zyWB0>

## Shelter Box

Rotary and disaster relief charity Shelter Box have renewed a three-year agreement to provide immediate, life-saving assistance to survivors of natural disasters and conflict. Each Shelter Box container typically provides a tent designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, along with regionally-appropriate supplies such as a water purification kit, blankets, tools, solar lights, and other necessities to help a family survive for six months or more after a disaster.

## Find out more about the Rotary Club of Colchester on our website

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1401>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/colchesterrotary/>

Follow us on Twitter @rotarycolchest1

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## Lunchtime meetings are at 12.30 for 12.45 pm in the Balkerne Restaurant at Colchester Institute

Tuesday 9 August Speaker: Rebecca Root, Lepra

Tuesday 16 August Speaker: YMCA

Tuesday 23 August Speaker: Justine Wilsher, Colchester and Tendring Women's Refuge

Tuesday 30 August Business meeting

Tuesday 6 September To be held in the Mercury Theatre restaurant