

ROTARY CLUB OF MANCHESTER



NEWSLETTER

March 2019



Our Newsletter Returns

Welcome to The Rotary Club of Manchester's newsletter. Our club is part of the global network of 1.2 million neighbours, leaders, friends, and problem solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change. Following the Rotary Motto of "Service Above Self", the members of our club work together to impact our community and the world.

Our club actively supports many causes. We support the Rotary End Polio Now and Disaster Aid UK campaigns, as well as supporting many local foundations. Examples of some of these are The Christie Hospital, Francis House Children's Hospice, The Stroke Association, Narrowgate Homeless Shelter, and Pettypool Outdoor Activity Centre.

Since the formation of the Rotary Club of Manchester in 1911, we have taken action on our world's most persistent issues and will continue to do so. This newsletter hopes to highlight some of our activities and achievements and encourage further participation and fellowship by our members.

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Ellis

*Please feel free to send ideas,
suggestions, and photos to include
in our newsletter, to Dale McAulay.*



TAKE ACTION: [Rotary Club of Manchester](#)

Focus on the Crocus

The Initiative to End Polio

By Peter Hartley



Focus on the Crocus update March 2014



Some members may remember that Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) had an initiative working with The Eden Project, the International Flower Bulb Centre (IBC), the National Trust and Learning through Landscapes to plant around a million purple crocus bulbs from the beginning of October 2010, so they would be in flower for Rotary Day – 23 February 2011.

These flowers represent the colour of indigo which is dabbed on a child's little finger to indicate they have been immunised against polio.

On Sunday 14th November 2010, The Rotary Club of Manchester, ably assisted by local Scouts & Guides, planted 5000 crocus bulbs at a site arranged by Quarry Bank Mill at Styal. The helpers were from 7th Wilmslow & 1st Handforth Guides and 4th & 6th Wilmslow Scouts. The weather was good and the bulbs were planted in record time under the guidance and assistance of Alan Knapper, head gardener at Styal Country Park.

Rotary in the UK has planted in total almost 5 million crocus bulbs countrywide as an initiative to create awareness of the "End Polio Campaign" and a record is in the Guinness Book of records for the most people planting flower bulbs simultaneously that was achieved by 636 participants in an event organised by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (UK), at Butt's Close Park at Hitchin, UK, on 2 October 2010 - many areas on the ground around the country now have been purple and this symbolises the success by Rotary Internationally in the final elimination of Polio from this planet.



The photos show the planting at Styal and a few weeks ago with the crocus in bloom.

End Polio Crocus update March 2019



Whilst walking in Styal Country Park, close to Quarry Bank Mill, at the beginning of March, I was pleased to see that the display of crocus planted 9 years ago by our Club was looking good – especially as the local squirrels had gorged on quite a few of the original bulbs that were planted!

It is just a shame that the general public do not know the significance of the crocus and the involvement of Rotary around the world to help eradicate this disease. The National Trust would not allow us to put a small sign up advising that the purple colour represents the colour that is put on the children's little finger to identify which ones had been given the anti-polio vaccine in the Countries that still had this awful disease.

It also brought back happy memories of that Sunday where the local Guides and Scouts helped us plant, with PP Philip Webb having organised the event. Sadly, Philip is no longer with us, but his spirit lives on!

I have attached a few more photographs from the planting day in 2010.



Laughing At Hate



Generating laughter can bring people together. This was the idea presented to challenge hate at the **Laughing At Hate** event sponsored by **We Stand Together** during **Hate Crime Awareness Week**.

Members of the Manchester International Rotaract along with Manchester Rotary Club member, Robin Graham, facilitated this event at Manchester Communication Academy on February 6th. Using creative games and humour, people shared ideas to investigate ways to strengthen our communities and examined ways that laughter can be a social glue.

Read more about this event: [Laughing At Hate](#).

Before the event there was a presentation of cheques by the Rotary Club of Manchester to two gymnasts, sisters Keely Kelly, and Kelis Kelly, students at Manchester Communication Academy, to support their travel to international competitions.



Friends and Food



Fresh Italian food and lively conversation, at **Vapiano's Restaurant** at the Corn Exchange in Manchester, was the heart of our February Fellowship Evening. Thirteen of us met up to enjoy the homemade pasta dishes cooked to order, right in front of us, in the open kitchen. Thanks to Andrea Codolini and Roger Walker who organized this event.

Please make time to join us for the next fellowship evening on March 7 at Yara's Lebanese restaurant.



Up and Coming Birthdays

March
 10th Siddika Ahmed
 17th Dale McAulay
 25th Nye Rowlands

April
 5th David Andrew
 19th Paul Harris 1868
 Racine, Wisconsin
 30th Robin Graham



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 skillsets that will help develop the future of our club.

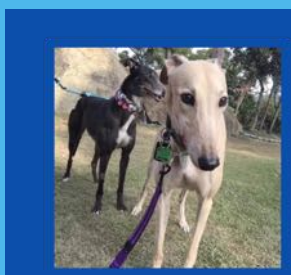
Our Newest Member

An Interview with Lilian Lu



Lilian is the newest member of our club, joining in January 2019. 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 bit about yourself:



I am 30 years old, married for 2 years and recently adopted a retired racing greyhound (Fay, 8 years old). Fay is staying in Macau with my husband (Ernie) who is a golf pro working at the country club in Macau.

I have been working with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for 7 years (6 years in Hong Kong, 1 year in Manchester) with a chartered accountant qualification. I graduated with a BSc (Biology) at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, but found myself not wanting to stay in the laboratory most of the time, but rather develop a career where I could communicate more with people, so I decided to change my career after I graduated.

My job gave me opportunities to work in different territories. I went to Auckland (New Zealand) for 3 months in 2015, and moved to Manchester in 2017.

What led you to join the Rotary Club?

I heard about the Rotary Club since I was in high school, where one of the Rotary Clubs in Hong Kong (Wan Chai Rotary Club) was offering sponsorship to 2 students in our school every year to go to the UK on a 2-week language/ culture trip. The great success of the polio project also induced me to join the Rotary Club where I hope I could contribute to the society/ world by collaborating with the other Rotarians.

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

Travelling, playing the piano and walking dogs.

What type of music do you like? Jazz Music

What inspires you or motivates you in life?

The stray/ endangered animals – as human we need to save/help them because they are so vulnerable and innocent. I will adopt more dogs/ cats in the future and encourage people around me to do so.

What are some causes you care about?

Animal rights, racism, sexual inequality

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

Contribute in animal rights activities – e.g. whale killing in Japan / Iceland, dog eating in China/ Korea etc

Who is someone you admire, and why?

Beethoven – he produced so much great work and never gave up even he had gone deaf

Who are your greatest influences or role models?

Mark Zuckerberg – he changed the way people in the world communicating/ businesses operating, and he contributed most of his fortune to the charities – the characters of him doing great things but still being humble/ subtle impressed me.

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

Although I usually look cool/ upset/ worried in appearance, it is just me – it doesn't mean anything lol.

Anything else that you would like to add?

Thanks for all these questions which gives me a chance for self-reflection, stop for a minute to listen to myself:)



What We Do

At the **Rotary Club of Manchester**, many causes and activities are supported by our members. The following list is a directory, compiled by Robin Graham, with input from other members, of some of the things we do.

Please email both Robin Graham and Dale McAulay with additions and corrections.

Rotary Club activities usually fall into one of four categories:

- International
- Fellowship
- Youth
- Community

International:

- The WOW Water project. It is a Global Grant project and based in Volta Region, Ghana. (Robin Graham)
- Support of a girl in Tanzania through Plan International. (Derek Evans)

Fellowship:

- Rambling Club (Ernie Metcalfe)
- 2 night visit to Lake District (Roy Chisnall)
- Monthly dinners (Roger Walker and Barbara Rosenthal)

Youth:

- Manchester Communication Academy, including the Urban Crew day (Robin Graham and Eddie Hanson)
- St Anthony's (Sarah Withington)
- Rotaract (Roy Chapman)

Community:

- Butler Street Trinity Monday Club (Phil Laker)
- Carol Singing at the Arndale (Phil Laker and Barbara Rosenthal)
- Mike Craig award (Susan Craig)
- Narrowgate Night Shelter (Peter Hartley)

Recent but not this year:

- International Lunch with an ambassador (Up to incoming presidents to decide what might be appropriate)
- Know Your Blood Pressure (A smaller scale activity may be reintroduced in 2020)

The New Look of Rotary

A Talk by PDG David Ellis



A look into new ideas and ways of bringing Rotary forward, was presented on February 28th by Past District Governor (PDG) David Ellis, as he outlined his concepts and plans for when he becomes Chairman of [Rotary GBI](#) (Great Britain and Ireland), in 2021-22.

With declining membership, Mr Ellis, felt that issues around this must be addressed. He pointed out that Rotary GBI once had 22 000 Rotaract members and now has only 500, and with fewer new members being recruited, the average age in Rotary GBI is 73 years old. When he becomes Chairman of GBI, Ellis plans to implement an action plan to address the problems of the Rotary Club.

Some of his ideas include addressing the barriers to change, altering the selection process for membership on the GBI executive, focus on the need for Rotary to promote what they do, find other ways of meeting, and look for partnerships.

In the past, many past district governors and club secretaries opposed changes, and Ellis feels that this attitude must adjust for the club to survive. He wants to change the way executive members are chosen by going outside the past way of appointing members and instead advertise and encourage applications from all Rotarians with selection based on the people that have the necessary skill sets needed to run the Rotary GBI.



To bring back larger numbers of Rotaract members and having them to continue membership in the future, he knows that the club needs to find new ways of meeting, be flexible, and encourage novel ideas such as satellite groups. Ellis believes we should not let the rule book hold us back.

Partnerships with government, large national corporations, and other volunteer groups will give Rotary fresh ideas, as well as support, as we move into a new era. Ellis has already set dates for a National Conference, which he is calling an Expo, to bring fresh ideas and life into the club.

The Expo will be held in Birmingham in May 2020, May 2021, and May 2022.

Up and Coming Events

- Book Giveaway
Saturday March 2
Asda Hulme
- Fellowship Evening
Thurs March 7
Turquoise Turkish Restaurant
Bramhall 18:30
- Club Council Meeting
Tues March 12
Hough End Centre 17:15
- Lunch Meeting
Thurs March 14
Aileen Stirman from Mustard Tree
12:30
- Difficult Dialogues
Thurs March 21
Manchester University
18:00 – 20:00
- Club Ramble Disley
Fri March 22
Contact: Ernest Metcalfe
- Lunch Meeting
Thurs March 28
Rotary eClub of Greater MCR & Cheshire

- Fellowship Evening
Thurs Apr. 4
Tang's
Cheadle Hulme 18:30
- 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
- Comedy Showcase
Mike Craig Award
Tues May 21
Frog & Bucket Comedy Club
19:30 – 21:30

Club Meeting Information

Weekly: Every Thursday at 12:30

Place: Manchester Hall

36 Bridge Street, Manchester,

M3 3BT

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 MPH

International

Siddika Ahmed

Youth Service

Roy Chapman PHF

Fellowship

Barbara Rosenthal MPH

Immediate Past President

Julie Chapman

Rotary Foundation

Bill Laidlaw PHF

Attendance

Roger Walker PHF

Primary Webmaster

Peter Hartley PHF