

# THE Spring



*The magazine of  
Rotary Club of Amwell*  
[www.amwellrotary.org.uk](http://www.amwellrotary.org.uk)

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## Colin finishes 2 years in style on Ladies Day



On Ascot Ladies Day the Club again put on an excellent event at Tiller's End Farm, thanks to David and Hilary. This was the last Club event with Colin in the chair and he celebrated the end of his 2 years with wine and winnings.

Colin is the first president of the Club to run for 2 consecutive years and we thank him for his hard work and ensuring we had continuity of leadership.

As mentioned in his article later on, a lot has happened in the 2 years and we are in a good position to move forward with President Mike.

Thank you Colin.

# Colin`s Final Update

June 2015

Another busy couple of months for Rotary with a new venture in May organised by Roger, the Schools Choir competition which was very successful and supported many of our Rotary objectives. This was achieved by working together in the community in fellowship, creating greater awareness of Rotary and raising funds to increase our charitable giving. The last event of my year was the Ladies Ascot Day again organised by Roger and his team this was another very successful event much enjoyed by everyone and also a good fund raiser. I would like particularly to thank Hilary and David for not only providing the venue and Marquee but for all the physical work both of them did before and after the event.

In looking back over the last 2 years what have we done; we have had fellowship; we have had fun; we have been involved in our local communities and supported aspiring young talent; we have raised funds for our charitable giving both locally and international including nearly eliminating Polio in the world. Can also thank you all for supporting my charity Hearing Dogs for the Deaf for the past years.

We have moved to a new venue for our Club meetings; we have spent time visioning and produced a 4 year plan (2014/2017) for the club and have already achieved some of our objectives. Such as changing the structure of the Club Council and setting up a Satellite Group with 8 new Rotarians joining the Club .

Sadly we lost Tony this year a fine Rotarian and a gentleman who is missed.

Coming to the end of my 2 year Presidency and I have really enjoyed being President of our club it was not a chore it was a pleasure. I have been able to recognise the work that Roger and George have done in Rotary over the years and on behalf of the club awarded them both a Paul Harris Fellowship. I have also been able to recognise the long association and support Malcolm Lee has had with the Club and was pleased to induct him as an Honorary member of the Club. As President I am able to make an annual award for the most successful Rotarian and was very pleased to recognise Vernon in 2014 and Tennille this year, both are excellent examples of what I think Rotary is about.

Thank you for supporting my President`s away weekends in Hunstanton 2014 and Lichfield 2015 surprisingly we had sunshine for both events.

Would I do it again -----Maybe if asked ! It has been great fun and would not have enjoyed it without the great support of my club officers . Mike I wish you well and know you will serve the Club well. The key is just enjoy it and don`t take it too serious. We are all doing this because we want to.

I said at the start of my term I considered it an honour to be asked to serve a club which has given Eileen and I such a wonderful group of friends. Thanks for giving me the job.

Colin

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## LETTERS

Dear Friends,

It is with a sad heart I have felt it appropriate for me to transfer my Rotary membership from Amwell Rotary Club to one a bit closer to home.

Since retiring I have more free time to give to good causes and in particular Rotary, the problem is Val and I now only spend one week a month in Hertford which obviously limits the amount of effort I can devote to the Amwell club.

However, I am anxious to remain close to Amwell and help whenever possible with the clubs, fund raising, and community work, as well as joining in fellowship and social activities. I shall continue to visit whenever in Hertford meanwhile hope you might find an opportunity to visit my new club 'King's Lynn Priory'. I have thoroughly enjoyed my membership of the Amwell Club and thank you all for making my time and involvement such a pleasure.

YIR Gerald

# AMWELL FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## Achievements in 2014/15

Against a budget of £4,500, the Club spent/allocated the following:

Sand Dams	£500
Disaster Relief	£1,180
Care International	£500
Well Good Appeal	£500
Mosquito nets – Cambodia	£500
Total	£3,180

Additionally, it was agreed at the Club Business Meeting on 15th June that we support the Hatfield Rotary Global Grant application to establish a palliative care project in South Africa (£500), in light of the recent disaster in Nepal we donate £400 for a Water Aid Box and we make a £500 donation to Polio Plus.

## Initiatives and Targets for 2015/16

### Foundation

The Club will continue to raise \$100 per member for donation to RI Foundation. In addition to the current levy of £3 per month, included in the Club subscription, the money from the weekly draw, the Ink Cartridge Scheme and the 'good news' will be used to meet our target.

Polio eradication remains the number one priority and we will look to again providing financial support. The Committee will consider how the Club can support the 2015 Polio Day and Rotary Day in 2016.

### International aid and disaster relief

The impact of significant disasters/events, which the Club deems worthy of financial support, is again likely this year. Consequently, it is proposed, for the first 6 months, to ring fence half of the money allocated to the Committee for this purpose.

In the event of an appeal it is expected, in the first instance, we will target our assistance to a relevant disaster box scheme. From January 2016 the Committee will monitor the world situation and start to take up any remaining monies, whilst still being mindful of the need to be able to offer relief.

We will continue to be an active partner in the District Sand Dams Project (£500).

We will maintain and hopefully develop our current links with Phnom Penh Rotary Club. We have obtained a local matching grant of £500 from District and together with our donation of £500. we will be sending the money to enable the purchase and distribution of 800 mosquito nets.

It is understood that the Ware and Stevenage Clubs are considering applying for Global Grants. Ware for a project in Romania and Stevenage for 'Sight Savers'. Both will be looking for partners to assist with the funding. The Committee will maintain contact and the Club will be informed if an appropriate opportunity arises for our involvement in one, or both of these projects.

We will consider developing our Micro-Finance project. The investment of £500 made last year is starting to be repaid and the Committee will explore the benefit of increasing our support.

Last year the Committee did examine if we could take an active role the Shoe Box Appeal organised by Hertford Rotary. It was hoped to involve another appropriate organisation, e.g. School, Scouts, etc. but we were not successful. We will try again!

In the past in the UK we have supported the charity Hope and Homes. This organisation has international links in 22 other countries and we intend to examine if there are ways we can assist with this aspect of their work.

### **International association and fellowship**

It is proposed that the Club be closely associated with the Intercountry Committee RIBI and Romania and the Republic of Moldova (District 2241). The co-chair of the Romanian Rotary element is Traian Strambu, who many will know from our connection with Cluj Napoca.

One of the purposes of this Intercountry Committee (ICC) is to help to establish relationships, cooperation and exchanges with Rotarians and Clubs in the United Kingdom and Romania including the promotion of joint projects.

It is important to ensure that any form of relationship is sustainable and that each party obtains the benefits that they expect. Through the ICC, clubs can be brought together ensuring that the partnership (in whatever form) is established with full mutual understanding.

These relationships are:

- > Twinning (club to club)
- > Involvement with projects
- > Friendship exchanges (group or individual)
- > Joint events e.g. musical or sports contests (could be a club, district or national level).
- > Group study exchanges
- > Youth exchange programmes

Paul Manning

## ***A PLEA FOR INFORMATION*** about forthcoming speakers

Having just listened to a fascinating, thought-provoking and well presented talk from Chris Williams at tonight's Club Meeting - "Small World, Big Data" - I came away feeling very lucky to have been there to hear it. We were indeed fortunate to have such a high quality speaker.

It struck me yet again that there is still very little advance information available about forthcoming speakers and the subject of their talk. Admittedly the speaker's name and title of his talk appeared on the Club Diary on our website but did everyone know he was Roger's son, or that he was a senior executive within IBM, involved in cutting edge R&D relevant to us all?

If someone has arranged a speaker, it should be part of their responsibility to submit a short paragraph explaining the speaker's position/background and the gist of what they are going to talk about. It would only take a few minutes to do this and would allow us to choose whether this might be a suitable meeting to invite a potential new member to come along (or whether to make a special effort to attend ourselves).

For example, for tonight's speaker - something like this, perhaps.....

" Chris Williams, a senior IBM executive (and son of our very own Roger Williams), will be telling us about his work in connection with the IBM Watson system for analysing huge amounts of data to answer questions in fields such as science, engineering and medicine as well as applications in retail, finance and marketing - and many others. We live in an age where we all have access to smart phones, tablets and computers but probably only use a fraction of their potential. A fascinating talk from an expert in the field, presented in a down to earth and entertaining way that is guaranteed to get you thinking! "

Maybe a bit OTT but it should be an "advert" for the talk, designed to make you want to hear it. I suggest this is too much for our "Diary Page" but could go elsewhere on the website, or in "the Spring" or even via email to Club Members

Regards, Graham Klinkert

# NEW GENERATIONS

Our year has been varied and we have considered a plethora of applications.

However, a budget of £3000 for the year has been the final arbiter. We prefer to consider individuals rather than groups or national charities and herewith details of the beneficiaries:-

Jack Plumley, Olympic Cycling Hope. This is the second year of a three year bursary and Jack has already achieved amazing success.

He is now being trained by Sir Chris Hoy, amongst others as part of the sprint track racing team. He is going for selection to next year's Olympic Team in Rio and at this rate, I believe he has every chance of getting there.

Georgina Fisher, Netball. At 16 she had already played for the England Under 21 team and part of the Under 19 Team who were crowned European Champions.

Stephanie Dyer. Musicologist age 26. 1st year post-graduate student at the Royal Academy of Music and studying to complete m.Mus Performance and Research Course and LRAM Teaching Diploma.

Carrie Craig. At the age of 14 she has already achieved Grade 7 at Piano and is a talented clarinet player and soloist in local jazz

groups and bands. We have been supporting Carrie since she was 10 and have witnessed extraordinary talent from a young girl from a very humble background. She played at our recent Junior Schools Choir Competition in Broxbourne Civic Hall.

George Reeves Williams and Mathew Wing were two of 81 Scouts in Hertfordshire to be selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Jamaguchi City, Japan this July and had to raise £1625 each towards the cost of their trip.

James Mathews. Volunteering expedition in Ecuador. ( currently under consideration)

Zen Saeed. 28. RYLA candidate. ( awaiting confirmation)

The breakdown of our expenditure for the above is:-

Jack Plumley	
Bursary 2nd year.	£500
Georgina Fisher.	
Donation.	£350
Stephanie Dyer.	
Donation.	£350
Carrie Craig.	
Donation.	£240
George Reeves Williams.	
Donation	£300
Mathew Wing.	
Donation.	£300
Zen Saeed.	
Donation.	£90* tbc

Tony Freeland

# LADIES





# DAY



# Walkern Magna Carta

The date is 23rd June 1215. The local Artisan and his wife are outside the village Chapel in Walkern to celebrate the news of the signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede. Our Baron Lanvalei sent back news that King John has put his seal to the Velum but feels the King may go back on his word and thus he and his associate Barons may take control of the throne. We live in troubled times and I fear for the future. The Barons Longbows archers are in fine array and well practiced. I will send you images of their encampment at Walkern Hall, there the villagers will be gathering for two days to roast a wild Hog and to test their Fighting skills. Me thinks there may be much ale and mead drunk.

The celebrations at Walkern have involved our womenfolk in producing a tabard for our Baron Lanvalie which will later be displayed in the village church



# FELLOWSHIP

Another busy and rewarding year for the HSF committee. Various trips arranged including a visit to the beautifully restored Wallace Collection in London where we enjoyed a guided tour before having Afternoon Tea in the conservatory. A good Weekend in Lichfield for our Presidents second Away Break. Comfortable hotel linked with a trip ot to Shugborough House, and guided walks through Lichfield kept everyone fully occupied. Several of us also had an evening out at the Tring Brewery, where we reluctantly had to try several of their most popular beers, before finishing up with a Fish and Chip Supper. The Cycle Ride( Mosel Valley) last summer has already been reported on in a previous copy of the Amwell Spring.

By the time you read this we will have visited the Gibberd Garden near Harlow and plans are now in place for a visit to Chatham Dockyard on september 11th.

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## Community and Vocation

Donation 2014/2015 -Amount available £4,500

Our committees budget for 2014/2015 was £4,500 we actually spent £6,259 after receiving a district grant of £750.00 towards the cost of the defibrillator donated and installed at the Salisbury hotel which has already been put to good use. Our budget allocation for 2015/2016 is £6,000.

### Donations Made:-

Lister Hospital Chemo Chair	1000
( which consists £500 from the president fund and our £500	
Herts wildLife trust	75
Defibrillator for Hertford	1462.80 ( less District Grant of £750.00 )
Hold -Hoddesdon	200
Crisis in Herford	200
Age concern ware	200
106 Park road	96
Hertford Museum	150
Boat covers for Broxbourne	500
Ware toy libary	100
Keech Hopice care	500
Defibrillator for Ware	1200
Hearing dogs for the blind	1000
Poppy appeal	25
Sue Ryder collection at Asda	200
Cancer Research	100

Total 6258.80

# FUNDRAISING REPORT

## **DUCK RACE**

The 2104 Duck Race was again organised by Graham Klinkert in his usual efficient manner and the event raised the expected level of profit. After many duck racing years Graham understandably decided to stand down. It had been suggested that after 32 years Ware Duck Race has run its course but thankfully Tennille was persuaded to put on her water wings and give it one more try. She has proposed a few changes to the way we operate and a review after this year's race will determine whether our ducks will take to the water again in 2016. Personally I feel it will be a great shame if we omit this traditional item from our calendar and once the continuity is broken it is unlikely that further races will ever be held. Any thoughts on how we might perpetuate the Ware Annual Duck Race would be warmly received.

## **WARE FIREWORKS**

The weather was very unkind last November and attendance numbers were quite low. This meant that profits were not as expected and that everyone working on the night was thoroughly drenched, the field became a quagmire and the recovery vehicle had to work overtime dragging cars out of the mud.

Nothing daunted, arrangements are already underway for this year with Amwell well represented on the management committee now chaired by George Wallace. We will offer advanced ticket sales to local schools this year to mitigate the effects of bad weather on the night again. Surely the weather must be better this year?

## **WARE DICKENSIAN EVENING**

This event featured Santa with his sleigh and stalls offering soft toys and chestnuts. Santa raised the largest amount of money and the considerable effort to provide the other stalls was not justified by the return. This year we will only bring Santa who can carry on-board lighting and power so we have the opportunity to try another location where there might be greater numbers of people.

## **CAROL SERVICE**

The Carol Service last Christmas was as good as ever and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Colin chose Hearing Dogs for the Deaf as the charity he wanted to support and a cheque was presented to a representative on the night. Richard Threlfall has again agreed to arrange the service for 2015 and President Mike will select a local charity to benefit from the proceeds. We are hoping for an early decision on this so that we can publicise it in plenty of time in the hope that their supporters will join us to swell the attendance. We do expect more people this year as the winning choir from this year's Choir Competition have been asked to come along and sing a carol. This will inevitably mean that some of their parents and supporters will be present.

## **SANTA'S SLEIGH**

We are getting a little bit better at mounting this exercise each year and now

are quite efficient. With more venues inside supermarkets than out in the street it is generally more comfortable for collectors with toilets, coffee, shelter etc. readily on hand. It is one of our main fundraising activities now but relies heavily on volunteers from the Club, both as Santa and tin shakers. Please try to help this year when the sign up boards are circulated. We might even cut the shifts down to 90 mins. if we can get enough regular volunteers – and it can even be enjoyable with the right approach!

### **CHOIR COMPETITION**

This was a new venture and generally agreed a success. From a community viewpoint it provided a lot of pleasure and enjoyment to a large number of children, their teachers and parents. It also raised around £1300 although this could have been more with higher ticket sales. We will be repeating the competition next year and have identified quite a few things that can be improved. Publicity is one such area and if this results in a larger audience at the Finals Concert on May 26th (put it in your diary now!) even more money will be raised.

### **ASCOT LADIES DAY LUNCH**

This event was held just a couple of weeks ago and some of us are still recovering! Unquestionably it was enjoyed by everyone who came as a guest and almost all of them said they hoped we would repeat it next year. The problem is that it takes a tremendous effort over many days from lots of people most of whom normally enjoy a sedentary life and it only raises around £2000. It is fairly clear that our Club members do not have an appetite for this kind of strenuous event so we will probably not repeat this lovely social occasion. We will explore alternatives that will not require so much effort.

### **GENERAL COMMENT**

First I would like to thank my Committee and everyone who has helped and supported the events listed above. Nothing would be possible without teamwork. Our Club enjoys supporting the many good causes that our committees identify and propose. Alongside fellowship, charity support is our main raison d'être.. None of this would be possible without sufficient funds and the only way we can raise this money is by our own efforts. We are now in the fortunate position of having new members in our Satellite Group who are keen to organise fundraising cycling events that have the potential to generate substantial sums. To some extent this makes it less important for the rest of us to raise quite so much and we will therefore confine ourselves to the larger, more lucrative things and leave out things that only raise small amounts. As far as possible everything will be arranged to keep the workload to a minimum so please respond wherever you can when asked to help.

Without wishing to state the obvious a large number of us doing a small amount can achieve the same result as a few working for hours.

Roger Williams

# **GERTRUDE'S STORIES**



I only found out what happened to the Boss recently which accounted for the fact I had not seen him since 8th May 2015. Apparently it was on the day of the TB test inspection when each of my colleagues has to be tested to see if there is any reaction to the injections given 4 days earlier. This is called a radial test and is intended to clear the herd of infection. The good news was the herd passed the test and we are all ok. Not so good news was that the boss was knocked over by a cow in the cattle crush and smashed his leg in 7 places. This all happened six weeks ago and it is taking a long time to repair. It has stopped him interfering in our life and we have been given some very good care by Peter and the boss's son Mark. Mind you it is the best time of the year for grazing. The grass has been very sweet and needs no extra supplement.

In addition to that Peter and Mark have made some excellent silage (we hope). I called it layered cake. The bottom consists of Brewer's grains (the mash left after beer making) next the silo is filled with chopped Lucerne all topped off with fresh young spring grass. The whole lot is sealed for six to eight months with plastic sheets and a primary fermentation takes place. This is very palatable especially in the middle of winter. It is usually controlled with an electric wire across the face.

As for the summer as it stands as I see it. Everybody is preparing for parties, tennis, cricket, weddings and even horse racing. We did not go to the Herts show this year due to the dreaded TB. As it turned out it was a good show.

I heard that the Monday club held a ladies ascot day in a large tent and watched the individual races. It was a nice sunny day and the ladies all dressed up as if they were at Ascot itself. Even the boss went and enjoyed the day from a wheelchair. The downside was that he only bet on one winner so it cost him a lot of money. It was all supposed to go to charity but I gather that consisted of winning bets to the punters rather than a charity.

We are looking forward to a nice warm summer as there has been an adequate quantity of rain and lots of grass.

Happy days      Gertrude (Wareoak)



*Colin works out his bets with tips direct from the runners !!*

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## **CHATHAM DOCKYARD VISIT**

**Friday September 11**

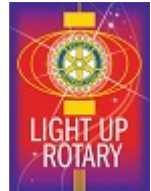
Depart Ware ( Wodson Park) 09.15.am      Return back around  
7.00.p.m

Full day trip to The Historic Dockyard Chatham. See the locations for TV and Films - Call the Midwife, Mr.Selfridge, Les Miserables - to name but a few. Guided Tour including The Ropery. Afternoon Tea in the 18th Century Commissioner's House..

Cost £40 per person ( Coach, Entrance/Guide Chatham, Afternoon Tea )      Based on minimum 25 people.



# CLUB DIARY



## Monday Meetings and hosts

June 29th	Social evening with partners	Derek Adams
July 6th	President's Handover	
July 13th		Iain Baker
July 20th		Graham Boxall
July 27th		Graham Dixon
Aug 3rd		Ken Edmonds
Aug 10th	Committees	
Aug 17th		Mike Fagan
Aug 24th	Business Meeting	
<i>Aug 31st</i>	<i>Bank Holiday</i>	
Sept 7th		Tony Freeland
Sept 11th	Chatham Dockyard visit	
Sept 14th		Paul Gatland
<i>Sept 15th -17th</i>	<i>Bowls Trip Worthing</i>	
Sept 21st		Sheila Grimmant
<i>Sept 24th</i>	<i>District Bowls - Bushey</i>	

## OTHER DATES.....

July 2nd	District Induction Dinner
July 4th	Ware Carnival Day
July 19th	Ware Duck Race
Sept 6th	Cyclosporptive

**Hosts are responsible for finding a speaker for their evening and informing the President and Secretary.**