

## Rotary Club of Wolverhampton

### Centre of club communications

District 1210

Registered Charity No. 220492

[www.rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk](http://www.rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk)

April 2019



### Big Bang Fair

Every year the 'Big Bang Fair' takes place at the NEC Birmingham for young scientists and engineers. This mammoth event is designed to encourage career choices in engineering, technology and science to our future citizens. Well over 20,000 children attend every day with their teachers, from schools right across the UK from Cornwall to Scotland.



Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) was there. Our club member Richard Green was part of the team helping out on the stand. We demonstrated Rotary's Technology Tournament and talked about the huge range of opportunities and competitions we make available, free of charge, to schools and youth groups. These include RYLA (Rotary Young Leaders Awards,) Youth Exchange, the Young Musician, Photographer, Young Chef, Youth Speaks competitions, Rotakids, Interact clubs and many others.



### Pauls Pearls

Another interesting month. I had the opportunity to finally propose to members the changes to the way we do our rotary service to make it more relevant to a modern world. I sent a note to every member with the details and on 2nd April we had our first meeting in a more relaxed style. I enjoyed it, not just for the speaker Ian Bell, who spoke about the charity "Send a Cow," but because I didn't have to sit on that awful "throne" and wear the chain. It will probably take a little time to get used to it all but I think it will be for the better.

The Apprentices Awards Evening was once again held at South Staffs Golf Club. It was an honour for me to host two of George Sidebotham's sons who had travelled from Norfolk and Cornwall. I was amazed at the amount of sheer hard work the apprentices did in taking planes to pieces and putting them back together.

One big highlight of the month was the induction of a new member. It was a pleasure to welcome Terry Walker to the club and I trust we will all help him get the most out of his membership.

Jeremy Walters gave us a fascinating talk on Crime in Victorian Wolverhampton. I have always thought that having a talk by our own members is most enjoyable and I would urge any member who has a tale to tell to let Roy Sutcliffe know. While I am on the subject of speakers, it is becoming more difficult to arrange speakers' hosts. Several members ask that they be excluded from the speakers host rota because they are reluctant to have to give a vote of thanks. I have proposed that all members go on the rota but if they do not want to speak then the President will give the Vote of Thanks. This will increase the "pool" of hosts and reduce the constant recycling of the same few members.

**Editor's note:** The masthead (top of the page) has been changed in part to modernise it and also to include an up-to-date Rotary wheel. We hope you like it.



## District 10 Pin Semi Final

The Wolverhampton magnificent 6 went to Stafford to face old enemy Cannock in the Semi-final of the district 10 pin bowling competition. We know that Cannock are competitive, and that their defeat to us will not have pleased Captain Jacko Page. Look on the bright side Jacko...there is always the fellowship to enjoy. Onwards to the Final in Shrewsbury.

Jacko thinks : Well that Didn't work! I dragged them all the way to Stafford and the b\*\*\*\*\*s still won by 71 pins!! Let me check one more time...

**Postscript.** The Final. We gathered in Shrewsbury to contest the final with Granddaughter club Welington. It was a very tight match which Wellington edged by only 18 pins.

## A Quiz Too Far

In this biggest of the District competitions (as we were told) our team attended the semi-final, with 6 other teams at our venue (and another 25 elsewhere). We had won through twice but a third time was a big ask. We came fourth and got the sack. We failed to make the last 10 teams who will compete in the final round. Our score was again about 60% - not terrible. The winner on the night (and favourite for the title?) was St Georges with an impressive 75% plus.

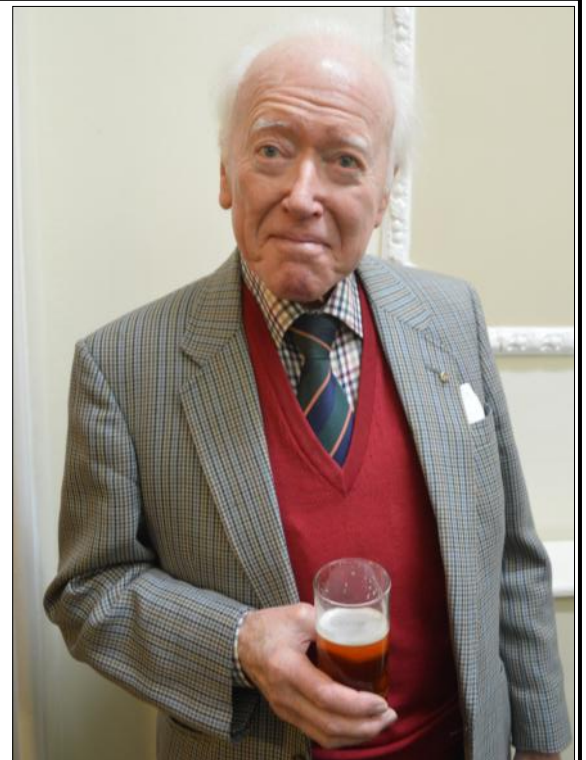


## Terry Walker

We are delighted to greet our new member. Terry has had a varied career starting as an engineer, moving into financial services, estate agency and building, in which he is still involved with his sons. We are sure that members will not hold it against him that he is a Baggies supporter. He was a member of Swinton Golf Club but now contents himself with outings to Ledene where he manages to clear the lake without landing in the bushes. Welcome to the club Terry! SW

## David McDonald 1928-2019

We must sadly report that David died last month at the age of 90. He became a member of our club in 1984 having come to Wolverhampton to work for Birmingham Midshires Building Society, becoming its Joint Chief Executive and later Chief Executive. Through Rotary he was invited to become a trustee of Wolverhampton Church Association for the Deaf and was subsequently its Treasurer for a number of years. He was a keen golfer and joined South Staffs while remaining a life member of Royal Liverpool (at Hoylake, Wirral). His former house in Hoylake backed onto the course and his widow Elspeth informs me that although he had been unwell for some time he very much enjoyed his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the club. He was also a keen follower of Country Pursuits, being himself a good shot and organising shoots involving Tony Waugh, George Sidebotham, Mick Taylor and Don Lowe. He was also a keen fisherman of salmon and trout, sometimes in Scotland and other times on Tony Waugh's trout pool. He wasn't happy when his previous prowess began to fail – one member recalls a Rotathlon Shoot at which he complained that he had 'not hit a f\*\*\*\*\*g thing'! Another member tells us that 'he had a great sense of humour, was super company and as a Scotsman could hold his own drinking whisky'. RIP, David. SW







## Cosford Apprentices

For the 8<sup>th</sup> time and close to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Sidebotham's passing a good crowd (circa 60) assembled at South Staffs Golf Club for presentations by the six incumbents. We had a tasty meal and listened as the six young men surveyed some of their activities during the past year, the RAF Centenary year - with many excellent slides of restored or partially restored planes in various locations. Afterwards they received praise for their endeavours and Ashley Guise (on the right in the photo) was given the best apprentice award and a present of tools from Rob Davis, a

Bomber Command historian. Much thanks are due to Peter Wright, who took great pains to make this an enjoyable and memorable evening. SW **Postscript** : A few days later we received the sad news of death of Mick Shepherd, recently retired Apprentice Manager.

"Cher Jean Claude, Je m'appelle Theresa. J'habite à Londres. J'aime Duran Duran et le ping-pong. Avez-vous un Plan de Brexit? Je n'ai pas."



What is Rob Davies saying? (In English or French.)



## Jeremy Walters on Crime

Jeremy gave us an edifying talk on crime in Victorian Wolverhampton. The list of misdemeanours was familiar : theft, prostitution, pickpocketing, illegal gambling (cock fighting etc), drunkenness, violence, murder. One of Jack the Ripper's victims was a Wolverhampton girl – but murder was not a very frequent crime. Prostitution was a scourge with 40 brothels in the town in 1872 and links with criminality. The Irish quarter near present-day

Carvers accounted for a lot of drunkenness and crowd misbehaviour. One of the common

sanctions was transportation to Australia, even for minor thefts, until this was ended in 1853. A surprise in Jeremy's list was the crime of adulteration, water added to milk, sand added to sugar, acorns added to coffee etc. This may well have contributed to typhoid epidemics e.g in 1873. Sir Robert Peel set up the police force in London in 1829 and Wolverhampton had a police force of 12 in 1837 – but the population was 30 000! Jeremy produced the term thimble rigger and President Paul consulted his smart phone to find that it referred to the 'three cup trick' – and took the opportunity to chastise Jeremy for being an IT Luddite! All good fun and better than Brexit! SW



## Send a Cow

Ian Bell came to talk to us about this charity founded in 1988. At that time Uganda was in a bad way and Europe had a butter mountain and a milk lake. Some Christian farmers had the idea of sending a batch of cows to help out - and so it began. They operate in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia and they no longer send surplus British cows but they help the Africans to help themselves – by 'hand-ups' not hand-outs. Since 1988 they have lifted more than two million out of poverty and the latest drive is Watering the Future by capping springs, capturing rainwater and setting up regional water committees. In the very dry part of western Kenya where they have begun there are nearly 2000 vulnerable families. As Alan Jacques said when thanking Ian for his talk : a marvellous project.

## Wellington RC 90<sup>th</sup> Charter Night



131 Rotarians, partners and friends, a sizable group from our club, came to the White House Hotel to celebrate this milestone. They organised and fed us well before the presentations by many Wellington club members of a choice of important moments, activities and people. I noted unusual things like the Wrekin Toposcope



and familiar ones like D4L and Lend with Care. They have a Tree of Light which differs from ours in having 5500 contributors and support from 4 clubs. They strive for Global grants, combining elements like Eye Surgery and photovoltaic electricity. They have a very good fundraising Sportsmens Evening



which succeeds because it attracts celebrity visitors like Dickie Bird. They are keen on sport – and did not fail to mention defeating Wolverhampton in the recent District 10 Pin final! They made special mention of Gerry Powell who was very active in connection with Jaipur Limb and Tom Farmer



who has been their Speaker Secretary for 40 years! Their oldest member, Graham Reedman aged 92 was awarded a PHF sapphire pin. We thought their 90 years were well commemorated and were happy to join in. SW

### THE END OF EMPIRE ?

Arriving at last Tuesday's lunch meeting a little earlier than normal, I was surprised to find our Hon Sec. wearing a sweater! I thought he's not stopping. When the bell sounded I found myself sitting opposite a tieless Pres Elect! On enquiring why he was not on top table to give one of his now customary thought-provoking Graces he replied that he had been made redundant! President then welcomed no guests and we sat down to eat, or at least some of us did! I checked on my phone to see if it was April 1st? No it was the 2nd. I then noticed there was No Throne; No Union Flag; and No Flag of The American Colonies! It felt like "The Last Days of Empire", which was confirmed when The Pres proposed no Loyal Toast. The speaker then confirmed the support being given to the Former Colonies and we went home, still hoping that there was "Peace The World Over"? PW

### Diary

**Thurs 18th April Rotathlon Skittles**  
**Saturday 27th April District Assembly**  
**Mon 29th April Governing Council**  
**Thurs 9th May Mayor's Golf Day**  
**Sun 12th Away Day Buxton**  
**Sunday 19th May Dragon Boats at Himley**  
**Mon 20th May Governing Council**  
**Wednesday 23rd May District Council**  
**2nd to 5th June RI Convention in Hamburg**  
**28th June District Handover**  
**Saturday 6th July Best Foot Forward**  
**Saturday 14th September Last Night of the Rotary Proms 2019 at Symphony Hall.**

Hub will be published on the second Tuesday of each month whenever possible. The editor accepts no responsibility for comments contained within Hub, seeking to include everything submitted by members where space permits. Please submit articles by e-mail to: [stujen108@talktalk.net](mailto:stujen108@talktalk.net)

### Meetings

**Tues 16th April Keith Brailsford : Wo'ton Youth Orchestra**  
**Tues 23rd April. No meeting—Bank Holiday**  
**Tues 30th April Club Assembly**  
**Tues 7th May. No Meeting—Bank Holiday**  
**Tues 14th May Freestyle Meeting : Amazon Warehouse Tour**

### Duties

	Meeting Steward	Speaker's Host	Money Steward
<b>16th</b>	<b>M.Eves</b>	<b>C.Cox</b>	<b>M.Colley</b>
<b>23rd</b>	<b>No meeting</b>		
<b>30th</b>	<b>B.Fellows</b>	<b>Club Assembly</b>	<b>C.Cundy</b>
<b>7th</b>	<b>No meeting</b>		
<b>14th</b>	<b>Amazon visit</b>		

Members are reminded that **any member unable to fulfil any duty must swap with someone else, or otherwise find a substitute, and notify the change to the Duty Officer and Secretary.**

**Apologies** for non-attendance at Rotary lunch must be made no later than 4pm on Monday, to [ruth@hollingsworthandco.co.uk](mailto:ruth@hollingsworthandco.co.uk) or by telephone to **01952 581014** (ask for Rotary Apologies) and copy to [geofflowndes@hotmail.com](mailto:geofflowndes@hotmail.com) (or by telephone).