ROTARY CLUB OF MANCHESTER



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020



From our President Sarah Withington

So, another month of lockdown is over, and every day is a day nearer the end! All of us are coping in different ways, I know I have had my moments and its normal to feel that life is getting the better of you sometimes. It's been so great to see and hear about all the different new things you are embracing, and we have captured some of them in this slightly different version of our newsletter for you all to read about and I hope you enjoy it.

May is Youth Service Month and I am delighted, that as a Club, we have started to embrace 'Youth' culture and technology with our new-fangled **Zoom Meetings!** More on this in the article below from Robin, but a great start and I hope more of you will join us on this journey of discovery!

In this issue...

Zoom – a new way of doing meetings and fellowship and other things!!! Read all the details in this issue!

Francis House

SPECIAL COVID-19 SECTION

What have we been doing during Covid-19??? And other member contributions! Jokes, poems, arts info, recipes, and more!!!!!!!!

In Memory of David Blackley and Bill Wood

Notices



TAKE ACTION: Rotary Club of Manchester



What is Zoom?

Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video or audio-only or both, all while conducting live chats.

One of the good things about being in lockdown, is taking advantage of the experience by learning new skills! If you have a smart phone, tablet, or computer you can do this!

Do a Google Search for Zoom and you can find out more information and you can also download the Zoom application in advance of the meetings. Go to zoom.us to download.



A group of us from the club trying out Zoom!

Alternate Fellowship Meeting and Club Council arrangements in May.

As a way of club members keeping in contact next month, we can go online and use a tool called Zoom.

We can use Zoom on our phone, laptop or main computer. It's nice to use whichever has a camera included: we can then see each other while on the Zoom call. But it's also possible to dial in using a phone and joining as a voice call only.

See more info from Robin on the next Page.

Zoom Meetings and Fellowship Info Here!

Fellowship: Thursday 7th May at 6pm - joining any time from 6pm to 7.30pm

As it is a fellowship, you are welcome to bring your guests. You are also welcomed to bring your food and drink! It will be an informal get together.

To join the meeting click on this link or copy and paste:

This information will be sent to you by email.

When you click on the link:

- Except if you are phoning in, it will ask you to install the zoom software on your phone or PC or laptop if you don't already have it. You need to do this before entering the zoom room.
- It will then ask if you want to join using computer audio and click on this option.
- You may then find yourself in a 'waiting room' before the meeting starts.

If you have any problems getting into the meeting, call Peter or Robin.

Club Council: May 12, 2020 05:30 PM. ALL CLUB MEMBERS WELCOME

Join Zoom Meeting

To join the meeting click on this link or copy and paste:

This information will be sent to you by email.

If you have any problems getting into the meeting, call Peter or Robin.

FRANCIS HOUSE THANKS



Kate Puc, President Sarah Withington, and Barbara Rosenthal MPHF

Our March 12th meeting was highlighted by a presentation by Kate Puc from Francis House, followed by a cheque presentation from our club to support Francis House. This was a result of our annual Arndale Centre collection, with the assistance of the Greater Manchester Police Male Choir.

Below is a certificate and a letter of thanks from Francis House.







COVID-19 SPECIAL SECTION

FROM THE EDITOR - Dale

With isolation and social distancing, normal meetings at the Manchester Hall are not taking place and many of the wonderful things that we do, are postponed or delayed for now!

The virus has, not only made everyone realise how much we usually take for granted, but as a Rotary Club, forcing us into the world of technology and the internet. This is a good thing!

Thanks to the many people that contributed to this section of the newsletter – it is meant to cheer us up and help us remember that a sense of humour is always a great thing!

I apologize for using my own initiative to come up with some of the photos. As many contributors did not submit photos, I used some creativity to provide some – hope that I have not insulted anyone as it was meant to be fun!

Take care and stay safe Dale

P.S. As self-distancing appears to be continuing for a while, I am looking for more contributions from members, so please more articles, recipes, poems, jokes, and photos! And let us know how you are doing and coping in these crazy times!

Thanks to the contributors of the Covid-19 Section:

Dave Andrew Derek Evans Roger Walker Peter Hartley Bill Laidlaw Helen Roberts
Robin Graham
Roy and Julie Chapman
Sarah Withington
Ernie Metcalfe

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



Andrew with his singing mates

Dave Andrew PP 1986 Southport

Lockdown is meaning to me, no golf and worse no Barbershop singing. I had a lunch time speech to give to Southport Rotary Club in late March, but this has been postponed. I was going to take 3 singing colleagues with me so that I could demonstrate how Barbershop singing and the elusive 7th chord worked. The four of us makes up my quartet and our top song is 'Give my regards To Broadway'.

I had hoped to make an appearance in June to the club especially to see Derek take over in June but suspect this will not be possible.

Each day in Lockdown I spend time going thru' all the songs we sing in The Wayfarers Chorus.

Singing is a great pastime giving enjoyment to many and keeping us all fit. My oldest singing colleague is 97 and I am now 85 as no doubts you would have noted at you April meeting.

Cheers All - Dave Andrew

Derek Evans

Looking on the darker side of life, it has been an unforgettable year and will go down in history as a major catastrophe. This horrendous virus has had an unbelievable effect on life, health and our economy. It is moving to see how people are working together thus emulating the basic fundamental aims of Rotary.

Looking on the brighter side of life and complying with the direction of the 'lockdown', it has enabled me to do things which I have continually side lined. I have cleaned the windows inside and out – twice, cleaned out the gutters, emptied the loft and ordered a skip. Lastly, I have ordered two dumpy bags of soil for the garden. I've won my stripes back!!!



Derek cleaning the windows at his home.

Forecast - December will be a bumper month for births.

Derek Evans

Roger Walker

For all of us of advancing years

I'm normally a social girl I love to meet my mates But lately with the virus here We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now We need to stay inside If they haven't seen us for a while. They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did Before we got this old There wasn't any Facebook, So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies Who would never be uncouth But we grew up in the 60s – If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll, The pill, and miniskirts We smoked, we drank, we partied And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married, And turned into someone's mum, Somebody's wife, then nana. Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace because our lives were full But to bury us before we're dead Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside For 4 weeks, maybe more I finally found myself again Then I had to close the door!

It didn't' really bother me, I'd while away the hour I'd bake for all the family But I've got no bloody flour! Now Netflix is just wonderful I like a gutsy thriller I'm swooning over Idris Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze For when I'm being idle There's wine and whiskey, even gin If I'm feeling suicidal!

So, let's all drink to lockdown, To recovery and health And hope this bloody virus Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis And be back to join our mates Just hoping I'm not far too wide To fit through the flaming gates!

Dear All

Hope you are safe and well. Hope this brings a smile. Regards, Roger



Roger in the 1960's

Jottings from my back garden Peter Hartley

The RAF have been using the time, with far fewer aircraft movements within the country, to train their pilots using different civilian airports around the country. Each day, RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire posts on twitter where their training aircraft are going, and they continually make the point that they are normal training exercises and nothing to do with the COVID-19 situation.



It is amazing how stories quickly appear on social media giving totally incorrect info. I saw one a week ago saying that 4 RAF Boeing C17 aircraft had departed Manchester one afternoon having taken PPE equipment for Manchester Hospitals.

It was in fact 1 aircraft that did 4 circuits at Manchester purely crew training and nothing to do with PPE! (I have enclosed a photo of this aeroplane taken from my back garden). That same day there were numerous other RAF aircraft doing touch and go's at Manchester including a Red Arrows Hawk aircraft.

Similarly, with civilian aircraft there are false stories appearing. Yesterday there were 3 Kuwait Airways wide body aircraft flew in and out of Manchester (Also 3 more today and 3 tomorrow). Social media stated that they were returning UK Nationals to this country – They were, in fact, arriving empty as they were repatriating Kuwaiti nationals back to their homeland!

I enjoy photography and, as I haven't been taking photos at Rotary meetings, I have been watching in the fine weather, aircraft flying over (many cargo aircraft including some from the Dutch company I used to work for, returning to Amsterdam from South America) and the various wildlife in my garden.





I have attached a couple of photos from last week and one from late last year of a hawk enjoying breakfast in the garden – I don't think that the pigeon was too happy.....!

When I finish this pigeon-You're next !!!!

Peter Hartley

Bill Laidlaw

In reply to the President's Cri de Coeur to support your (excellent!) club magazine by this weekend, I would love to help but being a geriatric octogenarian (!) I am in receipt of a 4 page letter from NHS instructing me to stay at home without crossing doorstep for 4 weeks! Consequently, to stop madness creeping in, we have been tidying things that have lain untouched for decades. Amongst my finds is my membership card from Round Table in Uganda. Round Table, as you know, grew out of Rotary as its younger branch and membership was for chaps under 40. The assumption being that they could not afford to be Rotarians until advancement in their careers but that they were better equipped for more physical activities.

As you can imagine, in Africa, there were many competing needs for our services. In particular, Round Table were decades ahead of Rotary when they tackled the scourge of Polio. One of our Tablers, in Kampala, was a surgeon and he developed an operation which helped straighten the legs of patients and got them upright. In Jinja our club raised the funds and built a ward for polio sufferers (I repeat – we designed and then raised the money and ourselves built a hospital ward!). A story in itself.

Yours Aye, Bill.



Bill tidying up his house.

There have been many announcements about shows we can now access online. Below are some top picks of theatre and performances:

FROM THE STAGE TO YOUR HOME Helen Roberts

National Theatre will stream Benedict Cumberbatch in FRANKENSTEIN available until the 7th May. They continue to share steamed plays every Thursday at 7pm.

Northern Ballet are offering their version of George Orwell's - 1984

To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday on 23rd April, BBC have 6 **Royal Shakespeare Company** performances available to watch on iPlayer.

The Royal Opera House is sharing. THE WINTER TALE.

The Royal Ballet, 2014. On 1st May at 7pm.



Grayson Perry new Art programme began this week on channel 4 Grayson's Art Club.

Spring from my window - Helen Roberts

Presently we cannot go far from our home. This is what I can see from my window. I ask members to also share photos of what they can see from their windows.



From L to R - My garden, Cherry trees at the front, Peony bursting out

Life Under Lockdown - Helen Roberts

Since lockdown I have been staying with my sister and nieces. Hence, I have no computer and trying to use pages on my iPad. I am cooking daily for my sister's mother in law. She came out of hospital after having a stomach operation, unfortunately it was unsuccessful, she is on a soft food diet.

I combine my daily hour exercise with delivering a different dish, accompanied by the family pet dog Coco. **How life has changed!**

Helen's Recipe for **BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING**

8 slices of bread, crusts removed 50g (2oz) butter 50g (2oz) currants or sultanas (or mixed) 1 lemon or orange, finely grated zest (optional) 1/2 tsp mixed spice (optional) 40g (1 1/2 oz) caster sugar 2 eggs 568ml (1pint) fresh milk



- 1. Spread bread thickly with butter. Cut into fingers, small squares or triangles.
- 2. Place half into 1.1 litre (2 pint) greased, ovenproof dish.
- 3. Combine the fruit, mixed spice & zest in a bowl (optional). Sprinkle the bread with fruit and half the sugar.
- 4. Top with remaining bread, buttered side up. Sprinkle with the remaining sugar.
- 5. Beat eggs and milk well together. Strain into dish over bread.
- 6. Leave to stand for 30 mins so that bread absorbs some of the liquid.
- 7. Bake at 170C (325F) Mark 3 for 45 mins 1 hour until pudding is set and top is crisp.

A small joke to brighten up our day

Just be careful because people are going crazy from being in lock down!

Actually, I've just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster, while drinking coffee! All of us agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron calmed me down as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The hoover was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything, but the doorknob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged, and the curtains told me to pull myself together! Otherwise, things are going pretty well.

Take care and keep safe. Thanks to Roger Walker for this joke.

Birthdays

May

7th Susan Craig 9th Peter Hartley 10th Indra Gupta 30th Barbara Rosenthal

June

1st Richard Dyson
6th Eddie Hanson
10th Sinclair McLeod
13th Ernie Metcalfe





April Charity Draw Winners

1st Place Alan Grundy

2nd Place Mavis Pittway

TALKING TO PIES – A poem for self-isolation by **Robin Graham**

I've found a way of dealing With lonely isolation This is my solution: Talk to pies.

Some are made for listening; Some just want to hug you; Look into my eyes: It's I spy pie solution. Fill your fridge with pies, It's a sweeter isolation. Your Self-pie solution Talk to pies.

Some are great for venting.
Rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb rhubarb,
Stops emotional py-rotechnics,
Allows pi-ous contemplation.
This is pi-oneering,
No lonely self-isolation
When you try self-pie solution
Talk to pies.





Pie Pictures by Robin

Roy and Julie Chapman tell us what is going on in their lives during Covid Lockdown

During these unusual times:

Are you under total lockdown in your home or are you able to still go out to shop and walk?

We are living in lockdown as much as possible due to Julie being an acute asthmatic and having a heart condition. We are doing some on-line shopping, but occasionally go to the local small shops for the odd things. We are going out daily for exercise to take our chocolate Labrador 'Maisy' for a walk – being fortunate in having a large green open space nearby.

What types of things are you doing? (reading/ cooking/ playing video games/watching TV/ etc etc) Give some details:

Roy has been furloughed from work until 31st May, giving us time to catch up on a backlog of jobs around the house, and bringing other affairs up to date. So far, he has repaired, filled and undercoated the two bay windows on the front of the house. These now just need glossing. We have also spent time enjoying our garden during the recent sunny weather. Julie has spent time enjoying doing her crafts, crochet, embroidery and quilting, trying to finish some projects. We have both done some baking, Roy making his delicious bread and butter pudding and Julie made a lovely rhubarb cake.



How are you getting help? (Friends/family/ not getting help/etc etc) Give some details:

We are not getting any help, as we don't really need it.

A 'selfie' of Roy and Julie, with 'Maisy' – on her daily walk

Are you and/or friends or family on the front line or doing things to contribute to help? (nurses/doctors/care workers/delivery drivers etc etc). Give some details:

Rachel our daughter is a Paramedic in The Royal Air Force, based in the Medical Centre at RAF Cranwell. She picked up what they think was Coronavirus and ended up having two and a half weeks at home, really ill, but thankfully didn't need to be admitted to hospital. It has left her feeling exhausted. She has now been back at work for two weeks, but still tires easily – but finds herself working silly long hours.



The Band of the Royal Air Force College in front of the main building

Do you have any advice to give about surviving in lockdown?

Only watch the news once a day.
Initially Julie was watching the news
all the time, and she got herself very
stressed, so now we watch The
Government Briefing, followed by
The News and Look North West,
and that's it. Try and get out for
exercise each day to get fresh air,
and a change of scene.

Please name anyone that you would like to give a special thank you to. And why?

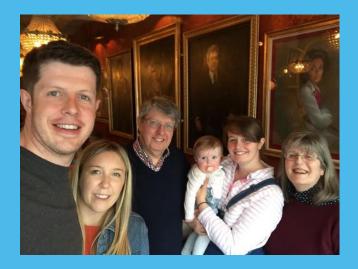
Like so many we want to give a special thank you to ALL who are keeping the Nation going and particularly to the front-line workers in the NHS who are dealing with the awful effects of Covid-19.

Anything else that you would like to add?

We are both missing seeing people.

We long to see our family, our daughter Rachel and her partner Will (who is in The Royal Marines), and our son Matthew, daughter in law Gemma and our beautiful Granddaughter Ottolie. Matthew and Gemma are expecting their second child on 4th July, (another Granddaughter for us), but we wonder when we will be able to see and hold her?

This photo shows a happy time last Spring – almost exactly one year ago. Matthew, Gemma and Ottolie were visiting Manchester and we had a super 'brunch' with them. Rachel was on leave from the RAF and joined us.



Matthew, Gemma, Roy, Ottolie, Rachel and Julie

Contribution by:

Julie Chapman PHF and

Roy Chapman PHF

President Sarah – What Sarah is doing during Covid-19!

Most of you know that normally I am employed as a sales manager for a pharmaceutical company but for the last few weeks I have been redeployed to our Well Pharmacy division as a prescription delivery driver, taking prescriptions to those who are housebound. It's been hard work, carrying out around 40 deliveries a day, following the sat nav, and dodging traffic in a high vis vest! We have been well looked after and have had access to all the required PPE and on the whole the patients have been really pleased to see a friendly face.

Sarah



Sarah out on delivery

Keep on Laughing Thanks to Ernie Metcalfe

Weather forecasting - the Australian Way

It was April and the Aboriginals in a remote part of Northern Australia asked their new elder if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was an elder in a modern community, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked up at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he had an idea. He walked out to the telephone booth on the highway, called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked, 'is the coming winter in this area going to be cold?'

The meteorologist responded, 'it looks like this winter is going to be guite cold'

So the elder went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again. 'Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?'

The meteorologist again replied, 'Yes, it's going to be a very cold winter'

The elder again went back to his community and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find.

Two weeks later the elder called the Bureau again. 'Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?' he asked.

'Absolutely,' the man replied. 'It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever'.

'How can you be so sure?' the elder asked.

The weatherman replied, 'Our satellites have reported that the Aboriginals in the north are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign'.

One Last Joke from Ernie

Confucius say

If you can't find the book you want

You're probably shopping

at the----



A few of Dale's photos



Social distancing waiting to go into Tesco's



Left: Sunset – taken from my flat

Right: Survival Kit – dark chocolate, maple syrup, wine, & flowers

Hope everyone enjoyed our **Special Section**...now, back to our regular news!

IN MEMORY



PP Bill Wood

Bill Wood

It is with sadness that I advise that Past President **Bill Wood** passed away yesterday. He was President of our Club in 1990/91 and then also Treasurer for a number of years. He left the club quite a few years ago, so only a few of the members would remember him. -Peter Hartley-

Darrell Blakely

You will, of course be aware of our Club's association with the Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir, who kindly support our Xmas collection at the Arndale Centre for Francis House Children's Hospice.



One of their members, Darrell Blackley, sadly died from the Corona Virus on March 13th aged 88 years. I became aware of this when his son Jonathan, was on Radio 4s Today programme, talking about his Dad, but mainly the impact, that having died with the virus was having on the family's experience of the funeral.

Darrell had always said he wanted to be cremated, and his ashes scattered at the same place as his wife's following her death 8 years ago. However, as he had a pacemaker, this could not be removed, due to the virus, and therefore he needed to be buried, and of course, there were strict limits to the number of people who could attend the funeral, meaning that the choir could not be part of the celebration of Darrell's life.

Jonathan, however, wanted to speak about how much his Dad meant to him and the family saying, "He lived life to the full for most of his 88 years, I couldn't keep up with him, even though I was half his age!" He was a regular attender at walking groups, an active member of Probus, he attended the same church for 50 years, and a member of the Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir for 25 years, and, as Jonathan fondly remembered "Whenever we attended weddings, Christmas events, funerals, church etc, his was the loudest voice! We will never forget him" neither will the Rotary Club of Manchester, thank you Darrell RIP

-Barbara Rosenthal-



Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir



Up and Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE THAT MANY **EVENTS ARE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19**

FELLOWSHIP: ON ZOOM Thursday 7th May 6pm Join any time from 6pm to 7.30pm

CLUB COUNCIL: ON ZOOM Tuesday May 12, 2020 05:30 pm ALL WELCOME



Keep watching the website to find out about more Zoom events and meetings and when our regular meetings will return.

Club Meeting Info

Weekly: Every Thursday at 12:30

Place: Manchester Hall

36 Bridge Street, Manchester,

M3 2BT



Rotary Club of Manchester Team 2019-2020

President Sarah Withington **President Elect** Derek Evans Membership Robin Graham PHF Vocational Julie Chapman **Executive Secretary**

Robin Graham PHF

Secretary Peter Hartley PHF Community Julie Chapman Rotaract Roy Chapman PHF

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