

Founded  
December 1921



# HUB

Centre of Club Communications  
Rotary Club of Wolverhampton

Registered Charity No: 220492

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



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 1210  
RIBI No. 77

January 2019



## Greetings from Paradise

Recently I visited the Seychelles, which is often described as paradise. It's anelles, is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean, north east of Madagascar and 994 miles east of Kenya in Africa.

The archipelago consists of 115 islands, the majority of which are uninhabited. The islands are named after Jean Moreau de Séchelles, who was Louis XV's finance minister. They were a British colony

from 1794 until 1976 when they gained independence. Mahé is the largest island and has the capital city of Victoria I bring greetings from the Rotary Club of Victoria, Coco de Mer. When I visited, the president Jean-Francois Rossignol was away on business, so I exchanged banners with IPP, marine biologist Riaz Aumeeruddy, The banner depicts the "coco de mer" which is otherwise known as a "sea coconut" which is the largest seed in the world, grows on palm trees and can weigh up to 25kg. So it is best not to sit under a palm tree! PP Kewal Krishan



## Pauls Pearls

Happy New year to you all. Here we 2019, another new calendar year, and half way through our Rotary year. Personally, I have just come off the last bend of a two lap event and can see the final straight. Just before Xmas we enjoyed the Carol service at St. Chad's church in Patingham and Christmas lunch at Patshull Park Hotel. As I have said before, Barbara and I were delighted to go again to St. Chad's as it has many memories happy and sad. The school-children were a delight. The lunch was excellent and so was the entertainment by "Dandy." Thank you to Les Chambers and Brian Woolley for the organisation. A superb event. On a less happy note I was advised that PP Melvyn Robinson and PP Bernard Jones had passed to higher service. A more detailed Obituary is elsewhere in this edition of Hub. More recently I have heard that a past member, Frazer Williams, had died. Many of you will recall that Frazer was the vicar at St. Bartholomew's in Penn. He joined our club in 1989 and was transferred to a Shropshire ministry in 2007. I can remember him as a large character who had a distinctive range of woolly jumpers. As I write this I am calming down after an exciting evening at the Molineux watching Wolves beat Liverpool in the FA Cup with two of my grandsons. Great night. Please note that we are trying to raise a posse to go to the Burns Night evening at Linden House on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January organised by the Wednesfield club. Please put it in your diary and add your name to the list when the board goes round.



**Peter Turnock** was the speaker at our meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Peter gave a very interesting talk on the variety of different careers he has had to date. On leaving school he enrolled in the Navy and went around the world several times for free, lucky man!

He subsequently moved to Cunard serving on the most luxurious ships of the time. He rose through the ranks becoming third in charge of his ship and meeting many world famous celebrities, singers and movie stars, again a lucky man!

After retiring from sailing, Peter took on many different businesses which he successfully developed and sold on before moving on to his next project. These included making innovative silicone models which later went on to become collectors' pieces. He then specialised in stainless steel parts and now is the director of BUTCO, looking after our central heating systems. I was delighted to be his host for the day. PP Kewal Krishan



## Melvyn Robinson

1933-2018

Melvyn passed away peacefully on 14<sup>th</sup> December with his daughter Emma at his hospital bedside. He was a Willenhall boy who attended Wolverhampton Grammar School before training as a doctor at Charing Cross Hospital. As a doctor he was able to substitute two years in Lagos, Nigeria for regular National Service. Later on he became a consultant Urologist at Pontefract Hospital where he was much respected and very dedicated both to treatment of patients and research; he was a founder member of the still active Dr Jackson Cancer Fund. In 1968 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. A Rotarian friend from his Pontefract years described him as 'a lovely man, a grand fellow'. After retirement he remained in Yorkshire, where he and his former wife Rosalind had brought up two children Emma and Matthew. After a while he was afflicted by Parkinson's Disease which worsened inducing him to return 'home' to sheltered accommodation in Wolverhampton.

His connection with Rotary began at the Hemsworth Club, near Pontefract, which folded many years ago. He was President there in 1983-4 and a Paul Harris Fellow. He involved Rotarians in his charitable work. When he came to Wombrook Court in Wolverhampton he met Shu Behari and agreed to join our Wolverhampton club being brought to our meetings by Shu. His friends in Yorkshire agree that he was very effective and dedicated as a consultant. His sisters note that in retirement he did not let his disabilities prevent his participation in Rotary activities. Shu remembers him organising a fundraising scheme and donating a wheelchair in Wombrook Court. We all remember that he continued to attend our meetings, coming by taxi, until almost the very end. R.I.P. Melvyn, we will miss your cheerful presence. (The picture shows Hans Boller inducting Melvyn in 2009) SW



## Slotcar Racing 2018

Once again a dozen stalwarts gathered at Aldersley Leisure Village to contest the Rotathlon Slot car racing award 2018. After several hard fought rounds, which included stewards enquiries over one of the cars, the winner emerged. Well done to ex rally driver, John Bloxham, used all his experience to beat all comers. Next year I want him handicapped! Just saying.... Pres.



**Wildside Activity Centre** ([www.wildsideac.co.uk](http://www.wildsideac.co.uk)) have written from their 'canalside oasis' to thank us for our District Grant (via Youth and Community Service Committee) of £900 towards their Little Explorers Group. We hope to have space for more coverage of this item in the next issue of Hub. SW



## CAROL SERVICE AND LUNCH

Led by our good friend, Reverend Maureen Hobbs (complete with two new knees following her recent operation !!) the well-filled Pattingham church enjoyed a traditional Carol Service and we were joined by the children's choir from St.Chad's school. The children sang their little hearts out(whilst looking as though butter wouldn't melt in their mouths !) whilst their proud parents looked on and hoped that a playground fight wouldn't break out...It didn't!



Following the Service, twenty six Rotarians plus family, relatives and friends enjoyed a festive lunch at the nearby Patshull Park Hotel. Organiser Les Chambers (trust an electrician to short-circuit the Patshull Hotel tariff and negotiate a favourable meal price!) had done a super job in arranging a welcome drink followed by an excellent Christmas lunch. This was followed with entertainment by husband and wife team, Allan and Glynnis, (stagename Dandi). Some of us had **enjoyed** Dandi many times before but they were as good as ever and their humour (clean and funny) and singing went down very well. And so, late afternoon, we wended our way home. The S and E Committee hope you enjoyed the event and to those who weren't there (for whatever reason), sorry, you missed a "good 'un. P.P. Brian Woolley



On Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup> we assembled at the **Tree of Remembrance** in the Wulfrun Centre for our last big fundraising push for the Tree. We re-arranged the furniture to give the Compton Choir a better space to perform and they duly did, delighting us all, and many passers by with familiar carols and Christmas songs. They were just like baby bear's porridge, not too loud, not too quiet, not too short and not too long. I had hoped to sing along but to my dismay and their relief I was so busy selling raffle tickets I didn't get the chance. And what were we raffling? Nothing less than a Wolves shirt signed by the current first team squad. This was provided by and worn on the day by P.P. Mel Eves, to whom must go our thanks on both accounts. Things started a bit slowly but as time passed the benefits of doing this on the day of a home match became evident as more and more Wolves supporters came through the Wulfrun Centre. There were one or two awkward moments with the ladies when they realised that the prize was only the shirt and not the occupant, but we managed, and many photographs were taken. The shirt was won by Richard Preen who was on his way to the match. By raffling the shirt and shaking the buckets we raised £315 on the day and this will rise nearer to £400 once gift aided. Our thanks to the many Rotarians who helped whom I won't name for fear of forgetting someone. Richard Walton



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## Shoebboxes



Peter Kay's BCW not only takes part in Best Foot Forward and funding of the Breakthrough Worship Centre Community School in Lusaka, Zambia but also contributes greatly to the Shoebox effort. This year a total of 157 shoeboxes were filled with useful items for children, teenagers and

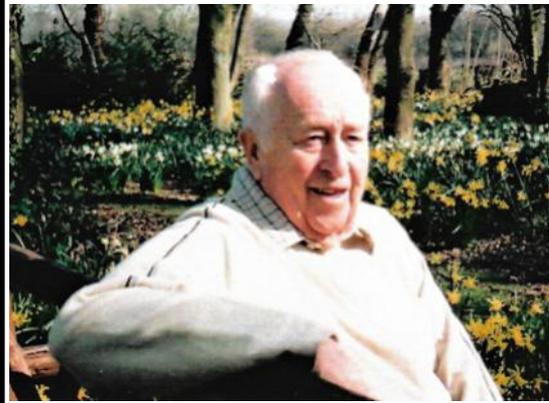


households by our 'group' of Royal School, Causeway Green Primary in Oldbury, Bethel Christian Fellowship in West Bromwich and the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton – a considerable feat. They were then taken to the International Aid Trust in Preston, in Mike Boyce's van, for onward transportation to Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and Belarus. SW

## Christmas Message



At our last meeting of the year on 18th December Peter Kay, elder of the Bethel Christian Fellowship in West Bromwich, raised our spirits with his talk about the meaning of Christmas, starting with a slightly naughty story of how the custom of placing a little angel on top of the tree began. The festival is in danger of becoming too commercial with too much spent on presents but the giving aspect is good, part of the 'givingness of God' and very life-affirming. Faith must be accompanied by action. He praised the Rotary mission and referred approvingly to the shoebox action and the work in Zambia in which our club and his church join. (Photo taken at the jointly funded Community School in Lusaka.) SW



## PP Bernard Jones

1927-2018

Bernard joined our club in 2000 having been a president of the Willenhall club and remained a member until his 80th birthday when he decided that it was time to retire from public service. I recall him saying that he had a bucket list which included a parachute jump. A successful businessman, for forty years he devoted at least one day per week to the service of others. He had been a councillor with Cannock District council and a County Councillor as well as having served on the bench as chairman of Cannock magistrates court. He had been a governor for 9 local schools. Married to Sylvia he was a father of 4 sons and had 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren plus one on the way. I remember he talked proudly of his granddaughter who had become an actress. Since then Felicity had been a regular on the Archers and appeared in a number of TV and films. She received a golden globe nomination as the wife of Stephen Hawking in The Theory of Everything. Grandpa was very proud. **P r e s .**

**Best Foot Forward's** committee would like us to go through our contacts at senior level in community-minded companies for possible new Patrons for this year's event on 6th July.

## Diary

22nd January Rotathlon Snooker  
25th Wednesfield's Burns Night at Linden House  
28th Governing Council  
District Darts and 10 Pin by the end of January  
Sunday 3rd Feb first Round Young Musicians Comp  
13th February Rotathlon 10 Pin?  
29th March Wellington RC 90th Charter Night  
Saturday 6th July Best Foot Forward  
(Saturday 14th September Last Night of the Rotary Proms 2019 at Symphony Hall. See [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) A group booking is contemplated.)

Hub will be published on the second Tuesday of each month wherever 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 15th January 2019 Les Goodchild of Newpert Lite RC  
Tues 22nd Tree of Remembrance presentations  
Tues 29th International and Foundation Ctte presentation  
Tues 5th February John Mottram—The Heroin Route  
Tues 12th Presidents Review Group—proposals for change

## Duties

Meeting Steward Speaker's Host Money Steward

15th Jan	J.Walters	R.Green	A.Jacques
22nd	R.Walton	n/a	R.Jones
29th	J.Wootton	n/a	R.Horrell
5th Feb	B.Oates	P.Williams	K.Krishan
12th	B.Bailey	n/a	S.Williams

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).