

# ROTARY CLUB OF MANCHESTER

NEWSLETTER

September 2019



## ***Basic Education and Community Development Month***

### ***From our President Sarah Withington***

It's back to school and quite rightly September is Rotary " Basic Education and Community Development" month and this has to be THE month for our Club! You, as Rotarians in Manchester contribute to so many outstanding community projects, so let's focus on what we already do and do it to the best of our abilities. PP Julie Chapman and I will be meeting up with some local school contacts to plan how we can develop some ideas, following the recent visit from the District Youth chair, Tony Beckett and I look forward to sharing this with you during September.

We also have our keynote speaker Stuart Mason from Rotary Australia visiting on 26th September to tell us about the Hand Washing for Health in schools project. This is a major speaker for our club and the district please make a note in your diary, Rotarians, friends and anyone with an interest, particularly from the educational sector is most welcome, what better way to celebrate this month's theme!

## **In this issue...**

Fellowship Evening

**WOW Update – Robin Graham**

**Rotary Ramble in Memory of PP Phil Laker**

**Feature Member – President Sarah Withington**

**Rotary GBI Update – DG Patrick Tyrell**

**Foundation Matters**

## August Fellowship Evening – The Home of Rotarian Eddie Hanson



We were very fortunate to enjoy the hospitality of Rotarian Eddie Hanson at our Fellowship Evening on August 1.

Eddie, along with his wife and younger daughter, prepared a wonderful meal for us at his home in Manchester.

Eddie shared a video of the wheelchair initiative, that his personal project for para-Olympians, in his home state in Nigeria.

In attendance: Robin Graham, George Osundiya + guest, Roy and Julie Chapman, Barbara Rosenthal, Dale McAulay, Ian Kane

Join us at the next Fellowship at The Romper on Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **WOW WATER PROJECT UPDATE – ROBIN GRAHAM**



PP Robin Graham presented an update on the **WOW Water Project** to the club on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The project brought clean drinking water to the village of Fievie Dugame in Ghana.

Robin explained the history of the project, showing the polluted pond where drinking water was previously obtained, and how the building of a dam affected the community.

Each polytank is on a tilted platform with 3 taps and painted in Rotary colours. There are signs at each polytank displaying Rotary's contribution. Stones and fencing are being added around each site to help with soil erosion during the rainy season.

A Water and Sanitation committee (WATSAN) is being set up, with the help of Ho Rotary (Ghana) and Kove-Yaw (Kids Foundation). Kove-Yaw is someone that befriended Robin on an earlier trip and has helped with the implementation of the project. The committee is responsible for hiring people, who will sit beside the taps and keep track of usage. People will then pay according to their usage. If they need help to pay, the family mentality of the community will step in help those that need it.

This committee will try to connect water to the local High School and decide on how to pay for the school water. We have asked them to keep the water areas in good order, for us to continue our support. Kove-Yaw will let us know how it is going.



*The polytanks and taps.*

The commissioning of the water taps took place on June 25<sup>th</sup> with an official ceremony, along with the blessing by the tribal priest, and in attendance were Rotary Club of Ho, Rotaract Club, Water Commissioner of the region, chiefs from other communities, police, the press, and the people of the community.



***The ribbon cutting at the ceremonial opening of the water project.***

While we were there, we also:

- Presented Encyclopaedia Britannica and other books and teaching materials to three schools.
- Spoke to pupils and staff in five schools and one nursery.
- Attended three community meetings.
- Attended the commissioning of the water system on June 25<sup>th</sup> attended by local and regional press.
- Gave a presentation on laughter and stress management to 80 nurses and doctors at Sogakope District Hospital.
- Established connections with Chief and Queen Mother of Fievie.
- Established connections with the community, both individuals and organisations.
- Established connections with two Rotary Clubs in Ghana, Rotary Club of Ho and Rotary Club of Aflao.



***Above: Encyclopaedia Presentation to Sogakope HS***

***Left: Robin presenting banner from Rotary Club of Aflao to President Sarah Withington***

## Next steps:

- Run a pilot project in microfinance for one woman as a rice farmer. – will need approximately £500
- Establish a small community-owned farm where all profits go to community projects. – will need approximately £1000
- Help find ways for the community to raise money for themselves for community improvements through seed funding.



***Some of the women of Fievie Dugame***

## **What we need:**

- Expertise, ideas, fundraising, and donations!

## **The community needs:**

- New or used computers, tablets, and smart phones
- New or used books and educational materials
- Help with transporting these items to Ghana

## **The community needs ideas, information, and ways to deal with:**

- Toilets
- Period poverty
- Empowering woman in setting up their own small businesses
- Recycling
- Education for toddlers and parents
- Obtaining internet





The community of Fievie honoured Robin by making him Togbe Yingor II (Chief of Continuing Forward Development).

Visit June 16 to July 1 2019

**Participants:**

Robin Graham, Dale Anne McAulay – Rotary Club of Manchester  
A'Dell Harper – Wilmslow Dean Rotary Club  
Aileen Schissler – Rotary Scholar



# **Rotary Ramble**

## **In Memory of PP Phil Laker**

### **Pennington Flash**

### **August 2019**

It was a dark and stormy day when we ventured out on our Rotary swim.....I mean Ramble.

The walk had been one of Phil Laker's favourite rambles and we all walked in his memory.



According to Wikipedia, A flash is a water-filled hollow formed by subsidence. Pennington Flash is a 70-hectare (170-acre) lake created at the turn of the 20th century by coal mining subsidence mainly from Bickershaw Colliery. Before the flash the area contained two farms, both of which were abandoned in the early 1900s due to flooding. During the 1960s and 1970s the idea to convert the flash for recreation was emerging and the country park was opened in 1981. Pennington Flash Country Park is now a nature reserve with over 230 bird species being recorded.



***A bit of water on the path did not stop us!***



Due to the heavy rain, we had to eat our picnic lunch in the bird hide!



*Phil is on the right – July 2015 at Pennington Flash*

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 our President Sarah Withington

Sarah Withington has been a member of our club since 2010 . Currently, Sarah is the president of the Rotary Club of Manchester. In this interview, she shares some of her personal pursuits, as well as ideas and causes she finds of interest.

#### Tell me a little about yourself:

Born in Manchester, I am the eldest of two children. My brother now lives and works with his family in the Midlands and I am lucky to still have both my parents living in the Manchester area

With a strong Irish and Italian background, family is important to me. My first role models being my mother and father, and I inherited a strong work ethic from them.



Career wise I am a bit of a chameleon! I was always encouraged to "do or be" whatever I wanted and after A levels I served almost 7 years in the British Army, then joined British Airways where I enjoyed the "high life" travelling the globe for several years before finally settling back in Manchester.

Doing a job well, whatever that might be, big or small, is always my goal!

***Sarah in 1991 – in Cyprus – taking a break from Desert Storm***

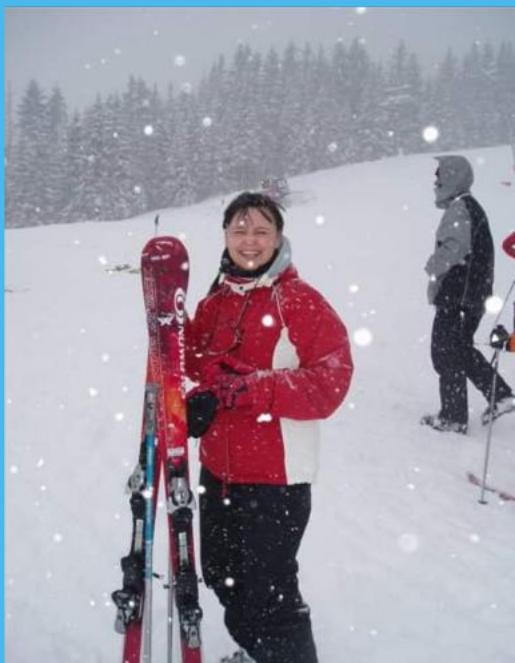
## **What lead you to join the Rotary Club?**

I joined Rotary after returning to Manchester and meeting past president Hugh Barrett in 2010. I knew I wanted to do some charity work but didn't know what. Rotary seemed like a good way to see a breath of work and then decide what I might focus on. It certainly has fulfilled that requirement!

## **What kinds of things do you like to do, when you are not working?**

In my spare time, in the summer, you will find me watching tennis. I have attended 3 of the 4 grand slams - Wimbledon, Paris and US Open - many times with just Melbourne still on my bucket list. In the winter, I will be on my skis somewhere. I have skied all over the world with Patagonia still a dream.

I also make time for work as a film and TV extra, enjoy pottering in the garden, and generally enjoying the outdoors walking, climbing and watching my beloved Manchester City. I have been going to matches with my dad since I was a child through the very bad and now the very good times.



**Sarah skiing – Killington USA**



**Sarah is a Superfan of Man City**



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

We have so many great examples of where our Club has made a contribution both locally and internationally. it would be a difficult decision to choose just one cause.



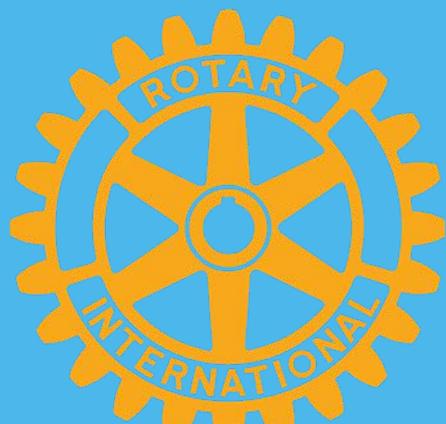
## **Anything else you would like to add?**

Finally I would just like to add that if you will hear me say "Rotary has changed my life" this might seem a bit dramatic, I am Italian after all, but it really has given me a different perspective on life. Often we can lose sight of how lucky we are but if you choose, Rotary can allow you to see the world from a different angle and you can personally make a difference, and that is a wonderful gift

***Sarah in her BA Days***



***Sarah at age 5***



# GBI Update

## District Governor Patrick Tyrell



Our August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, featured guest speaker, DG Patrick Tyrell. He gave us an update on ideas, feelings, and goals for GBI (Great Britain and Ireland) and the world.

***President Sarah Withington  
with DG Patrick Tyrell***

He pointed out the need to shout out to the world and let people know what we do. Tyrell, feels that by publicising what we do, along with good branding will help grow Rotary, as all clubs need to increase membership. We also, need to always keep in mind that service is involvement and increase our ability to adapt, in our quest for more participants.

DG Tyrell also reminded us that Rotary Foundation is the Rotary Charity and we need to contribute more funds. The End Polio Initiative is priority number one for the Foundation and we are almost at our goal of eliminating Polio worldwide but the push needs to be continued!

The District Conference is Oct 19-20 in Llandudno, Wales.



## **FOUNDATION MATTERS**

**FOUNDATION MATTERS** because it is the only officially recognised Rotary charity and each Rotarian is expected to contribute at least \$100 per annum (many of course, probably through ignorance of this obligation, fail to do so!).

### **A TALE TO TELL**

At Manchester Club we have been the recipient of a GLOBAL GRANT worth \$37250 in support of our WOWATER! project which after 6 years of fundraising has successfully concluded by the installation of water treatment facilities in Fievie, Ghana. We had 4 representatives present at the opening of the facility. Very many thanks are due to Rotarian A'dell Harper , who initiated the project; P.P. Robin Graham who has led the planning, fundraising, and conducted all the painstaking paperwork; Dale McAuley whose video records the opening of the facility in Ghana; and Rotary Scholar Aileen Schlissler who travelled for the opening.

Thus, a very successful end to a well-supported and executed project. A story worth telling! Which will happen at :

**ROTARY DISTRICT FOUNDATION DINNER, STATHAM LODGE HOTEL, LYMM – THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER.**

Bring family, friends, and potential members to hear our incredible story. Names to Bill Laidlaw .

**MONY A MICKLE MAKES A MUCKLE.** (Old Scots saying which translates as “Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves” ) .

A'dell Harper when running her nursery school had the brilliant idea of teaching her pupils the value of water by have them "buy" a drink of water at a penny a glass. The idea grew into the project that became known as WOWATER!



Stealing this theme, Bill Laidlaw has started putting each 20p received in change into a jar. This formed the basis of a "guess the value of the contents" challenge when DG Patrick visited the club on 22 August. To Bill's surprise the jar, and the raffle, raised almost £100.

By co-incidence the winner of the raffle was the DG who is pictured here carrying off a bottle of Bill's best Scotch!

**-Article by Bill Laidlaw-**

Foundation has benefited by this £100 and the proof of the old adage " mony a mickle maks a muckle" remains true today!

Bill is encouraged to continue saving his pennies. However he recognises that we are becoming more and more a cashless society so he is encouraging fellow Rotarians who have abandoned cash to simple write a cheque in favour of Rotary Foundation

## Up and Coming Birthdays

September  
2<sup>nd</sup> Roy Chapman  
3<sup>rd</sup> Derek Evans  
9<sup>th</sup> Hugh Barrett  
29<sup>th</sup> Roy Chisnall  
17<sup>th</sup> Royston Flude

October  
9<sup>th</sup> Alia Arif

December  
1<sup>st</sup> Roger Walker  
2<sup>nd</sup> John Gavan  
13<sup>th</sup> Lilian Liu

The Children of Fievie



## Up and Coming Events

- Fellowship  
Thursday Sept 5  
The Romper 18:00
- Council Meeting  
Tues Sept 10  
Hough End Centre 17:15
- Lunch Meeting  
Thursday Sept 12 12:30  
Steve Jordan  
Eccles Community Fire Station  
Operation Florian & Damascus  
Project Update
- Coffee Afternoon  
Thursday Sept 19  
Indra Gupta's house  
14:00 – 16:00
- Rotary Ramble  
Friday September 20  
Bollin Valley

### Club Meeting Info

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

**Place: Manchester Hall**

**36 Bridge Street, Manchester,**

**M3 2BT**

- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs September 26  
Hand Washing Project – Stuart  
Mason – Rotary Australia
- Council Meeting  
Tues October 8  
Hough End Centre 17:15
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs October 10  
Hearing Dogs for Deaf – Christine  
Wright
- Rotary Ramble  
Thursday October 17
- Lunch Meeting  
Thurs October 24  
PP Royston Flude – Rotary  
Wanderings
- District 1285 Foundation Dinner  
Thursday November 28  
Stratham Lodge Hotel, Lynn
- Rotary In Manchester Christmas  
Dinner  
Thurs Dec 5 19:00  
The Hough End Centre, Chorlton
- District 1285 International Rally  
Wed March 18 2020  
19:00  
TBA
- Rotary Convention  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
June 6-10 2020

## Rotary Club of Manchester Team 2019-2020

**President**  
Sarah Withington  
**President Elect**

**Membership**  
Robin Graham PHF  
**Vocational**  
Julie Chapman  
**Executive Secretary**  
Robin Graham PHF

**Secretary**  
Peter Hartley PHF  
**Community**  
Julie Chapman  
**Rotaract**  
Roy Chapman PHF  
**IT**  
Peter Hartley PHF

**Treasurer**  
Peter Hartley PHF  
**International**  
**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