

# ROTARY CLUB OF MANCHESTER

NEWSLETTER

April 2019



## In Memory of Philip Laker

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and fellow Rotarian, Philip Laker. Philip passed away on March 19<sup>th</sup>.



Phil spent all his working life in the police, first with Lancashire constabulary where he became an advanced police driver, and then during a reorganisation, he was transferred to Greater Manchester Police. He retired as a superintendent. Phil was involved in not only the Rotary Club, but with many other organisations. Phil was a husband to Kathleen (Kath) and father to sons Michael and Andrew.

The funeral for Rotary PP Philip Laker will take place at Manchester Crematorium at 11am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

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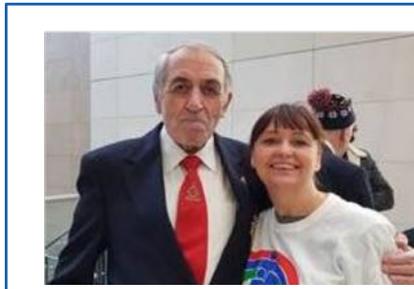
# PP Philip Laker PHF 1938-2019

If anyone ever embodied the spirit of Rotary in their professional and daily lives, it was Philip Laker.

He joined our club in 1983 and immediately became involved in our work. He was that sort of person, never one to sit on the side lines and watch. His particular interest was community and vocational service, and this fitted well with his position as a senior police officer. After his retirement he continued to serve the local community with voluntary work for “The Prince’s Trust” and “Victim Support”.

Within Rotary he was President firstly in 1992 – 93 and the first member to serve a second term as President in 2008 – 09. He was chairman of the community and vocational service committee for many years and also served on the same committee at District level. However he was not just a committee man. If it hadn’t been for his efforts our seniors’ Monday Club would have folded a long time ago. At the same time he managed to be our Treasurer for the last few years.

But, it has not been all service to others and no play. Phil was always an active and keen supporter of our fellowship activities and in particular the rambling section. He organised many good walks North of Manchester and in the Vale of Bowland. He was a permanent fixture on the Lakeland Weekends, on the trips to North Wales, and the family weekends, where his many and varied stories were much appreciated. He was not always the most gifted golfer, as he would readily admit, but the golfing society could always rely on his support – as did so many Rotary activities. In short he was a committed Rotarian fully involved in many aspects of Rotary life, where we enjoyed his company and he, I believe, took equal pleasure.



Another of his outside activities that proved valuable to the Club was his involvement with the Greater Manchester Police Choir – where he finished up as chairman. Their presence at our Arndale Christmas collections – due to Phil’s influence – greatly boosted our receipts. Stand near the choir and the donations rolled in.

No doubt there will be many tributes from many quarters, but we can proudly say Phil Laker was a true Rotarian – one of the best. It was a pleasure to know you and work with you. You would help anybody out. Thank you for being a good friend. We will miss you. God rest.

*Ernie Metcalfe*

## March Fellowship Evening - A Turkish Delight



**Turquoise Gourmet** in Bramhall was the venue for our March 7<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Evening. Indra Gupta, one of our members, suggested this Turkish restaurant which serves fresh Mediterranean food.

The eighteen club members and friends who attended, found the choice of food was varied and excellent, with the service complimenting the quality. For some members, this was a new experience but one that they relished.

For most the two course option was enough but there is always some that cannot resist a dessert!



Thanks to Hemu and Indra Gupta, along with Roger Walker for organizing this event.

Please make time to join the next Fellowship Evening on April 4 at Tang's Restaurant in Cheadle Hulme.



In attendance:

Members Peter Hartley, Barbara Rosenthal, George Osundiya, Ernie Metcalfe, Derek Evans, Julie and Roy Chapman, Hemu and Indra Gupta, Chris and Roger Walker, along with friends Jan Abbott, Gillian Webb, Joan and Ernest Johnstone, Mavis Pittway and Sheila and Alan Small.

# think differently | act differently

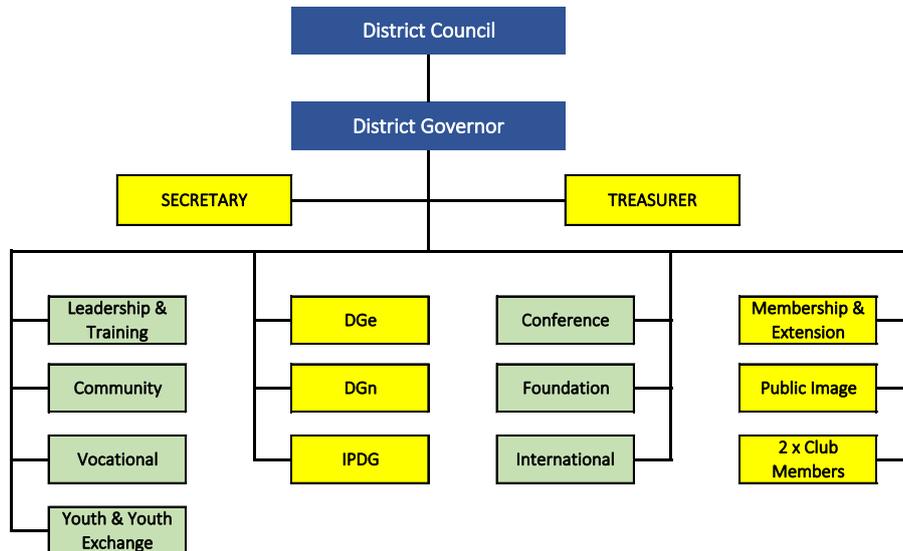
implementing change in D1285

## Situations Vacant.

As part of the on-going District 1285 Review, an opportunity is available for two Rotarians to take up positions on the District 1285 Executive.

Applicants should have held a position within their Rotary Club such as President, Secretary, Treasurer or posts with responsibility for organising projects or other aspects of the club activities. Applicants should not have held a previous position at District level. To discuss the opportunity further, contact District Governor Elect Patrick Tyrell, IPDG Eric Cowcill or IPDT Roger Glew.

Rotarians appointed to the posts will be expected to attend face to face and on-line meetings of the District 1285 Executive and will hold full voting rights with other Executive members. The format of the Executive is shown on the schematic below.



### KEY TO DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIAGRAM



Attend all Executive meetings (Actual and Virtual)



Attend Virtual Executive meetings and Actual if relevant agenda items

Applications should be made before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to the District Secretary, Richard Cooper, by e-mail.

#thinkdifferently



NW England & Isle of Man

In this newsletter, a different member of our club will be featured each issue so that we can get to know each other a little better and see shared interests and skill sets that will help develop the future of our club.

## Our Feature Member

### An Interview with Susan Craig

Susan Craig has been a member of our club since 2011. In this interview, she shares some of her personal pursuits, as well as ideas and causes that she finds of interest.

#### **Tell me a little about yourself:**

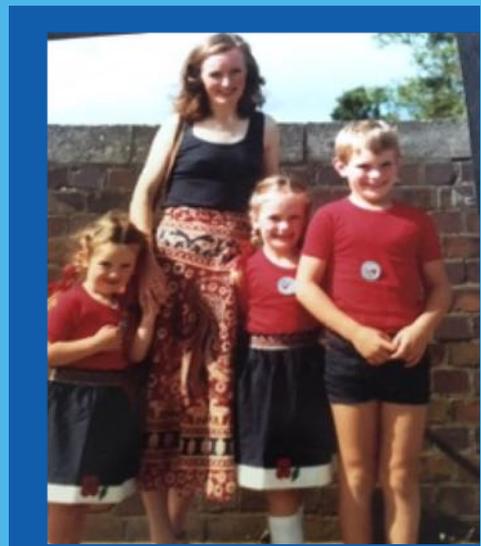


Born in Uxbridge, Middx, brought up in Southampton. Diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of 8, spent 2 months in Great Ormond Street Hospital, 6 months off school. Left school at 16 with secretarial qualifications, obtained qualifications in selling and marketing at 18, became a consultant for Unilever, then worked for Grand Metropolitan Hotels, travelling Europe, vetting night clubs!

First proposal of marriage at 23, said I would not marry until I had seen the world! Joined BOAC as a stewardess, saw the world and married at 25 and had 3 children.

#### **What led you to join the Rotary Club?**

The late Rotarian Philip Webb had arranged an amazing tribute dinner in memory of my late husband Mike Craig in 2011, he then invited me to become a Rotarian.



***Susan with her 3 children - now aged 41, 42, and 44***

**What are some of the things that you participate in or organize for the Rotary Club?**

When my time allows I help wherever I can. I support Robin Graham with the Mike Craig Comedy Awards which are presented to students at Salford University annually.

**What kinds of things do you like to do?**

I give many talks on comedy in memory of Mike, all donations go to charity. Other activities that keep me busy are: Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, North West Appeals Chairman for 'Variety' the children's charity. Secretary of Sale Festival Committee, and sit on the committees of, Worthington Park, and Royal Society of St. George. Also I am President of Sale (318) Squadron Air Cadets. Just retired from 25 years as a magistrate, 3 years as Chairman of Trafford Bench.

When I have time I enjoy sewing.



*Susan with the Queen*

**What do you like to read?**

I prefer to read non-fiction, especially stories of people who started with humble beginnings and reached great heights.

**What inspires you or motivates you in life?**

My desire to achieve and overcome despite the unfortunate start I had in life.

**What are some causes you care about?**

I feel very strongly about the importance of parenting and that has come from my experience in Youth Courts as a magistrate. So many of the young offenders clearly lacked responsible parents.

**What are some of the things that you would like to do before you die?**

I have always wanted to see the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Rio de Janeiro Harbour, Aurora Borealis, Grand Canyon, Great Barrier Reef, Mount Everest, Victoria Falls and Paricutin in Mexico.

I have seen them all except the Paricutin.

### **Who is someone you admire, and why?**

Stephen Hawking, CH, CBE, FRS, FRSA. Diagnosed with Motor Neurone disease in 1963 and given 2 years to live he went on to Cambridge and became a brilliant researcher and professor and considered to be the most brilliant theoretical physicist since Einstein. He died in 2108. I look forward to reading his last book which has just been published.

### **Who are your greatest influences or role models?**

Anyone who gives the most precious thing we have, our time, to help others.

### **What are some things about you that most people do not know about you?**

When I had to leave school at 16, because my parents needed the money, I cried every day for a week on my way to work, and vowed that if ever I had children, they would have the education that I was denied. One of the greatest moments of my life was opening the letter to say that my youngest daughter had a place at Oxford University.

### **Anything else you would like to add?**

Make the most of each day!



*Susan as an BOAC  
Stewardess in 1973*

## **MUSTARD TREE**

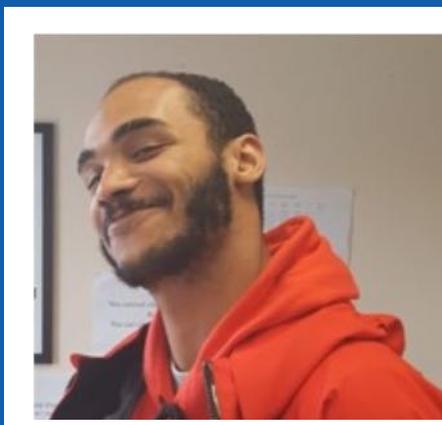
Working to tackle both the causes and consequences of poverty and homelessness in our community

Instead of just talking about homelessness and poverty in Manchester, Mustard Tree is doing something about it. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Aileen Stirman, head of fundraising at Mustard Tree, and Jack Barton, fundraising and communication officer, presented the ideas and practical solutions that this community group is implementing.

Mustard Tree has been around 25 years and The Rotary Club of Manchester has had some involvement with the organisation for 8 years.

Mustard Tree helps people in need learn new skills, find work and secure somewhere to live.

They believe everyone should be able to feed themselves and their family, live in a secure home, be healthy, find meaningful work and have the chance to discover their talents.



Contributions from individual, corporate, and community donors help Mustard Tree tackle poverty and homelessness in Manchester, by creating opportunities for people like Leon (23) to gain the skills and self-confidence they need to reach their full potential:

*"I spent some time sofa surfing – eventually sleeping rough on the streets. Now I want to get a career in support work, maybe even go to University and study Psychology".*

To find out more about Mustard Tree or make a donation, visit [www.mustardtree.org.uk](http://www.mustardtree.org.uk) or email [information@mustardtree.org.uk](mailto:information@mustardtree.org.uk)

# A Visit from Dr Royston Flude



With over 40 years in the Rotary Family, the Rotary Club of Manchester's former president (2000/2001) and currently Founder Member of the Rotary Club Genève Internationale, honoured us with a visit to our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Known as a man of many interests, he informed us about his recent election as the Vice Chair of the [International Fellowship of Rotarian Educators](#).

The International Fellowship of Rotarian Educators is a group dedicated to promoting quality education (both public and private) as well as other types of training and development such as Continuing Education (CE), Further Education, Adult Education, Lifelong Learning and other forms of instruction as an opportunity for fellowship.

He also spoke about his interest in developing the concept of Pro Bono Consulting and its valuation. He believes once voluntary contributions have been valued it would then be possible to engage with funding agencies to consider matched funding.

## *Up and Coming Birthdays*

### **April**

5<sup>th</sup> David Andrew  
19<sup>th</sup> Paul Harris 1868  
Racine, Wisconsin  
30<sup>th</sup> Robin Graham

### **May**

7<sup>th</sup> Susan Craig  
9<sup>th</sup> Peter Hartley  
10<sup>th</sup> Indra Gupta  
30<sup>th</sup> Barbara Rosenthal

### **June**

1<sup>st</sup> Richard Dyson  
10<sup>th</sup> Sinclair McLeod  
6<sup>th</sup> Eddie Hanson

## Difficult Dialogues

**#WeStandTogether**



**#WeStandTogether** was the sponsor of an event at the University of Manchester on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Hosted by the Manchester Museum and partnered by FN4M (Faith Network for Manchester), the evening invited discussion on 'Importing International Conflict'.

Rotarians Robin Graham, Andrea Codolini, and Dale McAulay, along with Rotarian friend Ian Kane attended this event.

### **Aims & Activities of #WeStandTogether**

Events, dialogues & workshops for people to come together, better understand diverse identities, reduce prejudice, promote inclusivity & challenge discrimination At times of tension, bring diverse groups together to promote peaceful coexistence & challenge those seeking to divide communities Research & training to improve understanding & relationships of 9 protected Equality Act characteristics.

Source: <https://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1175945&subid=0>



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/WeStandTogetherBritain/>

# Club Ramble - Bollington Circular



A 7 km circular walk along Middlewood Way (an old railway line) and back along the bank of the Macclesfield canal, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, was the heart of our monthly fellowship ramble.



Beautiful views, fresh air, some evidence of the old railway, narrow boats, interesting bridges, and good fellowship ended by having lunch at the café at the Clarence Mill.



Hugh Barrett, Peter Hartley, Bill Laidlaw, Dale McAulay, Ernie Metcalfe, and Sarah Withington were in attendance. Thanks to Ernie Metcalfe & Derek Evans for organising this event.

## Rotary eClub of Greater Manchester and Cheshire – A Visit by President Steve Scott and PE Jane Hardman



The idea of running a club without actually meeting in person seems alien to most Rotarians, but President Steve Scott and PE Jane Hardman, of the Rotary eClub of Greater Manchester and Cheshire, met up with the our club at our March 28<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting to explain how it is done. Jane felt that having an eClub is a “positive experience in a different way”.

### How do they do it?

Meeting up every two weeks for about an hour from the comfort of their own homes, the club meets using a video conferencing app called [zoom.us](https://zoom.us). All that is needed is a computer, phone, or tablet with camera and microphone.

Not as formal as many Rotary meetings, it still works on an agenda. They have even had some council meetings this way.

The meetings are recorded in order to share on Face Book. They also make use of social media and other technology. WhatsApp groups are formed to exchange information and the club also have a social chat group on WhatsApp to maintain the community side of being in a Rotary Club. Once every six weeks, they still meet face to face in a pub to maintain social contact. Besides using Zoom and WhatsApp, the eClub also uses FB (Facebook), a Club Website, Internet Banking, Twitter, Instagram, and On-Line fundraising.

### Advantages

Some of the advantages mentioned were:

informal meetings, a more laid back feeling, groups ( not committees ) with team leaders, cheaper to run, family friendly, inclusive – overcomes problems with dealing with disabilities or long travel distances or bad weather, easier to partner with other clubs, on-line fundraising, helps bring new people into the club, method of communication more attractive to younger people



Jane and Steve said that it felt odd at first with everyone’s faces in different boxes on the screen, but now it feels comfortable. The eClub is a project driven club, with the same aims as any other Rotary Club, but they are just doing it in a different way.

## Up and Coming Events

- Fellowship Evening  
Thurs Apr. 4  
Tang's  
Cheadle Hulme 18:30
- Club Council  
Tues April 9  
Hough End Centre 17:15
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs April 11  
Auschwitz Discussion Report – PP  
Robin Graham
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs Apr 25  
Climate Change – Fact or Fiction  
12:30
- District Assembly  
Sun Apr. 28  
U. of Bolton Stadium  
9:00 – 13:00
- Fellowship Evening  
Thurs May 2  
Aspire Restaurant  
Trafford College 18:30
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs May 9  
Club AGM 12:30

- Club Council  
Tues May 14  
Hough End Centre 17:15
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs May 16  
Manchester Inner Wheel  
PP Joan Johnstone
- Comedy Showcase  
Mike Craig Award  
Tues May 21  
Frog & Bucket Comedy Club  
19:30 – 21:30
- Lunch Meeting  
Club Assembly  
Thurs May 30  
President Elect Sarah Withington
- Fellowship Evening  
Thurs June 6  
TBA
- Club Council  
Tues June 11  
Hough End Centre 17:15
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs June 13  
Rotary International Report  
PE Sarah Withington & PP Robin  
Graham
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs June 20  
TBA
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs June 27  
President Siddika Ahmed  
Valedictory Address
- RC of Manchester Garden Party  
Thurs June 11  
Arley Hall, Cheshire  
12:00 – 16:00

## Club Meeting Info

**Weekly: Every Thursday at 12:30**

**Place: Manchester Hall**

**36 Bridge Street, Manchester,**

**M3 2BT**

## Rotary Club of Manchester Team 2018-2019

### President

Siddika Ahmed

### President Elect

Sarah Withington

### Membership

Robin Graham PHF

### Vocational

Julie Chapman

### Executive Secretary

Peter Hartley PHF

### Secretary

Peter Hartley PHF

### Community

Julie Chapman

### Rotaract

Roy Chapman PHF

### IT

Peter Hartley PHF

### Treasurer

Philip Laker MPHf

### International

Siddika Ahmed

### Youth Service

Roy Chapman PHF

### Fellowship

Barbara Rosenthal MPHf

### Immediate Past President

Julie Chapman

### Rotary Foundation

Bill Laidlaw PHF

### Attendance

Roger Walker PHF

### Primary Webmaster

Peter Hartley PHF