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HUB

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Rotary Club of Wolverhampton

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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 1210
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Mike Boyce versus Aconcagua



Leaving previous exploits behind Mike decided to take on the highest peak in the western hemisphere (6960m./22,834ft). He gave us an excellent illustrated account of this finally positive experience. After Mendoza in western Argentina the teams began a long walk uphill carrying backpacks. Conditions looked dry and arid in the lower reaches. Fortunately mules were carrying a lot of the gear but it was hard walking and then it was very cold and then it was snowy. His selfie videos complete with wind noise showed the effort and discomfort involved. He didn't at first drink as much water as required, 4 litres a day was recommended, and ended up hating the taste of water with citrus tablets. At night his tent was a refuge but he was forced to go out for a pee on one occasion because his pee bottle was full and frozen! Around 5000m., one of the camps is called Nido de Condores (condors' nest), the views were stunningly beautiful – but would they make it to the top? On a selfie at this point he says: 'This is what tired looks like'. On the penultimate leg, going up to 6000m., two of the party gave up and went back down. Then there were 3, tired, moving very slowly and coughing a lot (the so-called Khumbu cough). Then he 'cracked' and not long after the others also gave up. At the time he felt he had no choice. Then he had mixed emotions. Finally he counted the positives, the wonderful scenery, the extreme

hardship shared with comrades ...and survival! (Two participants in other teams did not survive.) And what do you know? He now has half an eye on the next destination, somewhere near Annapurna! A great presentation of a great effort. SW



Pauls Pearls

This month's report starts with the weekend away in Llangollen. There sometimes seems to be a certain symmetry in life in that I was in the chair when the first weekend away was held in Oxford in 2006. This was a great success and the forerunner to many weekends away since. There are reports elsewhere in Hub about the Llangollen trip but I would like to express my thanks and those in the party to the Sports and Entertainments committee under the stewardship of Clive Baker and in particular to Peter and Cynthia Wright who bore the responsibility of organising the event. The only remaining problem is to top it for next year!!

During the last District Council meeting we had a presentation by Rotarian John Wilson about "Buddy Bags" and I was so impressed by the idea that I asked Speakers sec. Roy to arrange for him to come to club as a speaker. You will recall from the flier I sent round that the bags offer comfort and essential

items for children who have been taken from their homes for their own protection. One of the items in the bag is a cuddly toy which the organisation have to purchase. They have started asking for knitted dolls to save money. I have been sent the patterns for these and will send them to all members, so please look out for them and if you, your family and friends are able to provide some please send them to me and I will make sure that John gets them. There is no hurry for these so dust off your needles and cast on.

Lastly for this month was the visit to The Lighthouse organised by St. Georges Rotary club to see the film "The Darkest Hour." Thank you to Geoff Lowndes for putting together a substantial posse from our club and arranging the meal prior to the showing. (Ed. : Jeni and I went to see the film before our holiday and found it excellent.)

I was going to mention the Zone meeting but mercifully we are out of space.



THE LLANGOLLEN (Unofficial) ROTATHALON, "THREE DAY EVENT".

DAY ONE began with a group of 19 Rotarians and their partners setting off from Wolverhampton early on Saturday morning on the first leg to Llangollen, where they embarked on the second leg by Steam Loco to Corwen. Clive (or should it have been Rosemary?) earned early bonus points, by providing 37 packed lunches. During "A Brief Encounter" at Corwen station, Peter Wright nearly made an early exit when searching for Cynthia as the train was about to depart, to discover that she had never left the train! The Fat Controller, who turned out to be a former Wolverhampton Business Colleague of Geoff's, was not amused.

The afternoons event was the Grand National in the bar at The Hand Hotel which earned Johnny Bloxham bonus points as the organiser of the sweep and the winner was ridden home (literally) by Sue Ross.

Birthday boy Geoff then took the lead when he generously provided delicious after dinner chocs, which went down particularly well with the organiser.

DAY TWO opened with a full English (or should it be Welsh?) Breakfast, where Peter Wright began to make up ground. Next a trip to the Horseshoe Falls on a barge pulled by a one horse powered "Harley". Liquid refreshments were taken at The Cable Bridge Hotel. The Trip took longer than planned as the young lady on the tiller turned out to be a novice and ran the boat aground several times. Derek came to the rescue of the damsel in distress by standing in the pointy bit on the return journey and directing her with "lefthand down/ right hand down a bit".



Back at Llangollen, lunch was taken at The Bridge End Hotel, where max points were earned by Mike Colley, who had organised a private room complete with Sky TV to enable The Wolves fans to watch the second half of the Wolves v Birmingham match back home at The Molyneux. John Parry kindly provided the bubbly at the pre dinner reception to celebrate Gill's birthday. The meal was followed by probably the highlight of the weekend. The entertainment being provided by President Paul, who showed the DVD of his hilarious appearance in the 1991 Christmas edition of The Generation Game hosted by Bruce Forsyth and including numerous other celebrities. I thought Paul looked then a bit like a young version of "Brucie"!

DAY THREE, the final morning. Peter Wright made a valiant attempt to catch up at breakfast before the surviving members took the mountain climb to Plas Newydd where Derek nearly got knocked out whilst listening intently to the story of "Molly the Bruiser's" Ghost, when the door suddenly closed on him! ("spooky"?). The party then embarked on the return



journey, en route stopping at The British Iron Works, then lunch in the Conservatory at The Queens Head Hotel nearby. The long time favourite "The Org." looked like he might secure victory, until he was disqualified for using foul language when the bill for the meal arrived! His appeal failed.

The Winner? The oldest competitor, who attended every event and was still going strong on the final leg back to Wolverhampton : our much loved and greatly admired Fraser. My apologies to the unmentioned participants who all added to the enjoyment of the weekend. (You should have tried harder?) and Cynthia's thanks for the lovely flowers. Your Roving Reporter - Albert Ross (No relation to Stewart!)



Extract from Llangollen Advertiser:- With thanks to our photographers Kewall Krishan and Mike Colley

“Yam Yams invade Welsh Resort”



...give us a Posh mate

John with 1 H P “Harley”

Welsh dragon lands on President’s car

This will make your blood flow quicker!!



I had just left the District Assembly and Barbara "suggested" that we needed to go shopping! Outside Beatties (as was) in Telford Centre a presentation was in progress. I saw the Rotary Roundel and loitered to see what was going on. The five Rotary clubs, who put on the Tree of Light in Telford and raised £43,000 last Christmas, had purchased a £10,000 motorbike for the blood delivery service. Rotary in Action—Brilliant! Pres. Paul

Editor : In this small space (blame PL) a few items. Congratulations to Short Mat Bowls winners on 14th April, Clive and Rosemary Baker. Thanks to Pres Paul for a lot of copy. Today (8th May) **Inner Wheel** is holding its last meeting—it is hoped that in the next Hub we will have a Retrospective Piece, though the author has not yet been identified! Please note that we will have normal meetings in August this year and close in September. I needed quite a lot more copy (Travels in India? Buddy Bags? etc) to make up 4 pages and have the Llangollen pages as an insert. Jeni and I missed Llangollen and went dancing in Cyprus. We are not much better dancers than before but may have staved off Alzheimers! Here's looking forward to Dragon Boats and Best Foot Forward! SW

Report from The District Assembly



"Be The Inspiration"

This is the Rotary Theme for the year 2018/19 which we heard about from the incoming DG Ashley Gray at the District Assembly held at the Abraham Darby School in Telford. The norm for nearly every one of my venues on behalf of the club is that I have a 30 or 40 mile round trip to attend. Not this time however as the school is opposite my house! Perfick!! I am supposed to inspire you with the future of the Rotary Movement, which in many parts of the world is vibrant and full of promise.

I don't mean to be pessimistic but I looked round the conference theatre where about 270 had attended on a Bank Holiday Saturday (very commendable) to see a 95%+ white middle class audience with an average age of 74. In 10 years time half of them won't be there and that may well include me!!

Ashley said that " change is inevitable" and of course that is true. My fear is that so many of the clubs in our District ,and I suspect in other districts, appear content to continue exactly as they have always done until their clubs are no longer viable. Old men in suits sitting down to a meal mostly at lunchtime. 4 clubs in district have closed in recent times. Our successors will not be able use this model for Rotary service. This means we must undergo a transition between our model and one that will attract the younger member.

My hope for our club is that we will almost certainly have to have changes. Some significant and will involve you. I shall no doubt address this theme in coming months.

Nevertheless the Assembly went off well. One of the highlights was a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" to our own Fraser who that day was celebrating his 91st birthday. Pres. Paul

Club Diary

20th May Dragon Boats

21st May Governing Council

23rd May Bridgnorth 75th Charter Night

24th May District Council

30th May Stokesay Court visit

31st May Rotathlon Pitch and Putt

7th June Rotathlon Boules

24th June Handover Lunch at SS Golf Club

N.B. August Meetings on 7th, 14th and 21st. No meeting on August 28th.

Hub will be published and distributed by e-mail 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

Meetings & Speakers

Tues 22nd May Club Assembly

Tues 29th May No meeting Bank Holiday

Tues 5th June Stuart Williams, Cyprus

Tues 12th June Business Meeting

Tues 19th June Janine Loxton, Banking Scams

Tues 26th June Valedictory

Duties

	Meeting Steward	Speakers Host	Money Steward
22nd May	J.Walters	(Club Assembly)	D.Sanders
29th May	No meeting		
5th June	D.Cheadle	J.Hollingsworth	S.Bott
12th June	M.Colley	N.Holmes	P.Wright
19th June	P.Davis	R.Horrell	B.Bailey
26th June	C.Cundy	(Valedictory)	C.Baker

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 4 pm on Monday, to ruth@hollingsworthandco.co.uk or by telephone to **01952 581014** (ask for Rotary Apologies) and copy to geofflowndes@hotmail.com (or telephone)