

Founded  
December 1921



# HUB

Centre of Club Communications  
Rotary Club of Wolverhampton

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



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

District 1210  
RIBI No. 77

December 2018



**Lest We Forget.**

I would like to share with you the experience that Barbara and I had in representing you at the Drum Head Service on the steps of St. Peters on Remembrance Sunday. We have been to this solemn occasion twice before but the special significance of this, the 100th anniversary of the silencing of the guns in 1918, was indelible.

We gathered in the Civic Centre, where a large display of all the 4272 men and women of Wolverhampton, who gave their lives in the great war, so that all of us could live in peace. At 10.58 we processed to the base of the steps of St. Peters, just below the statue of Lady Wulfruna. There a large crowd had gathered in the sunshine. The trumpet sounded the last post and thereafter a two minute silence commenced. I noticed the unbroken observance of this silence. The rustle of the wind through the remaining leaves on the trees and the flag of St. George on the top of St. Peters, blowing in the stiff breeze.



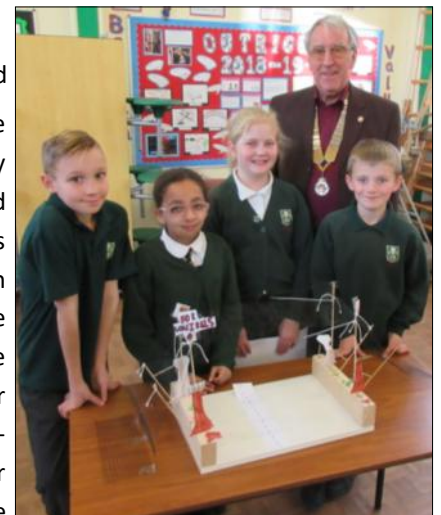
At the appointed time I went with Colin Hole, President of The Rotary Club of St. Georges, to lay the wreath at the Cenotaph. At times like this we reflect on the futility of war and the enormous sacrifice, not only of the combatants, but of those who were at home. All my life I have had the privilege of living in a free country and I know that is due to those who have defended that freedom. I always feel that when we say our final toast, "Rotary and Peace the World over" that it has the special meaning of hope for future generations. **President Paul**



## Pauls Pearls

My goodness what a busy month it has been. The Rotathlon Darts and

Dommies was well attended and an excellent time for fellowship, fun and more than a little chaos. I was just pipped at the final of the darts, beaten by Stewart Ross. This was followed by Remembrance Sunday which is reported above. Next up was District darts against Wednesfield on the following Monday which was a closely fought match which we narrowly won in a "Darts Off." Tuesday night was 10 pin against the same Wednesfield team who lost at darts and then lost again. By the time I got to Saturday I was flagging but onwards and upwards for the Tree Opening at the Wulfrun Centre and a photoshoot for the Express and Star. Great spread in the paper and a great display with the Great War theme. The next Monday was District snooker against old adversary Cannock club. We lost this one so we are out. Tuesday lunch was particularly special as we hosted Fran Bumpus who won the Bob Lampitt Award. Fran talked about her career and family which the members understood, but she lost them when she discussed the finer technical aspects of her job. By Thursday we were enjoying joining St. Georges club Film night. Thanks to Geoff Lowndes for organising the meal at the Queens Cantonese. Monday and the technology challenge at the Uplands school. What a wonderful day. The children had spent about an hour creating some really inventive bridges, while a group of Rotarians took nearly that long to sort out the marking! Forward to Thursday night and the 10 pin quarter final against the old enemy Tettenhall. I am hoping you cannot detect any hint of smugness when I tell you we beat them by a single pin!! As I said a very busy month. It was sad to hear that PP Roger Fellows has had a small stroke. I have sent him good wishes for a speedy recovery on your behalf.



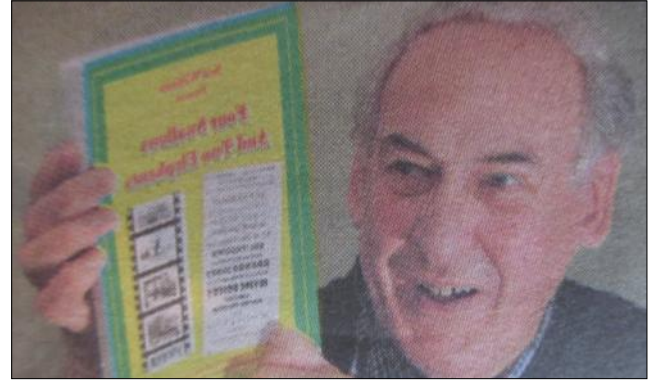


## Crocus Corm Planting

The struggle continues, still 25 new cases of polio, mainly due to Afghanistani Taleban. So we set about another planting of 10 000 corms in Bantock Park near the 'wooden cow' on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Rotarians, park rangers, Friends of Bantock House and a class of children from Eastfield Primary (children from other schools were preoccupied by Diwali) dug and sowed. (The Friends had BUGs printed on their Hi-Vis vests, standing for Bantock User Groups.) It didn't rain and we got the job done in a little over an hour. Now it's fingers crossed for the crocuses and the battle against the scourge of polio.

## Hidden Black Country Biographies

Local historian and author Ned Williams came to the Black Country from London as an 18 year old and 'it was love at first sight'. After some work in Fairs and Circuses he began to write, about Gornal at first and then about characters like showman Pat Collins and JBT who wrote a column called Black Country Bits in the weekly The World's Fair. JBT turned out after some digging to be Joe Bate of Tipton. The research was very satisfying and the results sometimes surprised descendants of the characters who emerged. Brenda May Cuttin nee Jones was an 'aerialist (trapeze artist) without flaw' who fell 70 feet and died in the USA where she was a big star of the circus. The granddaughter of another hidden star thought she was related to the family of JFK but Ned had discovered that her grandad's real name was Ben Bernhardt. Ned's latest book is 'Four Swallows and two Elephants' - Bronco Bill who owned the two Wolverhampton circus elephants Salt and Sauce, was John Swallow whose son John was involved in the setting up of the Express and Star. Apart from teaching at Wulfrun College for 20 years Ned has 'been on many journeys'. We were treated to a fascinating précis.



## Fran Bumpus

This year's winner of the Bob Lampitt prize for the best engineering student told us her interesting story. As a girl she was interested in technology, building a radio set at 15 for example. When it came to university time she was persuaded to study history at Cambridge. History was alright and she met her husband, an archaeologist. When her second child was approaching secondary education she went back to technology and enrolled for a Wolverhampton University engineering degree in Mechatronics – she had done physics, maths and further maths at A Level. She was one of three girls in a cohort of 90 and is the first mature female engineering student of the university. We found her story interesting and she tolerated our struggle to understand Mechatronics – think of a controlling device between a power source and a motor. A worthy winner of the prize. SW

## Our Satellite Club

Peter Williams, Ed Bolland, Michael Walters and President Paul. Members Ed and Michael came and sold raffle tickets in aid of Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club where Michael is a coach. Their next Satellite meeting is at the Bell in Trysull on 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm where they will discuss their sleigh collection at Asda Wolverhampton on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Michael stayed for lunch and recounted how he met Peter (and Rotary) on the day that some group had 'pinched his athletics track' – it was Best Foot Forward!



## A letter from France

In October 1914 the Express and Star printed a letter from Sgt J. Walker expressing thanks for the copies sent to the troops and satisfaction at the response to its Call to Arms. 'It makes the boys in the fighting line feel proud of themselves to know that if they were disposed of others are willing to fill up the vacant spaces.' (This is one of many touching passages in the Great War items displayed among the messages to loved ones in this year's Tree of Remembrance display.)





## Club Support for Kingswood Trust

Two grants have recently been given to the Kingswood Trust continuing our support for a local organisation that gives children a stimulating environment in which to develop and learn. A grant of £3880 was given to fund the Trust's "Hoot" project. This is an educational development for young people focussing on the creation of an environment for owls and small mammals where they can prosper and be studied. The funding will assist with the purchase of night vision binoculars, owls and mammal books and session costs for groups of children. The second grant for £602.50 comes from funds raised by a Club member and will go towards replacing equipment in order to ensure a full range of environmental activities can be undertaken. Kingswood is a long-standing education facility which became an independent trust in 2014. It provides outdoor education activities for learning with nature set in nine acres of natural environments, wildlife and resident animals. It connects children and the community to the natural world. BB



## Teenage Cancer Trust

On 6<sup>th</sup> November Charlotte Kendal came to talk to us about these youngsters – there are currently 7 new cases every day. The aim is to give them 'as good a journey as possible', by bringing them together and providing experienced nursing, if possible in bespoke units of which there are currently 28 (but not yet in Wolverhampton). Aftercare is part of the desired package and the annual Royal Albert Hall show helps with fundraising. (At its last meeting Youth & Community Service agreed to send them a cheque improving on the small cheque in the photo).



## Rotary Junior Technology Tournament

On 26<sup>th</sup> November a group of Rotarians revisited Uplands Junior School (we were last here in July) to facilitate another tournament. All the year fives, in groups of 4, listened to Richard Green's explanations, were persuaded to prepare plans and then set about making squirrel bridges out of paper, card, clothes pegs, sellotape, elastic bands and netting – the Master Builders, the Creative Crafters, the Pink Fuzzy Unicorns etc. During the creative activity the facilitators tried to be helpful – 'can we have some more string?' etc These

events test the innovation, teamworking and problem solving abilities and, on this evidence are clearly enjoyable for the participants. Afterwards President Paul and Chair of Governors Debbie tried to pronounce first names correctly and handed out certificates to all 96 children. And then the winners Best Builders and the runners-up Wizards received their book tokens. Each Rotarian also received a surprise box of Maltesers and thought himself lucky to witness the sustained and animated team efforts. Teachers declared that the children had really enjoyed their day. SW



## VSO Work in Nepal

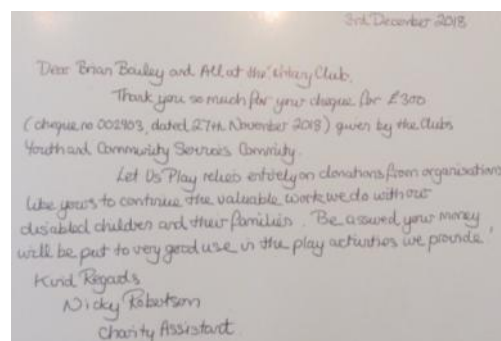
Lisa Stallard told us about her recent visit as a team leader to a part of rural Nepal, a country low on the international poverty scale. There are also class and gender barriers – girls cannot attend school while having their periods etc. The country is also recovering from earthquakes and regime change and combating Maoist insurgents! She was training and supporting a group of 18-25 year olds both locals and from the UK, DIY work, fruit tree distribution etc. Her efforts were applauded by Club members as well as her project, on returning home, to set up a Play Café for parents and carers, see [info@wolvesplaycafe.org](mailto:info@wolvesplaycafe.org) . SW



## Tree of Remembrance

The plinths in Peter Williams's barn were cleaned and set up on a new site in the Wulfrun Centre. On 17<sup>th</sup> November President Paul and the Express & Star photographer recorded our opening. A splendid spread in the E&S followed. Many families had sent in their messages which shared the space with several touching stories remembering young men who died in the 'Great War', this being the Centenary of the Armistice. The new site is much better than the old one and Club members are beginning to have conversations with passers-by. It is hoped that the efforts of Mike Colley and others will be repaid in a good collection of funds for the designated charities . SW

The charity 'Let us Play' sent us a charming Thank You for the cheque that we



gave them.

**Conseils d'en haut?** (What follows is the translation of a notice found in the porch of a 12th century church somewhere in France.)

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you will hear the call of God. However it is unlikely that he will call you on your mobile- thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving." GL

**There are no facts, only interpretations.** (Friedrich Nietzsche 1844-1900

## Club Diary

Sunday 16th December Carol Service and lunch at Patshull  
Monday 17th December Governing Council  
22nd January tree of Remembrance Presentations  
22nd January Rotathlon Snooker  
25 January Wednesfield RC Burns Night  
28th January Governing Council  
Sunday 3rd February First Round Young Musicians Competition  
29th March Wellington RC 90th Charter Night  
(6th December Santa visited Asda at the invitation of Rotary Satellite Club and then went on his way under the aegis of RT)

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](mailto:stujen108@talktalk.net)

## Meetings & Speakers

18th Christmas Message by Peter Kay

Tuesday 25th No meeting

Tuesday 1st January 2019 No meeting

Tuesday 8th Ken Timmis : Coronary Aftercare Support Group

Tuesday 15th Les Goodchild of Newprt Lite - Rotary Tomorrow

## Duties

	Meeting Steward	Speakers Host	Money Steward
18th December	J.Parry	M.Boyce	J.H'worth
8th January	S.Williams	C.Cox	N.Holmes
15th	J.Walters	R.Green	A.Jacques
22nd	R.Walton	n/a	R.Jones
29th	J.Wootton	n/a	M.Eves

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](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 telephone)