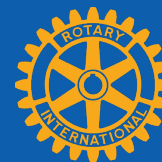


ROTARY CLUB OF MANCHESTER

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2020



From our President Derek Evans

Now it is November, and we find ourselves back in lockdown. Travelling, socializing and eating out are a thing of the past, however, look on the bright side of things – it can't last forever.

Sophie Bell from the charity Wood Street Mission gave a good presentation on their charity giving support providing clothing etc. for needy families. I'm so pleased that we support them.

The highlight of the month was the presentation and slide show given by Indra's 'niece', Jyotika Virmani, an amazing person who has accomplished so much, aided by a Rotary Foundation Scholarship, proposed by our Club.

I think that this will probably be the last Newsletter before Christmas, so keep well and care for one another.

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year!
Derek

In this issue...

Fellowship – November 5

Club Meetings:

Wood Street Mission – Nov 12

Dr Jyotika Virmani – Nov 26

Beirut Appeal Update

SPECIAL COVID-19 SECTION

Member contributions! Jokes, poems, photos, recipes, and more!!!!!!!

Notices

Up and Coming



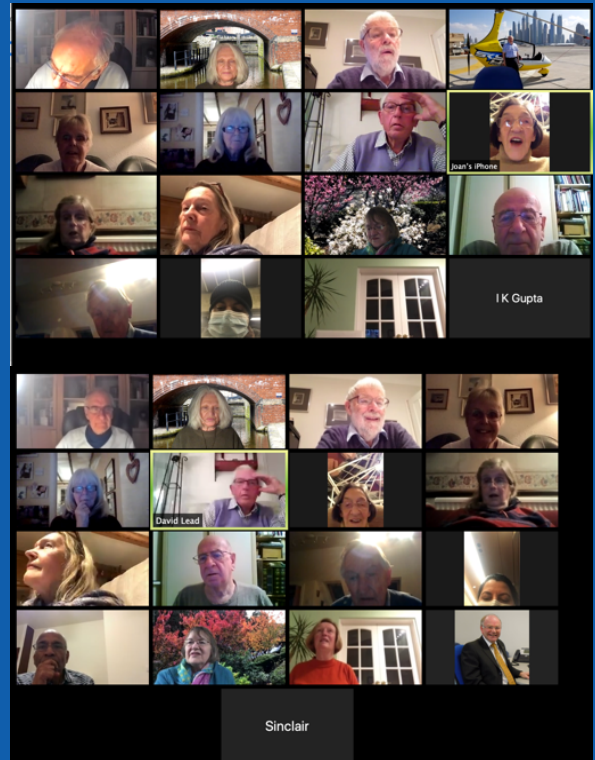
TAKE ACTION: [Rotary Club of Manchester](#)

Zoom Fellowship – NOVEMBER 5th

With approximately 20 people in attendance, our November fellowship took place on November 5th on Zoom – our new normal for fellowship evenings.

We are all looking forward to meeting in person again!

Some screen shot photos taken during our Zoom fellowship!



Rotary Club Meeting Wood Street Mission – November 12

Sophie Bell, from Wood Street Mission, gave an informative talk at our November 12th meeting.

The Wood Street Mission is a children's charity that helps children and families on a low income in Manchester and Salford. Through practical help, they help meet children's day-to-day needs, alongside well-being and development, to improve a child's life chances.



They achieve this through programmes such as [Family Basics](#), which provides clothes, bedding, baby equipment, toys, and books. The [SmartStart](#) programme promotes engagement in education by providing uniforms, school supplies, and covering other school costs and their [Book Clubs](#) promote reading and improve children's literacy.

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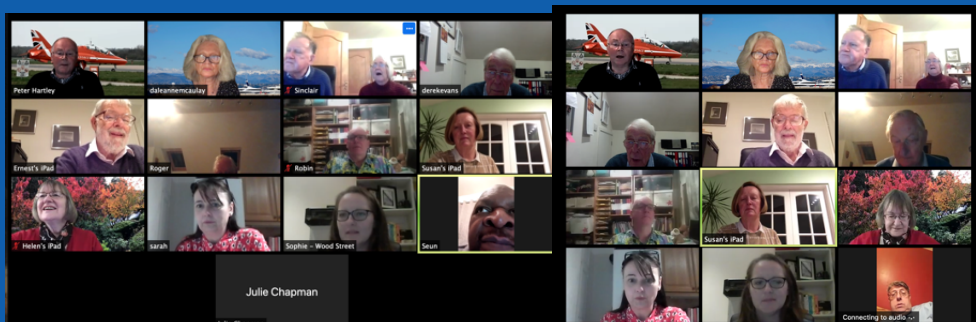
The mission has a rich history in alleviating poverty. In 1869 Alfred Alsop, book seller, publisher and Methodist conducted a service in the streets of Deansgate, aiming to preach the Gospel in this squalid slum area. Families were living in cramped houses with poor amenities, unemployment was high, and families could not provide food for their families.

In 2019, the Family Basics project helped 3,784 children with clothing, bedding, toiletries, nappies and baby equipment. Smart Start helped provide 3,191 children with brand new school uniforms. The Book Clubs at the Mission hosted 273 children and in the academic year 2018/19 the Wood Street Mission Book Roadshows, in schools, provided 929 children with 9,500 books.

All of this support makes a tangible difference to the lives of local children. The clothing and essentials bring the obvious benefits, but the books bring escapism, creativity, a sense of pride and literacy skills that will help the children progress in education and ultimately help them to break the cycle of poverty.

The Mission still provide toys through their [Christmas Appeal](#) so that children will have presents for Christmas Day.

Christmas Appeal Information Wood Street Mission



Some members at the Zoom meeting

See ways of helping out on the next page!

Christmas Gift Ideas



New, unwrapped toys for children aged 0-14 years:

0-2 years

Rattles, soft books, teething toys, musical and light up toys, pram toys, play mats, stacking toys, shape sorters, building bricks, push along toys, wooden block set, toy phone, shakers, ball pit and soft balls.

3-5 years

Role play sets, Play-Doh, kinetic sand, vehicles, musical instruments, racing track, action figures, dinosaur or animal tubs, dolls, prams, Duplo, Lego, garages, craft kits, scooters, paints.

6-8 years

Activity books, annuals, transforming toys, superhero toys, action figures, dolls, Lego, craft kits, science kits, construction sets, remote control cars, board games.

9-11 years

Lego, footballs, remote control cars, board games, colouring and painting sets, nail art, glitter tattoos, craft kits, magic tricks, robots, gadgets.

12-14 years

Lego, footballs, watches, jewellery, rucksacks, toiletries or makeup gift sets, remote control vehicles, science experiments, gadgets, craft sets, headphones, sports gifts, hot chocolate mug set, stationery sets.

For all

Slippers/slipper socks, hat glove and scarf sets, board games, pyjamas and books

Children and Family Treats

Selection boxes, tins of chocolates and biscuits.

Extras

Wrapping paper – flat sheets and rolls, gift tags, sellotape.

Or why not make a **financial donation** or **create a fundraising page** to raise funds – this helps us to purchase toys and gifts that we struggle to get enough of.

Thank you so much for your support!

Wood Street Mission
26 Wood Street, Manchester, M3 3EF
0161 834 3140
www.woodstreetmission.org.uk/christmas
info@woodstreetmission.org.uk



Registered charity number 1078337

@woodstreetmission @WoodSt_Mission f WoodStreetMission

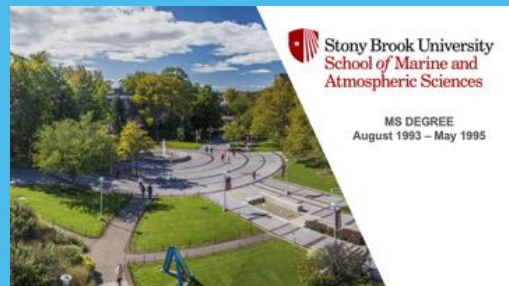
ROTARY CLUB MEETING – NOVEMBER 27TH DR JYOTIKA VIRMANI – ROTARY SCHOLAR

FROM MANCHESTER SCHOOLGIRL TO GLOBAL RENOWNED SCIENTIST



It was with great excitement that our club met on Zoom with Dr Jyotika Virmani on November 26th. Jyotika is a world renowned scientist, currently living in Los Angeles, USA but grew up in Manchester.

When we last met Jyotika Virmani, she had just completed her master's degree in New York at Stony Brook University in atmospheric science, aided by the Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship that our club proposed. That was 25 years ago.



Since then, she's had a remarkable journey with many adventures, and this year, Dr Jyotika Virmani was named the first Executive Director of the [Schmidt Ocean Institute](#). This is a philanthropic organization that was established by Eric and Wendy Schmidt in 2009 and is dedicated to advancing oceanographic research and exploration.

Her Story

Jyotika's Masters thesis was ***A Preliminary Study on the Added Scientific Impact of the Side-Scanning Capability of the High-Resolution Dynamics Limb Sounder (HIRDLS)*** and it was to look at if this new sort of instrument would provide better ozone data to NASA if they build it and put it on a satellite. It did, and they built the instrument, which was launched in 2004 on the Aura Mission and provided data until 2008. She explained that "At Stony Brook I learned about the interactions between our atmosphere and ocean and how that controlled our weather and climate, and about the phenomenon called El Nino. As a child, I always wondered why in some years we would have a drought in the UK and there would be other weather disasters around the world – I remember thinking this when I was about 7 or 8 years old! Well, the mystery was solved – it's because of El Nino – a warming of the Pacific Ocean which changes the atmospheric pressure fields above it, which has a knock-on effect around the world. So, having got a MS in Atmospheric science with a little marine science thrown in for good measure."

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-continued- From there, she went south to continue her study of the weather, to the University of South Florida to obtain her PhD, BUT as with many things in life not everything went as planned.

She explains, “I started with all the basic courses when I arrived in 1995 and learning about air-sea interactions and physical oceanography in the Pacific. My major professor, Dr. Robert Weisberg had a grant and time available on a large research vessel to deploy instruments at sea to measure the oceanic parameters and meteorological measurements in the equatorial Pacific – but time on research vessels is booked a year or more in advance, so we were preparing to go out in 1997. The plan was to get data in 1997, analyze it, and write up my dissertation and be completed around 2000 or 2001”.



In April 1997, they sailed to the Pacific to deploy the mooring with the instruments, on the equator between South America and Hawaii, where the water depth is 4,500m. Currents on the equator are strong so dropping the anchor for the mooring has to be done with care. It was noted that the currents were also flowing in the reverse direction. It turned out this was due to the fact that this was the start of the one of the biggest El Nino events ever. There was a great deal of excitement as the data collected was going to capture this first time experience and this data was going to be Jyotika's PhD data!



Jyotika on the top of the buoy, checking the instruments were working after anchoring it.

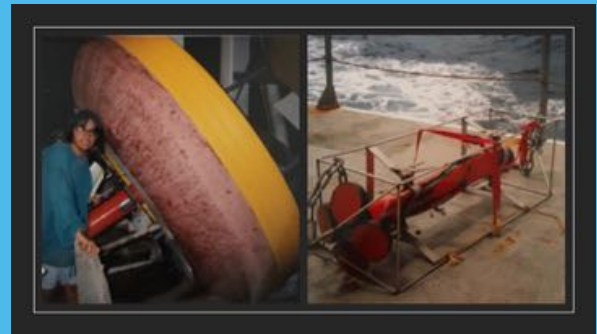
Having obtained funding to replace the mooring and instruments after one year with a second one, to obtain another year of data, they sailed again to equatorial Pacific in Nov 1997, but things did not go as well this time!

Starting work to deploy the mooring at 5 am to avoid the hot sun, they dropped the anchor overboard at noon. It takes 45 minutes for the anchor to reach the ocean floor, but a squall came through and the ship backed away, returning when the storm was over 20 minutes later BUT it wasn't there. Searching all night, they discovered that it must have sunk but the acoustic sensors indicated that it was now in a horizontal position (instead of the vertical position that it should be in).

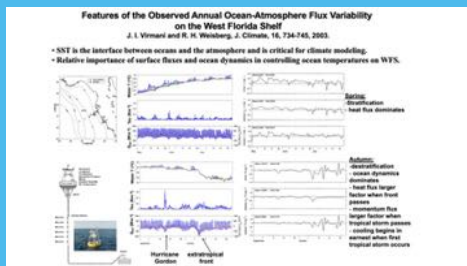
After 10 hours of dragging, they managed to catch the mooring. Jyotika stated, “The best way I can describe that is it was like shooting an arrow into the dark, 4.5 km, and hitting bulls eye!”

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After a total of 36 hours, they managed to bring the mooring back up safely, BUT the bad news was that all the data was lost. Further analysis found a manufacturing miscalculation in the buoyancy, and later 9 of the 10 temperature pods to measure water temperature had stopped working after the first week due to a manufacturing battery failure. The data was all gone for Jyotika's PhD along with \$250,000 worth of instruments.



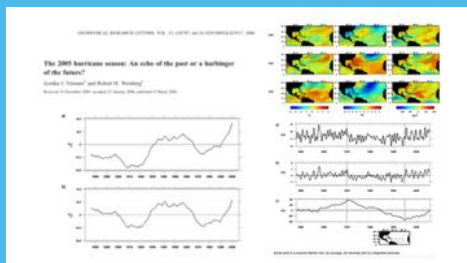
Jyotika with the damaged mooring.



Now, having to start all over again, Jyotika then decided to switch her studies from deep sea work to coastal work, obtaining her PhD in 2005 with her dissertation titled *Ocean-Atmosphere Interactions on the west Florida Shelf*.



She was in Florida during the major hurricane seasons of 2004-2005, and since her degree was in ocean-atmosphere interactions and weather, Jyotika started a tropical storms blog.



She told us that, "I still maintain as a place where I show people where to look for data, how to interpret it – all with a touch of British humor and some sci fi thrown in from time to time. It's had over 290,000 views and I have readers from Texas to Nova Scotia, across the Caribbean and Bermuda now."

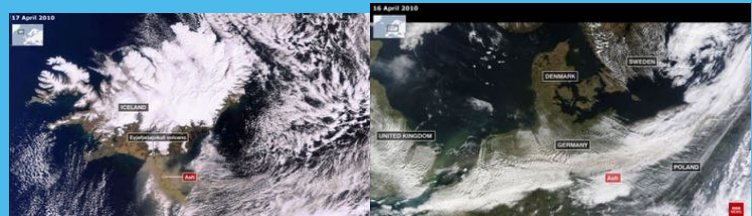
A year later as the first executive director for Florida Coastal Ocean Observing System Consortium (FLCOSS), she was working with leaders of marine institutions around Florida and getting to know oceanographers from Texas to Washington DC in almost all the institutions, and especially across Florida, where she gained insights into the management of ocean sciences across multiple organizations – academia, non-profits, businesses, obtaining a \$1.25M grant from State of Florida to put some elements of an ocean observing into place around Florida.
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Jyotika had always intended to return to the UK and she obtained a position at the UK Met Office in Exeter as a Senior Scientist, moving to the UK in August 2009 to start work. Things were going well until April 2010, BUT then two things happened....



FIRST: The volcanic eruption in Iceland causing an ash cloud that created the highest disruption level to aviation since WW2 up to that time, pulling Jyotika from her job to help manage this and



SECOND: In the same week the Deepwater horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. She was asked to return to Florida as the Associate Director of the Florida Institute of Oceanography, as they needed someone who could come in and not need any time to get familiar with a new position as it was a crisis situation. BP gave \$10M to FIO to immediately begin research into the impacts of the oil spill. As Jyotika's PhD was with data in the Gulf of Mexico, and her earlier position with FLCOOS meant that she knew most of the oceanographers across the Gulf states and up to Washington DC. she packed up and moved everything back in October 2010.



In total, at FIO she helped manage about ~\$14M in research grants and synthesized and presented the results in various conferences. FIO also managed two research vessels and the Keys Marine Lab.

During this time, she married an American – Benjamin Alpi, a film maker based in Los Angeles.

Jyotika, Benjamin, with Jyotika's parents and brother on her wedding day.

BUT, Benjamin was in LA and Jyotika was in Florida.....

-Continued next page-



A year and a half later, due to a busy schedule at FIO, she obtained a position in Los Angeles as Technical Director of the Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE.

XPRIZE is a non-profit organization based in Los Angeles and it runs multi-million \$ international competitions for technology development to solve some of the world's biggest challenges.

The first XPRIZE was the Ansari XPRIZE for Private space flight. That was won in 2004 and the winning technology from that is now, after some more development, Virgin Galactic's Spaceship 2.



In 2015, Jyotika was offered the position of leading the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE. 71% of the planet is covered by ocean, and no good map of it exists. This \$7 million competition was to spur the development of autonomous or unmanned technologies to map the sea floor quickly and at a high resolution.

Jyotika explained, "It's a whole new planet to explore under the sea – there are 'aliens' that can glow in the dark and strange landscapes!"

Test sites were set up in Puerto Rico, but hurricanes destroyed these sites, and it took 3 weeks before any partners and colleagues on the island were heard from. They had been working with them for almost a year to set up the test bed and Jyotika did even know if they were alive or not. A whole new approach had to be taken to run the competition and Jyotika's team got on planes and flew around the world with some of the judges for the next 3.5 months to test all the teams.



This photo is the winning team's technology - it's called SEAKIT and was designed and built in the UK. It's a robot that carries an underwater robot and can deploy and recover that underwater robot with no-one on board – everyone is still in a Mission Control back on land. This was revolutionary and the demonstration of this meant that oceanographic data could be collected in an entirely new way.

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Jyotaki explains, “When we launched the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE, only about 5% of the sea floor had been mapped to a high resolution and the estimate was that it would take 200-600 years to do this with the technology of that day. As of 2020, we have about 20% mapped at a high resolution – as part of an international effort to do this. And this global effort, called Seabed 2030, is aiming to have all of it mapped by 2030 with the help of the technologies and innovations that came out of this XPRIZE.

So, in a way, everyone at the **Rotary Club** has a hand in this – we will have a map of our own planet for the first time in history in the next decade!”



In late February 2020, Jyotika became the first Executive Director of the Schmidt Ocean Institute. This was established in 2009 by Eric and Wendy Schmidt to further oceanographic research through technology. Recognizing that the most expensive part of going to sea was a research vessel, they provided this vessel, the R/V Falkor, at no cost to scientists from around to world and in exchange they make their data, findings and research publicly available as quickly as possible.

In addition, they have the very sophisticated SuBastian shown here, which is a remotely operated vehicle that can go down to 4500m depth and is equipped with 4k cameras and a plethora of sampling capabilities.

We also have an advanced communication system on board that allows us to conduct telepresence cruises, which has really helped us to continue operations this year with some scientists tuning in remotely from their living rooms as we broadcast live.

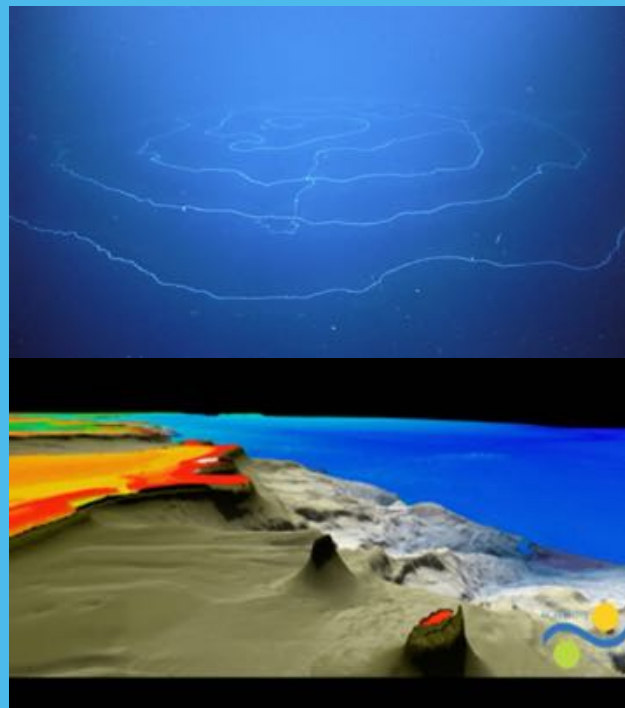
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Due to the pandemic, there have been some challenges **BUT** there have still been.....

Some exciting discoveries:

Off the Ningaloo Canyons off Western Australia in **April**. It's believed to be the longest creature in the ocean at 150-feet in length.....creature of this size was seen for the first time only a few months ago shows us how massive and strange this planet actually is.....

In **October**, those aboard Falkor were mapping the northern edge of the Great Barrier Reef and found a 500m tall new detached coral reef on the GBR ledge. The first in 120 years. The reef is taller than New York's Empire State Building and the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



The link to the film is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krkk8eyx-IU>

Jyotika has still found time to produce her husband's latest short film called **Hashtag**.

It was accepted into 19 film festivals and won 6 awards and recognitions. It was released for public viewing at the end of May 2020 and so far, has been seen by almost 1 million people around the world – they just released it with Spanish subtitles a couple of weeks ago.

It took over 80 people to make this 15 min film.

The Rotary Club of Manchester is very proud of Jyotika and all of her achievements.

I know that everyone at her talk were amazed with her enthusiasm and humanity.

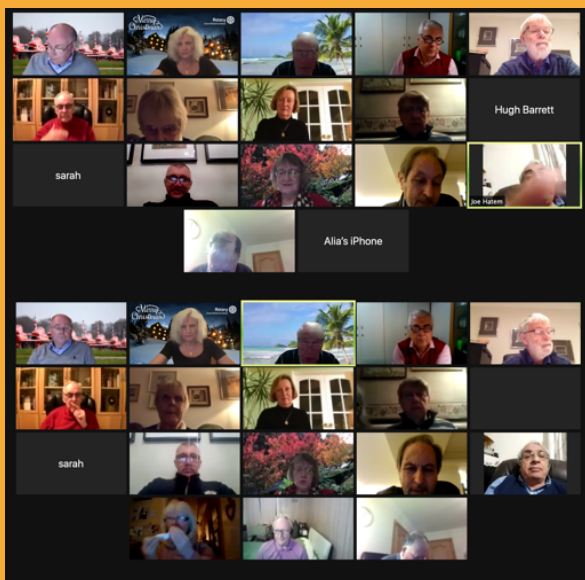
She ended her talk with this slide!



BEIRUT DISASTER APPEAL

In a special meeting on Dec 3, our Club of Manchester, along with members of other clubs in the District, met on Zoom with the Rotary Club of Baabda in Lebanon to update us on the Beirut disaster.

President, Mario Nasard of the Baabda Club, explained how there are many problems dealing with the results of the explosion. These included financial complications, personal interests taking priority over help for suffering people, deterioration of the currency, black market, and the exportation of articles intended for local people to make profit, and smuggling. He also said that our donations are safe from these internal problems in the country. He explained that our contributions are being used to help rebuild apartments and for medical equipment. They need help to rebuild hospitals and schools.



The next page contains information on how you can donate to help those people still struggling with the result of this terrible explosion.

Some screen shots from the Zoom meeting



DISTRICT 1285 AND ROTARY CLUB OF BEIRUT BAABDA THE BEIRUT DISASTER APPEAL

Following the lifechanging event of August 4th 2020, when over 200 people were killed and thousands injured, the Operation Florian UK team and the Rotary Club of Baabda immediately went into action! They ensured a team from UK based Search and Rescue Assistance in Disasters arrived within 3 days. Working in partnership with all the major authorities and the Lebanese Disaster Management Unit, SARAID coordinated specialist search and rescue work, including building damage assessments. The RC of Baabda, alongside Save the Children, arranged emergency transport, accommodation, and other assistance.

Now in partnership with the Dutch NGO DORCAS/Tabitha, the RC of Baabda plans to:

- **Methodically repair houses, schools and small businesses and essential services like clean water, lighting etc.**
- **Start to regenerate local communities, especially in the historic parts of Beirut.**
- **Support displaced families and children with essential supplies**
- **Support the ongoing work of SARAID - essential in raising awareness to guard against any similar event in the future**

DISTRICT 1285 SUPPORT TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF BAABDA

The explosion blast damaged thousands of buildings. These need to be repaired and made weatherproof before the onslaught of the rainy season at the end of September/early October. The Rotary Club of Manchester has already worked with Baabda on projects and will be the District lead Club. Donations will be collated, and payment made to the Rotary Club of Baabda.

Whatever is raised will be targeted exactly where it is most needed. The priority for the RC of Baabda is finance for the purchase of essential supplies and expertise on vital repairs

The opening target is £5,000. It is hoped that 50 Clubs donate at least £100 (or more). Each £100 will pay to repair and secure a home entrance; replace or repair damaged windows, repair plumbing and lighting, help repair damaged roofs and many more essential repairs.

Block payments are being made to the Rotary Club of Baabda. Regular updates on progress in Beirut will be shared around the District to all donating Clubs via the contact in RC Baabda, IPP Lara Hamouche via email, newsletter and Zoom.

For more information contact Roy Chapman PHF, Rotary Club of Manchester

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=299>

Donate by BACS to Account No. 14435136, Sort Code: 01 05 31, use Ref: Beirut and your Rotary Club (so we can acknowledge receipt)

or use our Just Giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rotaryclubofmanchesterbeirutappeal>



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!

News this week of the first vaccine for Covid-19 being distributed, there are small signs that we may be able to meet together again sometime in 2021.

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!

Take care and stay safe
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Dale



Thanks to the contributors of the Covid-19 Section:

Helen Roberts
Roy and Julie Chapman
Peter Hartley
Joan Johnstone
Roger Walker

Hope that I did not miss anyone!

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

T'was a month Before Christmas 2020

T'was a month before
Christmas,
And all through the town,
People wore masks,
That covered their frown.



The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring,
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.
They called it corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.
Contagious and deadly,
This virus spread fast,
Like a wildfire that starts
When fuelled by gas.
Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Across air, sea and land.
As the world entered
lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their verve.
From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.
When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.
Now it's November
And cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.
Frontline workers,
Doctors and nurses,
Try to save people,
From riding in hearses.
It's true that this year

-Continued-

Has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.
And just 'round the corner -
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?
To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
When no one will see it,
No-one but me.
But outside my window
The snow gently falls,
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!
So, I gather the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I play those old carols,
My happiness grows.
Christmas ain't cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.

Best wishes,
Roy

*Christmas is still coming and
there is always a reason to
hope. Real Christmas does not
disappoint. Find your hope in it
this year.*

Contributed by Roy Chapman



Book Review by Helen Roberts

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo.

I picked this up only because it had won the Booker Prize 2019. The book follows the lives of 12 very different, mainly black, women each character having their own chapter but there are connections which may be deep or maybe slight. So, it wasn't exactly a familiar world to me, and I doubt I am part of the demographic at which the book is aimed. However, once I got into the rhythm of the writing (and past the lack of punctuation!) I absolutely loved it. I couldn't wait to find out how each life progressed and what connection there might be between certain characters. The book really feels original, at times uplifting, at times laugh out loud and at times heartbreaking. Plus, there is a little bit of a surprise at the end.



The Twelve Months

George Ellis 1753-1815

Snowy, Flowy, Blowy,
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,
Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy.

George Ellis, born in England was, according to his friend Sir Walter Scott, a great conversationalist.

Ellis was a literary critic, and satirist, and published volumes of selections of early poetical literature.

His little verse 'The Twelve Months' is a brilliant summary of the whole years weather.

	9	6		4			3	
	5	7	8	2				
1			9			5		
		9		1				8
5								2
4				9		6		
		4			3			1
				7	9	2	6	
	2			5		9	8	

Sudoku Puzzle Answers Later
in the newsletter

Contribution by Helen Roberts

A Christmas Poem Unknown Author

I have a list of folk I know - just written in a book,
And every year when Christmas comes, I go and have a look;
And that is when I realise these names are but a part
Not of the book they're written in, but also in my heart.

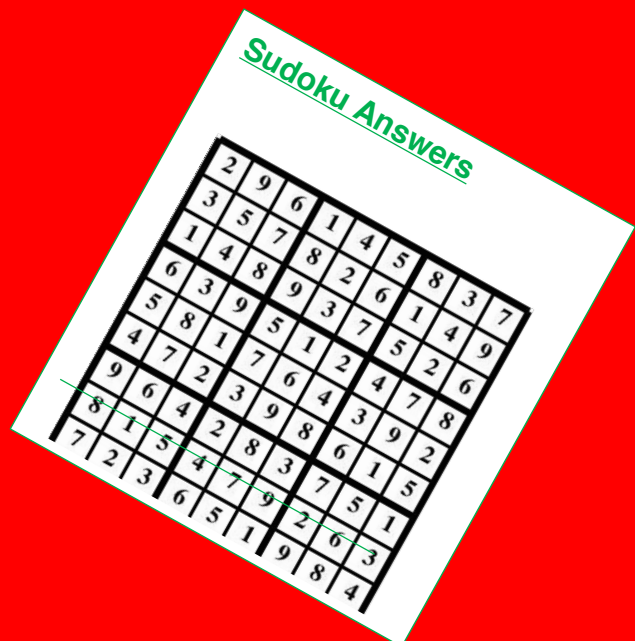
Each name recalls a person whose path has crossed with mine,
And in that meeting, they've become the rhythm and the rhyme,
And whilst you may not be aware of any special link,
Just meeting you, has changed my life far greater than you think.

For once I've met somebody, the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word, or of a friendly face.
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list - forgotten in between.

For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on the list of folk that I'm indebted to.
For you are but a portion of many folk I've met,
And you are one of those - I would prefer not to forget.

So whether I have known you for many years or few,
In lots ways you've shared a part in shaping things I do.
Now every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew
The best gift life can offer me, is meeting folk like you.

Contributed by Joan Johnstone – Manchester Inner Wheel Club



Time for Some Jokes And Other Interesting Facts



Tales from Grandparents

1. I was in the bathroom, putting on my makeup, under the watchful eyes of my young granddaughter, as I'd done many times before. After I applied my lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good- bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself!"

Contributed by Roger Walker

Christmas Cracker Jokes for Christmas 2020

The top 10 cracker jokes ranked by TV channel Gold

1. What is Dominic Cummings' favourite Christmas song? Driving Home for Christmas.
2. Did you hear that production was down at Santa's workshop? Many of his workers have had to Elf isolate!
3. Why didn't Mary and Joseph make it to Bethlehem? All Virgin flights were cancelled.
4. Why are Santa's reindeer allowed to travel on Christmas Eve? They have herd immunity.
5. Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown? Because the "Arrrr!" rate had risen.
6. Why is it best to think of 2020 like a panto? Because eventually, it's behind you.
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call? Because there was no Zoom at the inn.
8. Why can't Boris Johnson make his Christmas cake until the last minute? He doesn't know how many tiers it should have.
9. What do the Trumps do for Christmas dinner? They put on a super spread.
10. Which Christmas film was 30 years ahead of its time? Home Alone.

The poem on the next page is reprinted from the Rotary Club of Manchester Newsletter December 2008 and was contributed by Roger Walker

THIS POEM WAS WRITTEN BY A PEACE KEEPING SOLDIER STATIONED OVERSEAS, THE FOLLOWING IS HIS REQUEST I THINK IT IS REASONABLE. PLEASE WOULD YOU DO ME THE KIND FAVOUR OF SENDING THIS TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN CHRISTMAS WILL BE COMING SOON AND SOME CREDIT IS DUE TO OUR BRITISH SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN FOR OUR BEING ABLE TO CELEBRATE THESE FESTIVITIES.

LET'S TRY IN THIS SMALL WAY TO PAY A TINY BIT BACK OF WHAT WE OWE!



ITS CHRISTMAS DAY ALL IS SECURE

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE
I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE
AND TO SEE JUST WHO IN THIS HOME DID LIVE

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE
NO TINSEL NO PRESENTS NOT EVEN A TREE
NO STOCKING BY THE MANTLE JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES OF FAR DISTANT LANDS
WITH MEDALS AND BADGES AWARDS OF ALL KINDS
A SOBER THOUGHT CAME THROUGH MY MIND

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT IT WAS DARK AND DREARY
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY
THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING SILENT ALONE
CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE THE ROOM IN SUCH DISORDER
NOT HOW I PICTURED A LONE BRITISH SOLDIER
WAS THIS THE HERO OF WHOM I'D JUST READ
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO, THE FLOOR FOR A BED

I REALISED THE FAMILIES THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE WILLING TO FIGHT
SOON ROUND THE WORLD THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY

THEY ALL ENJOY FREEDOM EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE
I COULDN'T HELP WONDER, HOW MANY ALONE
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME

THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT A TEAR TO MY EYE
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES AND STARTED TO CRY
THE SOLDIER AWAKENED AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE
'SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE
I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM I DON'T ASK FOR MORE
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,MYCOUNTRY,MY CORPS'

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT I CONTINUED TO WEEP
I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS SO SILENT AND STILL
AND WE BOTH SAT AND SHIVERED FROM THE COLD NIGHTS CHILL
I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ON THAT COLD DARK NIGHT
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOUR SO WILLING TO FIGHT

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE
WHISPERED 'CARRY ON SANTA IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS SECURE'
ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT
'MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT'

Some memories from Christmas past – Rotary Club of Manchester

From Peter Hartley

Many years ago (before I joined), our Club used to hold a children's party at Manchester Town Hall for disabled children. It was a major event for our club for quite a lot of years and I do believe that there may have been over 100 children at these parties . Entertainment was also arranged, and I know that one year Ken Dodd , the comedian, was the star attraction.

It was interesting to recently get an email directed to our website mentioning these parties from the 1970's and whether there were any photographs . I had an email exchange with this gentleman, and I advised that most of the members at that time had passed on (including my father) and unfortunately, due to COVID-19 I was unable to see if there was anything in our archives at Bridge Street.

I thought you may like to put in the newsletter this last exchange I received.

“Hi

Thank you for getting back to me, even though I was only a child at the time I have fond memories of those Xmas parties I attended at least 4 or 5 over the years.

The parties were for people with all types of disabilities, back in the day if you had any disability even minor you was classed as "Handicapped" and forced to go to a special school. Thank God things have changed.

I was one of those who has a minor disability. However, I went on to have a successful career in transport management and have recently taken earlier retirement.

Thank you once again for responding and I hope you can find some old photos of the Xmas parties.

Warren”



NOTICES

Fund Raising

Charity Draw - Next Draw in January

This is our only source of income for the Charity Account and is likely to remain so for some time to come.

Therefore, each member can help raise money in the following ways.

Immediately, if possible, increase your own monthly subscription.

Encourage any friends or family who support our aims and objectives to also subscribe.

If you do not already contribute do so as soon as possible.

All you need to do is let me have their names and addresses and I will do the rest.

Thank you in advance.

Your help is much appreciated.

Roger Walker

October Charity Draw Winners

The winners were:

Alia Arif £150

Bill Laidlaw £50.

Next draw will be in January

To donate to the Beirut Disaster

For more information contact Roy Chapman PHF, Rotary Club of Manchester

[https://www.rotary-](https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=299)

[ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=299](https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=299)

Donate by BACS to Account No. 14435136,

Sort Code: 01 05 31, use Ref: Beirut and

your Rotary Club (so we can acknowledge receipt)

or use our Just Giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rotaryclubofmanchesterbeirutappeal>

Club Charity Donations

£ 500.00	Mustard Tree
£ 500.00	Broughton House *
£ 500.00	Wood Street Mission
£ 250.00	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
£ 250.00	MacMillan Cancer Support
£ 250.00	Cruse Bereavement *
£ 250.00	42 nd Street Charity

Message from Ernie:

As usual I have given a donation to Narrowgate in lieu of sending Christmas Cards to Rotarians.

Best wishes,

Ernie

Information from Narrowgate

In case you are unaware, the Narrowgate remains closed for the foreseeable and regrettably our front line staff were all made redundant, as well as Janet my wife. However, those not directly linked to the Narrowgate positions were able to be kept on. Our guests were all placed into a hostel at the end of March where my staff were on hand to help them out until the end of June when the hostel closed. However, the government rules on 2m distancing meant we could not re- open as hoped but temporary shared accommodation was found for all

On a more positive note, we have had to refocus and have commenced some new projects.

Narrowgate Support Hub

Although the shelter is closed, we continue to offer support to people who have or are about to experience homelessness through the Narrowgate Support Hub. Nick Stirling our chaplain heads this up to provide a service that will "help people get from where they are, to where they need to be" on their journey.

Narrowgate Next Stage Housing

We still continue to offer supported tenancy for three people at the Windsor Cottage. However, work is going on behind the scenes to significantly increase the number of homes and tenancies available. This is progressing well.

Operation Joy

Another way in which we support homeless people is through Operation Joy, our street outreach program. A new full- time worker called Ryan is now helping the vulnerable on the streets with our well established Paul Winter.

Restart

Finally Michelle Delaney has joined the team with special emphasis on reaching out to Sex Workers. Initially working with St Philips Salford on their project, a second project is already under development in Oldham.

Child Hunger

Finally, I have swapped my role as Shelter Manager to lead on a Child Hunger project. This Hunger project has shown the need to help set up projects in a deprived estate in Oldham called Sholver as well as a Community Food Shop here at the Windsor Centre. There is a desperate need out there. The Sholver project is covering needy children and families with a Box of Hope . which includes food and other goodies starting on December 16th. We are hoping to deliver a box of food etc each week to the needy families, depending on donations. The Community Shop is expected to commence at or near the end of January on Mondays through the day and Thursdays on an afternoon and evening. The later time is provided to give working families who are struggling, the opportunity to be able to shop. Both the project in Sholver, Oldham and our Community Shop are very much in need of basic foodstuffs to support the work.

If the Rotary Club were able to help in any way, even at this short notice, it would be very much appreciated. (Don't worry if you are not, as you have already been an immense help and support to us).

Manchester City Mission

0161 736 7959 www.citymission.org.uk/

SUPPORT DOGS

A reminder to collect stamps for Support Dogs.

The info. on Support Dogs re. stamp collecting will be found on

www.supportdogs.org.uk The stamps have to be cut off the envelope leaving a 1cm. border approx.

Birthdays

December

1st Roger Walker

2nd John Gavan

13th Lilian Liu

January

5th Sarah Withington

February

13th Sebastian

Moldovan

22nd Liz Cowell

CLUB TIES

We have some Manchester Club Centenary Ties still available .

Anyone wishing to buy a new one or to replace an old one please contacts, either President Derek or Secretary Peter.

The discounted price is £10 each.



How to stay safe online

Humberside Police issue advice on how to protect yourself on digital devices and social media.

Steps you can take include:

Ensure the privacy settings on your profile as high as possible, so that only your friends can see your posts, pictures and details.

Never disclose private information such as your phone number, pictures of your home, your address or birthday. This applies to your posts and your profile

Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know. Some online criminals use this as a means of phishing or finding blackmail or sexual offences victims.

Don't do anything you're not comfortable with.

Remember that once a post or photo has been shared, you no longer have control of it. Don't post photos or comments that could end up causing you issues in the future. If you wouldn't want your mum to see it, don't post it.

If you're concerned about something you have seen online, call our non-emergency 101 line or speak to your local officer.

Up and Coming Events

Please note that many events are postponed or cancelled until further notice due to covid-19. Links to zoom events will be emailed to you

MEETING ON ZOOM - Thurs Dec 10 2020
Cruse Bereavement Care –PP Barbara Rosenthal
18:00-19:00

XMAS ZOOM FELLOWSHIP
Thurs Dec 17 2020 18:00–19:00

CLUB COUNCIL ON ZOOM – All Welcome
Tuesday Jan 12 2021
18:00 – 19:00

MEETING ON ZOOM – Thurs Jan 14 2021
New Year Address – Councillor Tommy Judge
18:00-19:00

MEETING ON ZOOM - Thurs Jan 28 2021
PP David Andrew -My Job that was!
18:00-19:00

MEETING ON ZOOM - Thurs Feb 25 2021
President RC of London – David Johnson
18:00-19:00

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

Club Meeting Info

Weekly: Every Thursday at 12:30

Place: Manchester Hall

**36 Bridge Street, Manchester,
M3 2BT**



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Rotary Club of Manchester Team 2020-2021

President

Derek Evans PHF
President Elect

Membership

Robin Graham PHF

Vocational

Julie Chapman PHF

Executive Secretary

Robin Graham PHF

Secretary

Peter Hartley PHF

Community

Julie Chapman PHF

Rotaract

Roy Chapman PHF

IT

Peter Hartley PHF

Treasurer

Indra Gupta

International

Dale Anne McAulay

Youth Service

Roy Chapman PHF

Fellowship

Barbara Rosenthal MPHF

Newsletter Editor

Dale Anne McAulay

Immediate Past President

Sarah Withington

Rotary Foundation

Bill Laidlaw PHF

Attendance

Roger Walker PHF

Primary Webmaster

Peter Hartley PHF