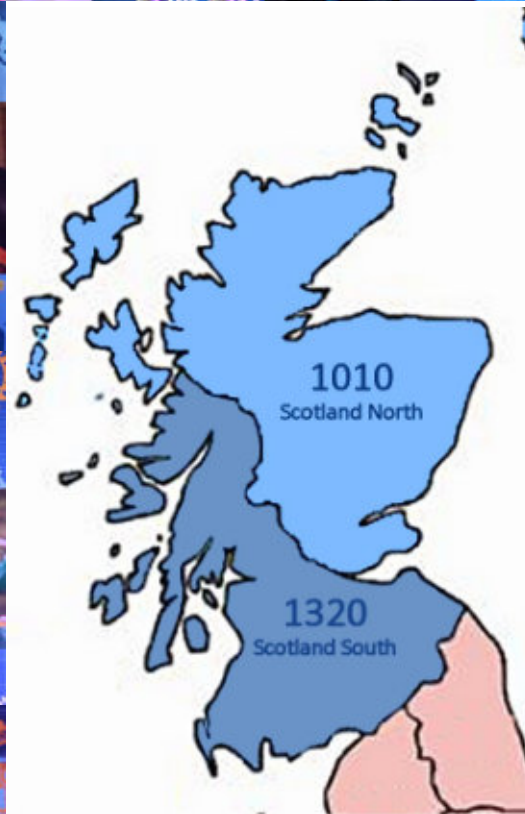


Rotary

IN DISTRICT 1320 SCOTLAND SOUTH

JUNE / JULY 2023

WWW.ROTARY1320.ORG



MESSAGE FROM DG NAREK BIDO

Dear Rotarians of District 1320 – Scotland South,

Through this first edition of the District 1320 - Scotland South magazine, I extend my warmest greetings and appreciation to each and every one of you. It is a time of renewal, growth, and endless possibilities, and I am thrilled to embark on this journey with you.

District Handover

June marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another in Rotary. The District Handover dinner on the 10 June 2023 was indeed a remarkable event to cherish as we closed the chapters of two unique Rotary International (RI) Districts 1020 and 1230 and celebrated the birth of a new RI District 1320 – Scotland South.



The handover event was an opportunity to celebrate the journey of the incoming RI President Gordon McNally and his wife Heather to the helm of our organisation and mark the seamless transition of roles and responsibilities to the 2023 – 24 District Support Team.

The dinner took place at an elegant venue within the Alona Hotel where 159 Rotarians and guests from various parts of our District and beyond had the opportunity to connect, celebrate and widen our network of fellowship.

We were honoured by the presence of distinguished guests including the incoming RI President Gordon McNally and his wife Heather, Past RI President John Kenny and

his wife June, 2020 – 23 RI Director Nicki Scott and 2023 – 25 RI Director Eve Conway.

The musical entertainment was charming. The vocalist and her accompanying musician effortlessly complemented each other's art and the result was a performance that touched the hearts and souls of everyone in the audience.

PDG and District Secretary John Lafferty's introduction to Gordon's journey gave us an insight into the remarkable qualities that Gordon brings to Rotary as a person of great integrity and devotion to support humanity through his professional and personal life.

Gordon's address was incredibly inspiring and his passion and conviction resonated deeply with all present. His charismatic and engaging speaking style captivated the audience and his ability to articulate his vision and the principles of care and effective leadership in Rotary was nothing short of remarkable. During his speech Gordon paid special tribute to Past RI President John Kenny, to all past RI Presidents, to our history and heritage and to the importance of continuity for the evolution of Rotary.

MESSAGE FROM DG NAREK BIDO

A special thank you to all whose generosity at the raffle raised a wonderful £1850 for our Foundation. This was very generous of everyone and a big thank you to all from the team. Our thanks to the companies and individuals who donated prizes: MacDonald Aviemore Resort, Alona Hotel, Fyne Ales, the House of Bruar and The Glenmorangie Company.

The event organising team, under the direction of Rtn Lorna Dick succeeded in delivering a meticulously planned, excellently executed and greatly appreciated event.

As we step into this new chapter, let us not lose sight of the incredible achievements of the past year and the incredible potential that lies ahead. Our two past Districts 1020 and 1230 have always been a beacon of service through, leadership, and positive change in our communities, and this year will be no exception. With your unwavering dedication, passion, and commitment, and the strength of the newly created District 1320 – Scotland South, we will continue to make an impact on the lives of those we serve.



The first two months in the Life of the New District

Over the past 8 weeks I had the privilege of participating in the following events:

- Various District meetings, Multi Districts Cluster meetings, RGB&I DG forums
- Planning meeting for partnership working with St John Scotland
- 2023 RYLA camp on 15 July
- Royal Gun Salute at the Edinburgh Castle on Monday 17th July – courtesy of AG Colin Vooght
- Border's Union Show 28 & 29 July 2023 – courtesy of the Borderlands Passport Club
- Drink reception on Friday 18th August, following the Royal Edinburgh Weekend
- Celebrating the independence day of Ukraine's on 24th August – courtesy of PDG John Waddell



Together, we can build bridges, create opportunities, and bring hope to those in need. The theme for this Rotary year, "Create Hope in the World," resonates with the very essence of who we are and what we stand for. Let's work together to build a world where peace, understanding, and compassion flourish.

Here's to a year filled with inspiration, service, and the boundless potential of our New District!

Narek H. Bido
 District Governor 2023-24
 RI District 1320 – Scotland South

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Erskine and District Rotary has a new member, Fiona Wyllie, and she has already been hard at work in her role as Community officer. A huge welcome to the Rotary family to all of our new members!



On the 11 July 2023, President Jyl Ashton Cunningham welcomed Des Small to the membership of Troon Rotary Club.



In July, Gill Caine joined Eyemouth Rotary Club (pictured with Jo Pawley).



Coatbridge, Airdrie & Monklands Rotary Club have welcomed three new members. From left to right: Stallone-Obaraemi Samuel, Nathan Mwesigwa and John Sheridan

ANITA MANNING FROM “BARGAIN HUNT” COMES TO KIRKINTILLOCH



On Monday 28th August Kirkintilloch Rotary Club held a special valuation day at the local golf club.

Anita Manning and her Great Western Auction team of expert valuers came to help raise funds for:

The Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity

It was an outstanding success with people bringing treasures that ranged from vases, antique swords to carpets, paintings and Teddy bears.

Anita gave a very uplifting speech of her belief in the great good that Rotary does both at home and abroad to bring aid where it is needed in the world.

The event was further graced by the Lady Provost of East Dunbarton, Gillian Renwick, who brought her usual warmth and enthusiasm to the day and some of Kirkintilloch’s treasurers to be valued.

The Rotary Club of Kirkintilloch are very happy to report that they raised £750 at the end of the day for the Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity.





Royal Edinburgh

Some years ago, Rotarians in Italy put on a public fundraising event showing the film *Gladiator* in the Colosseum with a live orchestra and they invited

Russel Crowe. They reserved 20 seats in a VIP area and made them available to generous donors to Rotary Foundations. The donors chipped in \$10,000 per couple to Rotary Foundation which enabled them, at their expense, to attend the event. And meet Senior Leaders of Rotary. One couple from the old District 1020 took part. It raised over \$100,000 for Rotary Foundation.



There have been other 'money can't buy events' for Rotary Foundation since. I realised that we could do this in Edinburgh – with our royal connections and the tattoo. And so Royal Edinburgh was born. At the time, I was on the Fund Development Committee of Rotary Foundation and I spoke to senior staff in Evanston about this plan and started formulating the details – and indeed the events. Originally, it was to be in August 2021. Covid of course delayed it – and again in 2022. So 2023 became the important year. And it was a very happy coincidence that Gordon McNally had been nominated as President of Rotary International. He readily agreed to officially host the event with Heather and the staff advised that we should have it co-hosted by Barry Rassin who this year is the chair of trustees of Rotary Foundation, and his wife Esther.

The stage was set. The programme evolved to include a private early morning tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia, a tour of Holyrood Palace the VIP events package at the tattoo – being dinner inside Edinburgh castle and seats in the Royal Gallery. So Royal Yacht, Holyrood Palace, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – you get the theme. A block of rooms was reserved in the Caledonian Hotel (Waldorf Astoria) together with a private welcome dinner in the hotel and just 24 hours later, farewell drinks in Peacock Alley. In short, the best of everything. Cost pretty much no object. The best tours, the best seats, the best menus – etc.

I met with senior fundraising staff in Evanston and was supported by them throughout as well as by the Zurich office. Both were great and extremely helpful. They advised that the entry qualification should be a cash or 3 years pledge with the first payment made, of \$100,000 per donor or donor couple. Alternatively, a new or increased legacy commitment of \$250,000. Needless to say, I was very surprised at what I thought was a sky-high figure. I

had hoped to have our donors donate \$1 million. It was launched in November 2022 (Foundation month) and our incredibly generous donor attendees exceeded the target and have donated and bequeathed \$3.4 million. Some of course would have been donated anyway. But we certainly provided a focus – and the cash was in last Rotary year. Roughly \$1m was in legacies and \$2.4m in cash.

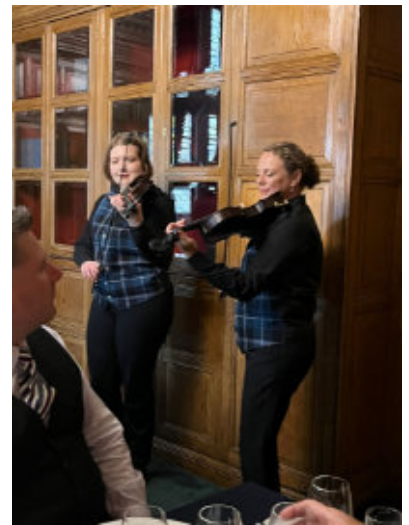


Royal Edinburgh

It was strange to organise an event where the attendees were all extremely wealthy and the ticket price was relatively unimportant. We had fixed costs and we had

to set a figure that would be enough to cover everything – even if numbers were low. Including covering unexpected eventualities. With guidance from Jim Bryce who took on the treasury role and Duncan Collinson who looked after the risk assessments and event contracts, we settled on £2000 per person. Cash started pouring in during December and the event was ultimately booked by 18 donors. With

numbers just 2 short of our limit, there will be a significant surplus – and the donors are all aware that it will be donated to Rotary Foundation. But for your interest the castle event was £670 per person. The Caledonian farewell drinks bill was over £800 and the guests paid their own accommodation there as well – at over £700 per night, in a club room with castle view.



We offered various bolt-on extra trips – golf on the Old Course, Lunch in Gleneagles and an overnight trip by air to Islay – where we enjoyed some general sightseeing and a private evening whisky tasting in the boardroom at Ardbeg, an extensive tour and sampling at Laphroaig and a cask drawing and sampling experience at Lagavulin.

Alasdair Seale
Royal Edinburgh

Link: <https://www.rotary.org/en/experience-special-curated-weekend-scotland>

WHAT IS THE ROTARY AREA ?

It might help to begin with Rotary terms:

- Rotarian - The most crucial element of the organisation is people.
- Club - A group of Rotarians that meet either locally or, in a few cases, online.
- Area - A group of clubs within a geographic area. In 1320 we have 12:

- Ayrshire
- Borders
- Central
- Digital (Non-geographic)
- East & Midlothian
- Edinburgh City
- Glasgow City
- Lanarkshire
- North Clyde
- South Clyde
- South-West
- West Coast

- District - A collection of Areas. The 12 Areas above make up District 1320, Scotland South
- Cluster - A collection of Districts which, in this case, are:
Scotland South (1320)
Scotland North (1010)
Ireland (1160)
- Zone - ZONE 19 England (northern), Ireland, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales: 1010, 1030, 1040, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1150, 1160, 1180, 1190, 1210, 1220, 1260, 1285, 1320
- RGB & I - Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland
- RI - Rotary International

There are 92 clubs in District 1320, reaching from the Borders and Dumfries in the South up to Edinburgh and Glasgow in the Central Belt and encompassing the west of Scotland up to Oban.

The clubs have been assigned an Area; each has up to 11 clubs and a designated Assistant Governor. Please see diagram over page.

The Assistant Governor is there to assist the clubs in their Area and to act as a conduit for information from the clubs to District and the reverse.

There is a vast array of individual talents across the clubs. The areas can assist in recognising, communicating and co-ordinating that talent for the benefit of all.

Equipment is often needed for the various events that clubs participate in; again, the areas can help to locate what's required.

Support for an event is frequently required, and the area can be used to rally that support.

Conclusion: **The area is there to help Rotary's most important asset, its Rotarians.**

District 1320 - Narek Bido

- Central - James Gibbons**
- Whitburn
 - Livingston
 - Linlithgow Grange
 - Linlithgow & Bo'ness
 - Larbert
 - Kilsyth
 - Grangemouth
 - Falkirk
 - Cumbernauld
 - Bathgate

- Lanarkshire - Callan Dick**
- Strathaven
 - Motherwell & Wishaw
 - Lanark
 - Hamilton
 - East Kilbride
 - Coatbridge, Airdrie & Monklands
 - Carlisle
 - Biggar

- Glasgow City - John Macpherson**
- Rutherglen
 - Govan (Glasgow)
 - Glasgow
 - Eastwood
 - Charing Cross (Glasgow)

- North Clyde - Andrew Macleaman**
- Lomond
 - Kirkintilloch
 - Helensburgh
 - Glasgow North & Bishopbriggs
 - Dumbarton
 - Clydebank
 - Allander

- West Coast - David Renwick**
- Oban
 - Mid Argyll
 - Lochaber
 - Dunoon
 - Campbeltown

- South Clyde - David Atkinson**
- Renfrew
 - Paisley Callants
 - Paisley
 - Gryffe Valley
 - Greenock
 - Gourock
 - Erskine & District
 - Barrhead

- Ayrshire - Hazel McCully**
- Alloway
 - Ayr
 - Cumnock
 - Hunterston
 - Irvine Seagate
 - Kilmarnock
 - Loudon
 - Prestwick
 - Troon

- Edinburgh City - Jim McCulloch**
- South Queensferry
 - Portobello
 - Leith
 - Edinburgh
 - E Club of Southern Scotland
 - Currie Balerno
 - Corstorphine
 - Braids

- East & Mid Lothian - Tom Shearer**
- Dalkeith
 - Dunbar
 - Esk Valley
 - Haddington
 - Loanhead & Roslin
 - Longniddry & District
 - Musselburgh
 - North Berwick
 - Penicuik
 - Tranent

- Borders - James Bruce**
- Borderlands (Passport Group)
 - Duns
 - Eyemouth & District
 - Galashiels & District
 - Hawick
 - Inverleithen, Walkerburn & Tranquair
 - Jedburgh
 - Langholm
 - Melrose
 - Peebles
 - Selkirk

- Digital - Tariq Durrani**
- E Club of the West of Scotland
 - Southern Scotland Hub

- South West - Colin Vooght**
- Annan & District
 - Castle Douglas
 - Dalbeattie
 - Dumfries
 - Dumfries Devogilla
 - Kirkcudbright
 - Lockerbie & District
 - Stranraer
 - Thornhill & District

FALKIRK CORONATION AFTERNOON

Around 60 members friends and family joined together in a great afternoon of fun and fellowship to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

David Wheeler and his intrepid assistant Gillian created a spectacular ambience with bunting, quizzes, games, garlands and hats.

They also had a raffle for Water Aid which amassed £415.



CLOWNING AROUND IN AYR

Zippos Circus performers pose with Rotarians Alan Meikle, Alex Thomson and Assistant District Governor Hazel McCulley.

Local charities will now benefit from a total exit collection of £407 which was donated by generous patrons at each performance when the circus was in town.



STRANRAER ANNUAL AM-AM

Rotary Club of Stranraer held their annual Am-am on Friday 4th August and a full schedule of 45 teams took part - helping to raise approx £6100 which will be used for local charities. The weather was dry if a touch windy but a great day was had by all.

TROON ROTARY CLUB YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST

Pupils from St Patrick's Primary School, Troon, were very successful with their submissions for the 2022-23 District 1230 Young Environmentalist Competition. The whole school took part in the project and fifteen entries were forwarded to the District event where a number of pupils won Junior and Intermediate prizes.

The winning entries were then sent to RotaryGBI in Alcester and two successful entries from Ciaran Robb and Kari Young were entered into the National Final with Kari receiving a "Highly Commended" Certificate in the Intermediate section.



Troon Rotary members were both surprised and delighted to find that pupils were both the winners and runners up in the District event. The four successful pupils are shown, with their certificates and prizes, alongside the School Deputy Head Teacher Patricia McFadyen, President Mike Schirwing and Rotarian John Crerar, of Troon Rotary Club.

Congratulations to all at St Patrick's Primary School.

INNERLEITHEN, WALKERBURN & TRAQUAIR CAR BOOT SALE



The first car boot sale organised by IWT Rotary in collaboration with the local Coop store was a big success raising £525 for Cycling Without Age, Innerleithen. A cheque presentation was made to regular passengers Mary and Ronnie of St Ronan's Care Home in the presence of the Co-op manager.

EYEMOUTH ROTARIANS BAG UP

The July litter pick was joined by two other local groups for the first time so the number of extra volunteers exceeded the number of Rotarians. This helped the group cover a bigger distance of 5 miles around the Eyemouth and Burnmouth roads, collecting 29 bags of rubbish. This is a significant change and the momentum for a cleaner environment is building.



ROTARY CORNER IN EYEMOUTH

Eyemouth & District Rotary recently added a bench to "Rotary corner" outside Eyemouth, to join the Rotary boat and the Jubilee tree already planted. This was constructed from storm damaged timber and recycled packing cases to highlight the ecology benefits of "locking in the carbon" and making something useful.



MTTPOKER LEAGUE CHARITY DAY

Renfrew Rotarians chose Enable Renfrew as their charity throughout the Rotary year 2022/2023 culminating with the MTTPOker Charity Day held on 1 July 2023. The money raised on the poker day was £5,330.00 for both the ACCORD Hospice and Enable Renfrew.

Enable Renfrew

The money will be used to set up a new games and craft club and the remaining funds will go towards a bus run for their Clubbers and parties. Enable thank the Renfrew Rotarians, the MTTPOker League and players for their continued support.

MTTPOker league

The MTTPOker league was cancelled during the COVID pandemic.



The League, all the players and Renfrew Rotary get fully behind the Charity Day, supporting ACCORD and Enable Renfrew. This year the venue was the Victoria Bowling Club in the Westend of Paisley, the set up starts the day before and the tournament gets underway at 1:00pm. 88 players competed for the coveted belt with over ten hours of poker. The funds are raised with entry fees, raffles, bucket collections etc. Links: www.facebook.com/MTTPOKER and www.mtt poker.com

"It's brilliant to see so much fun and friendship in the community and if we can raise money for local causes along the way all the better" David Atkinson, Owner, MTTPO.

"It takes a lot of effort to make this Charity Day a great success, without the League members, volunteers and generosity of everyone involved it wouldn't be possible. The MTTPOker League is a league for the people run by the people" - Michael Campbell, Owner, MTTPO.

Enable Renfrew photograph (left to right): Marion Wallace (President Renfrew Rotary 2022/23) and Senga Mills (Enable Renfrew).

Photograph showcasing £2665 in large numbers (left to right): David Atkinson (MTTPOker/Renfrew Rotary), David McFadden (ACCORD Hospice) and Michael Campbell (MTTPOker).



ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

12 Rotarians from D7850, Northern New Hampshire, Northern Vermont and Southern Quebec arrived into D1320 on the 7th August 2023.

A report from Jo Pawley: This is the first Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) to District 1320. It took a year to plan and at the time of writing we are into week 2 with the days flying by.

The purpose of an exchange is to make new friends with people across all corners of the World. I think we have done this. The hosts and guests have gotten on really well. We planned a mixture of group trips and days with the hosts. On the group trips we will have visited Glenkinchie Distillery, Rosslyn Chapel, Loch Carron Weaving Mill, Abbotsford, The Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies. Out guests have also been with their hosts to amongst others; Tantallon Castle, John Muir House in Dunbar, Traquair House, Oban, Glencoe, Callendar, Bamburgh Castle, The Tapestry, The Royal Yacht, Glasgow, St Andrews, Culross, Peebles, 3 Bridges and of course a visit to RI President Gordon's South Queensferry club meeting place. He wasn't there, so Gordon you missed a treat.

It has been another great experience and the photo's show what fun we have had. We need your help though, for the exchanges to continue. Our next planned exchange is to visit Sweden in May of 2024 for 5 days and the for Swedish District to visit us early August 2024. We need help with Rotarians going out and also to host those coming into District. You do not need to live in the Central belt, for goodness sake they come to Eyemouth and that's the furthest East you can get!

For more information please contact Jo Pawley jo.pawley@talktalk.net or Gail Savage gail62.gs@gmail.com

Pictures include: Hosts and Guests on the 7th August, Penicuik Rotary Visit, Whisky Tasting, Penicuik "8" and Glasgow Trip.



GOUROCK YOUNG CITIZENS WIN NATIONAL AWARDS



Ben Kane and Nina Kirk nominated by the Rotary Club of Gourock won top awards at the Rotary Young Citizen Awards. Both winners are pupils at Clydeview Academy Gourock.

16-year-old Ben Kane who has been dedicated to making sure none of his peers are alone during bereavement after the loss of his brother, has been recognised with a Rotary Young Citizen Award 2023.

Ben has worked tirelessly over the past 3 years to ensure that his school, Clydeview Academy, offers vital support students who have recently experienced a bereavement. Ben founded the Clydeview Bereavement Support Group alongside a member of staff so that every child at the school had the opportunity to get the help they deserved. The support group offers grieving student's activities and 1-1 sessions to help them feel supported during a potentially isolating experience. Ben continues to encourage other schools to offer this support, recently meeting with local MSP

Stuart MacMillan to discuss the Scottish government's plans to support young people through bereavement.



17-year-old Nina Kirk who has already shown an extraordinary drive to combat climate change, has been recognised with a Rotary Young Citizen Award 2023.

Nina has always been passionate about the environment and started doing a litter pick to help achieve her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Her efforts led to her speaking at the "Take Pride in Inverclyde" Eco Summit Workshop where she spoke about her passion for the environment. Nina then spoke to a range of MP's and environmentalists at COP 26 as a Net Zero Ambassador for the UK. Nina and her school also recently emerged victorious in the Dive Project, a competition that took place across Scotland challenging students to create an animal out of plastic and write an essay on why protecting the oceans is important, which Nina was heavily involved in every step of the way. "While Nina is not quite sure what her future holds – she knows that the environment and the protection of it will be a strong feature of her plans."

Unfortunately both were unable to attend the National Awards Ceremony with being held in the middle of the SQA exams. However an award ceremony was arranged for them where they were presented with their awards by Inverclyde Provost Drew McKenzie.

TREE PLANTING IN DUMFRIES



The Rotary Club of Dumfries, in celebration of the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, and as part of the Club’s Centenary celebrations, has been busy planting trees in the grounds of local Primary Schools. This was part of the Clubs contribution to the Green Canopy project, which promoted and encouraged planting trees nationwide, to help combat climate change and improve air quality. Eleven local Schools were visited (some more than once!) - Ae, Calside, Collin, Laurieknowe, Locharbriggs, Lochrutton, Nethermill, New Abbey, Noblehill, Shawhead and Troqueer - and trees, funded by the Club, were planted in locations picked by the young people, with a little guidance from their willing teachers.

In some cases the trees were chosen by the youngsters, otherwise the Club selected trees with long life prospects and early displays of leaves and berries. At every school the pupils enthusiastically had a go at digging the planting hole, shovelling soil, removing stones, back-filling and heeling the trees firmly into their new locations.



In addition to these, and by special request, trees were also planted at the local Loch Duhar Residential Home and in the grounds of Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary, with Lord Lieutenant Lady Fiona Armstrong in attendance. The schools feature in the above photographs, as do Rotarian organiser John Colbeck, his trusty assistant Tom Aitken and various Club members.

John said “We want to thank all the schools and the staff for making us so welcome. It has been a real pleasure for us to make a contribution to the Green Canopy project, while at the same time introducing the youngsters to the beauty and wonder of trees. I hope they will enjoy watching the trees grow and flourish, as will we”.

HAMILTON ROTARIAN BECOMES MERCHANT HOUSE LORD DEAN

The Merchants House of Glasgow recently announced Andrew McFarlane as their new Lord Dean of Guild. Andrew McFarlane is a highly accomplished professional, holding qualifications as a Chartered Building Surveyor, Chartered Building Engineer, and Arbitrator.

The Merchants House of Glasgow has been an integral part of the city for over 400 years, contributing significantly to its development and growth since its establishment in 1605. As the Lord Dean of Guild, Andrew assumes the prestigious position of Glasgow's Second Citizen, right after the Lord Provost.



Throughout its long history, The Merchants House has evolved into a prominent charitable organisation. In the past five years alone, it has generously donated over £2.5 million to support local charities and individuals in need. Reflecting on his appointment, Andrew expressed his deep honour and commitment to his new role. He looks forward to continuing the invaluable work of his predecessors and positively impacting the lives of the people in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. Being the Second Citizen of Glasgow provides Andrew with the privilege of participating in numerous civic events and supporting the Lord Provost in welcoming visitors to the city and acknowledging the accomplishments of fellow citizens.

Craig Vickery, CEO, said "I'm delighted to welcome Andrew as our new Lord Dean, starting the next chapter in the history of The Merchants House. The great thing about history is it's a living and evolving thing- and the work we do today continues to add to our story. You can be part of our story too by booking one of our event spaces for a conference, meeting, reception or dinner. As a not for profit venue, all our profits go to good causes across the West of Scotland".

Andrew currently serves as a Consultant at DM Hall LLP Chartered Surveyors. He resides in Uddingston with his wife Margaret and their beloved Labrador, Bruce.

Image credit: The Merchants House of Glasgow

DISTRICT MAGAZINE

The District Magazine is our opportunity to showcase the work we all do in our clubs and for our communities both at home and overseas. Please send content to Jonathan Moore (District Editor) via editor@rotary1320.org



BOLLYWOOD EVENING IN KIRKCALDY/STH QUEENSFERRY

A fantastic night had by all at the Kirkcaldy and South Queensferry Rotary Bollywood evening on Saturday 27th May.

The event raised a superb £4433.05 for Prostate Scotland and other local charities!!

Massive thank you to the Bollyfeat dancers for creating an electric atmosphere with their brilliant Bollywood dancing!!

The event attendees really enjoyed participating in the Bollywood workshop!



PROVIDING FRESHWATER WELLS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN BURKINA FASO

Almost 7 years ago (late 2016) members of The Rotary Club of North Berwick were made aware of the activities of a small British Registered Charity (The Myra's Well Charity) and decided to provide financial support to assist in its goal of providing freshwater wells to communities in Burkina Faso, North Africa, where collecting a daily supply of water was having a detrimental effect on children's education.

In the next few years, efforts were made to secure financial support from other UK Rotary Clubs such that an application for both District and Global Grants could be submitted. Following the support of 19 other Rotary Clubs and 2 Districts (1020 and 6600) the application was approved and an award of \$90k US was made and monies received in Sept 2020.

The parties involved in the project execution were the Host Club (RC of Ouagadougou Crystal), the International Club (RC of North Berwick) and the main contractor (The Myra's Wells charity).

Burkina Faso, had and still has, poor infrastructure and it is estimated that some 7,500 additional or replacement freshwater wells would be required to provide acceptable drinking water to the population. The Myra's Wells Charity, at that time (2020), had successfully drilled and commissioned some 190 wells, providing average water for some 1000 people and a similar number of livestock.

A joint site visit with representatives from the Host Club and both local and UK Myra's Wells, was undertaken in January of 2021 and several sites identified as having a genuine need for alternative water supplies. Unfortunately, the Community Assessments, required to permit Trial Drilling to commence, were deemed non-compliant and no Rotary Funded wells resulted in the 2020/21 Drilling Season. Fortunately, despite a Military Coup, following another series of site visits, 13 potential well locations were identified and within the first 3 months of 2022 some 4 wells were successfully drilled. In the next 3 months 3 potential well sites were surveyed and 2 resulted in positive outcomes. All these 6 positive wells became fully operational by the end of the Drilling Season (July 2022).

The formal Hand-Over Ceremonies of 2 of these wells took place in June 2022.



Again, despite a second Military Coup, trial drillings commenced at the beginning of the new Drilling Season (October 2022) and 2 more positive drillings resulted. Both wells became fully operational in November 2022.

Both these wells were Handed Over to the local communities in January 2023.

PROVIDING FRESHWATER WELLS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN BURKINA FASO



The final total of wells, funded by this Global Grant, had risen to 10, all of which are fully operational. The funding of the 10th well was marginal but with more financial assistance from 2 of the original Rotary Supporting Clubs and a donation to this Project from a local school, The Myra's Wells Charity were able to complete the well. This well is for a school and the water will be shared with the local community. The Myra's Wells Charity has to-date completed 285 wells in Burkina Faso.



Recognition of the completion of this successful Project has come from both District 9101 (10 West African Countries) and the former District 1020.

This project demonstrates the power of Rotary International when 21 Clubs and 4 Districts of 4 Countries and 3 Continents work together to achieve a common goal.

RNLI VOLUNTEER JIM REDMOND SPEAKS TO AYR ROTARY CLUB

Guest speaker Jim Redmond spoke about the challenges and work of the 'Royal National Lifeboat Institution' generally referred to as the 'RNLI'. Jim was born and brought up in Ayr, initially trained as a baker before joining the rescue and fire service where he served for 19 yrs. He then medically retired from the fire service, and following a series of studies and examinations, has been practising as a Health and Safety Consultant for over 26 years. Jim joined the RNLI as a volunteer 6 years ago becoming a fully qualified Deputy Launching Authority, and then as Lifeboat Operations Manager for Troon RNLI 4 years ago.

Jim began by advising that the RNLI was founded by Sir William Hillary in 1824, a retired soldier who lived on the Isle of Man, even older than the Coast Guard. He then detailed the facts behind this venerable charity including 4800 volunteers, 238 operational lifeboat stations covering the UK, Eire and the Isle of Man.

Troon's lifeboat house was constructed in 1871 at a cost of £250. In 2023 this same house would cost £11m and in 1971 Troon received Centenary Vellum an award presented by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) to its lifeboat stations which have been in service for 100 years.

On Thursday 9 June 2016, a thanks of the Institution inscribed on Vellum was presented to Coxswain Colin (Joe) Millar and Girvan's Second Coxswain Gary McGarvie following a callout on 14th January 2015 when a 140-tonne trawler had fouled its propeller six miles off Troon in rapidly deteriorating weather conditions. The impressive team work of Coxswains Joe Millar and Gary McGarvie saved four people from a perilous situation, while also ensuring their own crews stayed safe.



Volunteers come from all walks of life; police; firefighters; chefs; air traffic controllers; utilities and oil rigs, however no fisherman. Once a pager goes off, a boat can be launched within 7/8 minutes and the crewing roles are decided by the Lifeboat Operations Manager and the Coxswain based on experience of the person and the potential dangers of the "shout".

Jim related several stories of rescues including the family which requested their £500 inflatable be returned after a helicopter rescued the family from certain catastrophe. They were reminded of the helicopter rescue cost.

In conclusion, Jim told his audience about "Dead Fred" a dummy which is used to specifically help crews develop manual-handling and searching skills so it's not meant to look much like a person. It's humanoid in shape but doesn't have any facial features. The important bit is that it handles like a real person. It flops in a similar way to what an unconscious casualty would. And is heavy so crew can practice correct lifting techniques, putting it in stretchers and using the double strop recovery system they have on all-weather lifeboats.

Harry Jackson delivered a worthy vote of thanks.

EDINBURGH ROTARY CLUB & BRITANNIA SPICE FUNDRAISING

Each year The Rotary Club of Edinburgh funds two Edinburgh pupils to attend the prestigious Rotary Youth Leaders Awards (RYLA). These residential courses take teenage pupils for an intensive leadership experience that helps build communication and problem-solving skills and unlocks their potential to become leaders in their school and community.

The Rotary Club of Edinburgh and Britannia Spice Restaurant joined forces on 28th June 2023 to hold a fundraising event. Although it costs £650 to send one person on a RYLA course, it was decided to fund three additional places as the applicants had been so good. As a result, they organised a dinner and prize draw at the award-winning Britannia Spice Restaurant in Leith.

On the evening 84 people enjoyed each others company and a delicious meal to raise well over £2000. This generous effort now ensures three additional pupils will attend the leadership course.



During the evening, two former pupils of Drummond High who had previously attended RYLA courses, Maria Correia and Yatika Dhringa, gave inspirational speeches about the positive impact being on the course had had on their lives. Both have gone on to have successful academic careers, recently graduating from university.

Ian Spence who was President of Rotary Edinburgh at the time, said “This was a magnificent, highly enjoyable evening that raised a considerable sum of money to help local pupils. RYLA courses are often, rightly, called ‘life-changing’ and we are delighted to have been able to help some Edinburgh pupils in this way.”

Britannia Spice owner and Edinburgh Rotarian, Wali Uddin MBE, said, “Britannia Spice was very happy to help The Rotary Club of Edinburgh run their fundraising dinner, especially as it was for such a worthwhile cause to help local schoolchildren.”

Photograph is of previous RYLA participants, Yatika Dhringa (left) and Maria Correia (right) extolling the virtues of their leadership experience.



SPECIAL HANDOVER MEETING FOR RENFREW ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Renfrew had a very special handover meeting in June. Adam Louttit took over the Presidential chain from Marion Wallace.

While Marion was the club's first lady president, Adam will be the club's youngest president.

Adam, a former pupil of Newmains Primary and Renfrew High School in the town, is 29 and a chartered accountant.

Prior to joining Rotary, he was the first President of the Interact Club of Renfrew and he is also a former President of the Rotaract Club of Renfrew.

A Renfrew boy born and bred, Adam has been steeped in Rotary from his early years. his mum and dad are both Rotarians, his mum being the Club Treasurer this year, his dad is a former President of the Club and was the 1230 District Governor in 2017/18, and is Adam's Vice President this year. All very much a family affair.

Adam's chosen charity for the coming year will be Alzheimers Scotland, in memory of his grandparents who both suffered from dementia in their later years but the club will also continue to support a number of local and international charities, to include Poppy Scotland, for whom the club raises between £30,000-£35,000 annually, through the generosity of the people of Renfrew.

The club has a busy year planned, to include a quiz night, annual dinner, race night, Burns supper and many more events.

The pictures show Adam and outgoing President Marion and Adam, with his girlfriend Bethany and mum and dad.



RENFREW ROTARY SUMMER BRUNCH

Renfrew Rotary hosted a Summer Brunch on the 5th of August in aid of Rotary Foundation that was attended by 26 people: mainly Rotarians but also family and friends. It was a great social event as well as raising over £300 for Rotary International's own charity which does fantastic work around the globe.



FALKIRK ROTARY SUPPORT 867 (DENNY) SQUADRON ATC

The Rotary Club of Falkirk recently decided to augment their recent donation to the 867 Denny Squadron ATC to help fund a trip overseas.



President Linda, Valeria, James, Diane and Sandy attended their Parade and Awards Evening. The Cadets of the Squadron all presented themselves perfectly during an inspection of both Vulcan and Typhoon Flights. This was all done to the accompaniment of a pipe band.

DOLLARS, DIRHAMS AND DEUTSCHMARKS SUPPORT THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Rotary Club of Braids in Edinburgh has an innovative fundraiser. For about 6 years one of their members has operated a foreign currency project supporting Rotary Foundation. I chatted with PDG Alasdair Seale about the project.

“Everyone has some old foreign money in their sock drawer for their next trip but it’s too late for Italian Lira, French Francs and Spanish pesetas.” We make good use of them all and collect notes and coins from any country and of any age.” So don’t ask if they want old large size 10p coins, round pounds or a million Lira note – because the answer is always the same - Yes they do.

They’ve raised over £10,000 (plus gift aid) and sales are running high in holiday season. Stocks tended to accrue during the pandemic as folk were still donating. And it’s not just routine notes and coins; they’re adept at noticing high value coins like gold sovereigns and special banknotes. A George III silver shilling (pre-dating Cook sailing to New Zealand and the American Declaration of Independence) brought £150 on eBay.



So, please dig out old coins and notes and get them to Braids or their collection box at Rotary GB&I in Alcester. Or better still – organise a collection at your club. There will be several members of your District Team that go to meetings in Alcester – could they drop them off for you?

And Alasdair says he’s happy to visit clubs to talk about the project and bring a few trays of interesting coins from around the world.

More details from Alasdair Seale: afs@trinityfactors.co.uk

JEDBURGH JUNIOR FLY FISHING



The Jedburgh Rotary Club members were traditionally either golfers or fishers (some were both, others were neither). The fishermen, each year, would organise a Junior Fly-Fishing Day for youngsters under 16. For many years, these days were organised by Ian Sanford, who is now catching fish in that big loch in the sky. Ian's passing, together with Covid, meant that the event hasn't run since 2018, so another Ian, Ian Davis, volunteered to resurrect the event. He approached Jed Forest Angling Association. The request was to fish the upper loch at the Hass Trout Fishery, owned by them. The club committee supported the idea and permission was given and date set for Saturday 27 May 2023. Local sponsorship resulted in delicious sausage rolls from Briggsy's, something sweet from Border Meringues, refreshments from Coffee Corner and apples from the Jedburgh Deli. A big thank you to everyone for their support.

Eventually there were 25 youngsters registered for the day. Usually, they were lucky to get 8 or 10 coming, so with numbers like that they needed more than one or two to help look after them. On the day, the team of helpers was Eddie Muir, Jan Kernaghan, Tony Rae, and Ian Davis. In the afternoon Club President Marianne Bamkin attended to support along with her husband, Roger. They had lots of family groups with mums, dads, grannies and grandpas, as well as some aunts and uncles. They were blessed with a glorious sunny day, though there was quite a breeze blowing. It was quite a party and took a wee while to get everyone sorted out, tackled up and ready for the safety briefing.

Quite a few of the youngsters could already fly fish, so they were allowed to go round the loch and start fishing. They had at least 15 'starters' so each instructor took 4 or 5 of them to teach them casting. For safety reasons, initially, they just had some red wool on the end of the line! After half an hour coaching, they were all ready to try with a fly, so they were allowed to choose any fly from a big fly box then they were off! There were some 'Golden Moments' that stand out from the day. Some special ones when you see a proud dad netting his son's first trout. Then there was a grandpa who brought his grandson. He had his fly rod that he hadn't used for 20 years so he set it up for his grandson and was able to see his first trout and his second and his third! He was doing well and hopefully it will start a whole new fishing partnership. Biggest catch of the day was when one of Jim Keith's grandchildren managed to hook their granny, but Doctor Eddie saved the day!

The fishing stopped just before 4 o'clock. The day isn't a competition however, they do recognise the biggest fish caught. This year it was caught by Izaak Gibson, son of local fishing legend, Grant Gibson. Izaak was presented with his prize – a landing net kindly donated by Borders Gunroom, the local tackle dealer in St. Boswells. They had a collection bucket at the event and donations were made of more than £50, which was very generous and much appreciated. That money will be going towards their next Aquabox purchase.

All in all, this was Jedburgh Rotary's most successful Junior Fishing Day ever held. It was excellent to see so many youngsters coming forward to have a go at fly fishing. They are our anglers of the future!

VINTAGE TEA IN JEDBURGH

The Club held a “Vintage Tea” in Ancrum on 23 July. Organised by Gordon and Jane Stuart, with help from President Tony Rae and Past President Eddie Muir, the afternoon ran from 2 p.m to 4 p.m and was an outstanding success.

All the tables were full, and the traditional teas were very much enjoyed. The event was organised to raise funds for the Rotary Jedburgh Winter Festival which will take place in early December. At this event, all the primary age children in Ancrum and Jedburgh will be given an age-appropriate Christmas gift. The Club has done this for many years as a service to the two communities linked through Jedburgh Grammar School Campus.



There was plenty of food for everyone thanks to donations and baking from members and volunteers, including the “Jedburgh Ladies” who are “Friends” of the club. All the helpers were dressed in black and white waiter / waitress costumes.

Grateful thanks to Amanda from ‘Coffee Corner’ who is also a club member. Despite being a busy person, Amanda works very hard to support Rotary initiatives and, with her assistants, produced unforgettable scrumptious teas to the delight of those who attended the event.

Thanks also to President Tony Rae, Gordon and Jane Stuart, Eddie Muir, Elizabeth Till, Ancrum Pantry, Footprint, Helen Oliver, Lorna Gates, the Jed Eye and Marcia Brown. Thanks also to all those who attended the tea, donated raffle prizes, and helped in any way.



RENFREWSHIRE YOUNG CARERS OUTING

Young Carers are children and young people aged 18 or under and still at school who look after someone at home who is unable to cope without support due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction.

The Renfrewshire Young Carers service also offers opportunities to have fun, learn new things and meet other young people who are going through a similar situation whilst getting a break from their caring role.

For the past few years, Gryffe Valley Rotary Club have funded a day or evening out for groups of Young Carers. This year's outing for Young Carers in Renfrewshire was held at the Watersports Centre at Castle Semple Country Park, Lochwinnoch.

In early July, up to 20 youngsters per day, each day for four days in total, were introduced to both water and land sports; canoeing, kayaking, trips on the "wheelyboat" donated some years ago by Gryffe Valley Rotary Club and cycling around the loch.

The afternoon culminated with Fish and Chips and soft drinks, and was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the staff at Castle Semple and to the Rotary members who assisted on the day.



HONOURS FOR GOVAN ROTARIANS

Congratulations to Rhona Baillie who received an OBE and Inderjit Singh who received an MBE in the recent honours list. There must be something special about the Govan club as this in addition to Del Singh and John Duncan who have previously received such honours. Well done to you all.

GENERATORS FOR UKRAINE

'Yesterday there was an emergency shutdown of Cherkasy after ... the bombing at Kanivska hydroelectric station. Only urgent and simple operations could happen, only 3 out of 7 operating rooms worked at all with one backup generator for this 3-story building.' **Dr Olha Paliychuk, Rotary GB&I Ukraine Task Force Bulletin 22.**

The plight of Ukrainians 'learning to live without electricity' in their homes, schools and hospitals was brought home to us in the winter of 2021-22 by powerful messages such as this. Electrical generators, large and small, were one of the principal needs of the people of war-torn Ukraine.

Rotarians throughout Rotary GB&I took this call to heart, fundraisers were held and steps taken to procure and transport generators to Ukraine. The flurry of activity led to the appointment of District Ukraine Co-ordinators, a role I held for the former District 1020.

A request to clubs as to what they had done to support the people of Ukraine, their future plans, and what support they would like from District, produced a range of responses. Generators were a common theme, some clubs planned to make their own arrangements while others wanted District coordination.

As a result, the District Ukraine Crisis Fund for generators was set up. When a suitable sum had been donated District would take the lead. Nine Clubs sent contributions, between them Biggar, Castle Douglas, Corstorphine, Dumfries Devorgilla, Dunbar, Hawick, Kirkcudbright and Linlithgow Grange Clubs, together with Borderlands Passport Group, donated over £5424.

How best to spend the money? Step forward again the Rotary GB&I Task Force. District 1090 - Thames Valley were focusing their efforts on providing large generators. Working with Ukrainian Rotarians they identified hospitals needing generators for their operating theatres and wards. What's more, they had joined forces with Rotarians in D1100 – Cotswolds who arranged transport. Together, they had already supplied 12 large generators to hospitals in Eastern Ukraine where injured soldiers from the front line were treated.

District 1090 confirmed that the monies raised by District 1020 clubs would enable the purchase and transport of another large generator. The mechanisms were already in place and they had extensive experience, it made sense for us to work together.



The final District 1090 order using our donation and that of others was for 4 generators. Together with two other units funded by D1100, the generators were transported in July to a Rotary hub in Dnipro and from there to local hospitals.

Through collaboration across Rotary clubs, districts and countries we have made a significant difference to people in desperate need, just part of the extraordinary support for Ukraine.

Olive Geddes

A HELPING HAND FOR DISPLACED UKRAINIANS

The Rotary Club of Edinburgh has recently raised and awarded a splendid £5,600 via its Jubilee Charity Fund and several other means to aid Ukrainian displaced people in Edinburgh and Romania.

Ukrainian People in Edinburgh

Edinburgh is now home to a significant number of Ukrainian people who fled their country following the Russian invasion of it in February 2022. Many Ukrainians who arrived in Edinburgh are mothers and young people who understandably struggle with their mental health and have difficulty integrating with the local community.

Knowing about this terrible plight, The Rotary Club of Edinburgh were eager to meet with the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) at its Ukrainian Community Centre in Edinburgh to hear about the action it could take to help alleviate the displaced Ukrainian's suffering.



Tetiana Hurn, Rex Homer, Svitlana Iniakoviene and Ian Spence (President – Rotary Edinburgh)

Suggestions were initiated by Ukrainian people and developed with Edinburgh Rotarians over a few months. This resulted in an Edinburgh orientation bus journey for over 70 Ukrainian people, a memorable evening of 'Intertwined' Scottish and Ukrainian classical music and poetry in the Scottish Arts Club, a programme of cultural activities to enhance wellbeing and integration at the AUGB Community Centre, and a much appreciated, well-attended concert and fair at St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh.

The magnanimous supportive efforts by The Rotary Club of Edinburgh has brought together Scottish and Ukrainian people to enjoy companionship and cultural entertainment, in a safe place, to talk to one another of recent life-changing experiences and exchange mutual care and support.



A HELPING HAND FOR DISPLACED UKRAINIANS

Ukrainian people in Romania

The Rotary Club of Iasi (pronounced 'Yash') is in the city of Iasi in the north-east of Romania and very close to the border with Moldova and Ukraine.

The Rotary Club of Edinburgh (RCE) was introduced to the Iasi Club by Julie Hufstetler, a former Rotarian with long-term connections to Romania. Julia met with Gordon Young, Junior Vice President of RCE and several other Edinburgh Rotarians to hear about a new Information and Support Centre for displaced Ukrainian people in Romania. The Centre is in an office building and staffed by Ukrainian volunteers to assist with advice and support. More recently the Centre was extended to include day-care for over 50 children supported by two Ukrainian teachers who are now providing lessons, every day.

On Thursday 3 August members of The Rotary Club of Iasi, Cintia Colibaba and Anca Colibaba, visited RCE where they gave their heartfelt thanks for the Jubilee Trust Fund award of £2000 and an update on new developments at the Centre, including much needed psychological help for Ukrainian children.



Photograph is of Cintia Colibaba, Rotary Club of Iasi at the Rotary Club of Edinburgh meeting.

Gordon Young is determinedly planning a visit to Iasi during this autumn, along with other members of RCE, where they will visit the Information and Support Centre to learn details of its activities.

As more funds are now needed to support Ukrainian people in Edinburgh and Romania, RCE is calling upon 1320 District Clubs to donate additional funds to sustain these essential activities.

If your club is interested, please email Glenda Watt, Secretary of Edinburgh Rotary Club, on secretary@edinburghrotary.org

THE POWER OF THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The power of the internet and social media platforms across the world have become additional opportunities for Rotary to expand its communications and visibility ... and this has proved pivotal in initiatives undertaken by the Rotary Club of Hunterston – now part of the South of Scotland District 1320.

Not only has the wide variety of topics covered by speakers invited to the Rotary Club of Hunterston and initiatives taken by the Club in the community and beyond have been instrumental in the Club achieving significant local, national and international Media coverage.

Alex Blair, President of the Rotary Club of Hunterston commented: “Ensuring that our activities are given the opportunity of Media coverage is of vital importance in the promotion of Rotary.

“Articles that we’ve submitted to our regional newspapers have received coverage, not only in local printed columns but in online publications such as Facebook and other platforms. As a result, we have received comments from many quarters, home and overseas, which is most encouraging.”

“Over the past 12 months, reports of talks given by invited speakers have been written and on local news desks within 24 hours, thereby giving ample time for assessment by editors and therefore better opportunities for coverage.”

Examples include the work of the Ocean Youth Trust (OYT) Scotland celebrating its 51 years in operation and including its 70 plus programme of character-building cruises for young people. Other topics by speakers have been the creation of new Lavender fields in North Ayrshire, the West Kilbride (former) nuclear bunker and the world famous Enigma cypher machine and its de-coding by Alan Turing and the former Bletchley Park cryptology team during WW11. All of these and more have attracted local Media coverage for the benefit of the organisations concerned and of course the Rotary Club of Hunterston.

Norrie / Alex Blair continued: “The work of the Club, including the recent amalgamation of two Districts in Scotland and support we’ve given to various local groups and charities have also been extensively covered by local printed local newspapers and have made their way through to online and social media outlets.

It is the Club’s intention to target further media initiatives over the next 12 months to further boost its visibility and hence its role within North Ayrshire communities.



Robin Spencer harvesting his lavender fields near Largs in North Ayrshire



Enigma cypher machine



Adventures of the Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

HUNTERSTON ROTARY PROMOTE NEW DISTRICT

Hunterston Rotary took the opportunity to promote our new District in their local newspaper, the Ardrossan Herald with the following article:

West of Scotland Rotary, which include the Rotary Club of Hunterston has joined forces with clubs in the East of Scotland to form the new South of Scotland District 1320.

Alex Blair, the new President of Hunterston Rotary welcomed the formation of the larger District 1320 saying:

“This is the perfect time to revitalise Rotary in Scotland. An opportunity to make a fresh start in a new environment and incorporate what was the best of the previous two districts.”

The new larger Rotary District 1320 stretches from Oban and Lochaber down through Scotland’s central belt, including the country’s two largest cities, Glasgow and Edinburgh, communities in both the west and east of Scotland and down to the Borders and across to Dumfries and Galloway.

Governor of the new Scotland South 1320, Narek H. Bido said:

“I am honoured to serve and lead an incredible community of dedicated individuals who are passionate about making a positive difference in our communities and across the world.

“Rotary is not just an organisation, but a vibrant movement that is built upon the foundation of fellowship, service, and ethical leadership and it continues to be a beacon of hope around the world. It is a global network of dedicated individuals from diverse backgrounds, united by the common goal of creating lasting change in our communities and beyond.”

As the new South of Scotland District 1320 was announced, Scot Gordon McInally became the World President of Rotary International. He was formally a Past President of Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland.

Gordon’s theme for this Rotary year is “Create hope in the World”.



THORNHILL AND DISTRICT CHARITY GOLF AMAM



President Ian Lewis presenting a partnership certificate to Dumfries & Galloway Befrienders Project representative Elaine Luxton. The Charity also received a cheque for £1,500.



Dumfries Rotary Club supported the event by entering a team of extremely talented Rotarians unfortunately their talent wasn't golf. Team: left to right Stuart Robison, Maureen McKerrow, Gordon McKerrow and John Henderson.

On a gloriously sunny Friday 21st July a record 48 teams participated in Thornhill and District Rotary Club's annual Charity Golf Competition. The Club's volunteers who had started setting up their facilities in time for an 8.00am first tee-off, were not disappointed in the record numbers booked to play.

The Teams competed over the excellent Thornhill Golf Course and afterwards in excess of 200 Golfers and Guests enjoyed a 3 course meal in the superbly scenic Golf Clubhouse.

Thornhill & District Rotary Club has staged this popular fund-raising competition since 1996, already raising over £110,000

Gordon Lawson, who has helped organise the event for over 25 years, paid tribute to all those who helped make a successful day:

"I want to thank not just our own Team but the Friends of Rotary who volunteered their time to help organise this Event. This year has again been a record breaker – we've welcomed even more players from around the region, all of them enjoying a great game and a memorable reunion; most importantly, the money that we've raised this time has topped the £7,000 mark. Also a special thank you to our Main sponsor Brown Brothers Food Group and co-sponsors Shaw Europe Ltd, Brownriggs Garage Thornhill, Wm Clark and Son (Parkgate) Ltd., and Loch Lomond Whiskies. Without them this event would not have been as successful as it is".

The money raised will benefit Breast Cancer UK, Dumfries & Galloway Befriending Project and other good causes. In presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Jock Harkness, Captain of Thornhill Golf Club, Rotary President Ian Lewis expressed his pleasure that Rotary in this area was continuing with its aims to support Youth Development, and its long association with Thornhill Golf Club's Junior Section.

The winners on the day were a Team from EGB Joinery Torthorwald with runners up Walter Marchbank Ltd from Thornhill.

AmAm organising Team:

President Ian Lewis, Norman Brough, Steven Barron, Gordon Lawson, Stewart Lee and Ed Hunter.



SCHOOLS NATIONAL SUPERBLOOMERS PROJECT



The Historic Royal Palaces was an organisation established by the Government in 1989 to care for the Tower of London, Banqueting House, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace. In 1998 it became an independent charity and in 2014 it added Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland to its list. Following Queen Elizabeth 2's Platinum Jubilee, when the Moat of the Tower of London was transformed into a glorious colour of wild flowers, the Schools Super bloomers Project was born.

Schools across the UK were selected by the Historic Royal Palaces to transform an outdoor patch of ground within their campus into a thriving garden for the wellbeing of their community and local wildlife. St Columba's High School in Gourock was the only school in Scotland to be chosen in 2023 and they worked hard to transform such a patch of ground within their campus into a thriving garden. They produced a selection of flowers, along with a variety of vegetables which they were able to sell and they also looked after two beehives. The project not only gave the pupils new skills but proved beneficial to the physical and mental health of all the participants. A win, win situation for everyone.



24 pupils, accompanied by teachers were to travel to London to receive their award at the Tower of London, travelling expenses being paid by the Historic Royal Palaces. They were to walk along the Thames and over Tower Bridge, before entering the Tower by Traitor's Gate. They were then to walk around the Moat and to see the Crown Jewels in a day they will never forget.

They required funds to buy printed T Shirts for the occasion and to be worn by the gardening team afterwards when working in the garden. Greenock Rotary were more than happy to present them with a cheque for £300 to allow them to purchase these and so two teachers and four pupils came to the Club to describe their project and to receive the money and the congratulations and good wishes from the members.



KIRKCUDBRIGHT ROTARY CHARITY GOLF DAY

Kirkcudbright Rotary held their annual charity golf Competition on Monday the 22nd of May. Sixty- eight golfers played and the winning team represented Blackburns Hair Salons. The emphasis of the day was fun which, with the format and sunny weather, created a wonderful experience for all.

Grateful thanks to Kirkcudbright Golf Club for their support and to Will from the Auld Alliance Restaurant who manned the kitchen all day. The Golf Day raised £1452 which will be split between The Rotary Foundation and local projects. (Photo: 18th green)



TEACHING PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ABOUT POLIO



Kirkcudbright Rotary are continuing their education of our local children. With the theme “End Polio Now”, all of the primary schools in in the Kirkcudbright area have listened to story-tellers Maurice and Anne Halliday “entertaining”, telling stories of local children and polio cases, the connection to Purple Pinkie and Purple Crocus and how their local school became involved in children’s vaccination. The photo shows the recent event at TWYNHOLM PRIMARY SCHOOL.

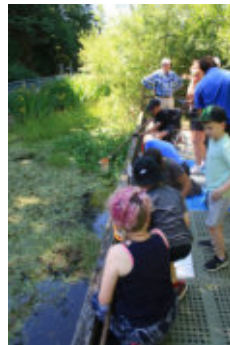
KIDS SUMMER DAY OUT 2023



On Wednesday 14 June, a party of 36 children with special needs from local schools were taken on their annual Summer Day Out to the Cream of Galloway, together with their Carers, Teachers and Rotarians. The event was organised by the Rotary Club of Castle Douglas, with the Dalbeattie and Kirkcudbright Clubs providing close support.

The children spent the morning Pond Dipping, Tractor & Trailer Rides and Ice Cream tasting, followed by Lunch. They then went on a Cow Puzzle Hunt followed by Crazy Golf or Crazy Croquet. The day finished with a tub of ice cream for all.

For many years, this Day Out has given these special children an opportunity to enjoy themselves together out of school, and it proved to be very enjoyable for all those who took part, organised or supervised the event.



YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

The Kirkcudbright Rotary Club 'Young Artist' competition for schools was held recently with the Presentation Evening being held in the Old School Hall in Kirkcudbright Academy on Thursday 25th May. The theme this year was 'Our Oceans'. The Young Artist competition was judged by local artists Joshua Miles and Margaret Milligan with trophies, cash prizes and certificates being awarded in a variety of age groups. Every student whose art work was submitted by the schools has been presented with a Kirkcudbright Rotary Club 'Participation' certificate. All trophies, prizes and certificated were provided by Kirkcudbright Rotary Club and were presented by the competition sponsor, Christine Wimbush. An exhibition of all of all of the winners' art work was recently on display in the Tolbooth, Kirkccudbright. Winners were: Orlagh Sweeney-Chisholm (Primary School Trophy for the 'Best Entry from Partner Primary Schools), Ralph Copeman (The Wimbush Trophy for the 'Best Entry from S1 & S2 Academy Students) and Katie Best (William Hannah Clarke Trophy for the 'Best Entry from S3 Academy Students).



KIRKCUDBRIGHT ROTARY CLUB YOUNG MECHANIC OF THE YEAR



Kirkcudbright Academy is very fortunate to have, as one of its facilities, a small garage area for training and education. In the past, this was supported by a number of teaching hours from Dumfries College that allowed the Academy to offer a level 4 'Skills for Work' course in Automotive Engineering. Kirkcudbright Rotary club has very close ties with the school and many of our annual school prizes and awards are given under the Rotary banner. This has included an award for "The Young Mechanic of the Year", chosen from the students on the automotive course. Additionally, one of the Rotary club's honorary members, Derek Smith, has supported the course with his knowledge and his enthusiasm..... and his vintage cars!

Sam Forsyth was chosen as this year's recipient of the 'Young Mechanic' prize. He was chosen for his practical ability, coupled with business understanding, enthusiasm and the desire to succeed.

This year Derek has further supported the prize by awarding, Sam with a high quality toolkit, funded by Kirkcudbright Rotary club, to start him on his mechanical pathway.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT ROTARY CLUB YOUNG CHEF COMPETITION

This year's S3 Rotary Young Chef Competition took place at Kirkcudbright Academy on Tuesday 23rd May. The event was once again supported by the Kirkcudbright Rotary Club who provided the cash prizes as well as funding the ingredients to be used by the young chefs. Pupils were tasked with designing and producing a two-course meal that contained local and seasonal produce and which helped to follow dietary advice. After several weeks of planning, pupils utilised the food preparation techniques and processes learned in class to produce some wonderful plates of food for judges Ryan Miller, Head Chef at Selkirk Arms Hotel, and Paul Wilkinson, owner and Head Chef at Castle Street Bistro, Kirkcudbright.



With a main course of 'Onion Bhaji served with a Mango & Coconut Salad' accompanied by a 'Mango and Passion fruit cheesecake' dessert, the winners of this year's competition were Eden-Rose Hinchliff and Alfie Wilson. In second place, with a 'One Pot Pasta' and a 'Strawberry Infused Vanilla Cheesecake', were Carlie Douglas and Brooke Callander. Alfie Smith received a Highly Commended award from the judges for his 'Creamy Garlic Mushrooms' with a 'Tender Rump Steak' with sides of homemade chips, mushrooms and beansprouts'. Lastly, 'Best Table Setting' was rightly awarded to Amy Crockell for her most inviting dining table ensemble. Congratulations to all winners and a huge well done to all.

LOMOND ROTARY LIFESAVERS

In 1996 Heartstart Scotland was a joint initiative between the Scottish Ambulance Service and the British Heart Foundation. Lomond Rotary (previously Helensburgh Garelochside Rotary) have been affiliated to this scheme since January 1996.

A major part of Lomond Rotary's service to the community is providing Heartstart/Defibrillator Training to local schools, businesses, GP and Dental Practices, all police stations, local golf clubs, bowling clubs and many other local groups and clubs. Each year they train over 2000 Primary & Secondary Pupils in Argyll & Bute alone. These are our future lifesavers and the Rotarians of tomorrow. In 2016 & 2022 they were invited to showcase Heartstart/Defibrillator Training at the Rotary International District 1230 Conference as an example of how Rotary Service is engaging with and working with the local community and saving local lives.

Sadly in June 2019 BHF pulled out of Heartstart Training without warning or consultation. They were left without insurance and unable to deliver training. However SALFS came to the rescue and they now oversee and provide Lomond Rotary with insurance to continue delivering Heartstart/Defibrillator Awareness Training in the community. They have a partner charity Helensburgh & Local District CPR/Defibrillator Association which enables them to purchase Pads for the community.

The demand for defibrillators in the past few months has really rocketed. Heartstart/Defibrillator Awareness Training is now back up and running in the community and the Heartstart Training Diary is rapidly filling up, due to the fact that the public are now more aware of these lifesaving machines. Members of the community have now received training and they are confident to use one should the situation arise. Also the number of people whose lives have been saved by someone doing just that. To date, its around 43 lives saved. The most recent incident was at Helensburgh Swimming Pool. None of this would have been possible if it hadn't been for the support received from local organisations who have supported fundraising to purchase the equipment.



Defibrillator presentation at Helensburgh Hub (Sue Palmer Heartstart Trainer, Takki Sulaiman Chief Executive TSI Argyll & Bute, Gillian Simpson Manager Helensburgh Hub, Paula Derbyshire TSI and Sheenah Nelson). Sue and Sheenah were delighted to be invited to meet Takki and that he could share in the handing over of a PAD which will be available 24/7 on the front wall of Helensburgh Hub. They will be returning to deliver training for the Hub staff and organisations who use the Hub.

Presentation of a PAD at the Ardencaple Hotel where Lomond Rotary hold their Business Meetings. The PAD was presented to the staff following Heartstart / Defibrillator Training and will be available 24/7 for the community. Rotarians John Macpherson, Sue Palmer, member of hotel staff, President Gordon Grieg and Norman Quirk.



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Presentation to Parklands School, in Helensburgh. Training was delivered to teachers and support staff at Parklands on Inservice Day at the beginning of the Summer Term. The school has a pool which the pupils use daily to assist with their mobility and exercise and felt they needed to do some refresher training before the pupils returned. The school supports pupils who have disabilities / medical conditions and having a defibrillator on site available was essential. This PAD is also available 24/7 for the community to use too.



This PAD will be installed at the Beachcomber Café, Kidston Park Helensburgh. The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) Neptune Lodge No 9704 raised the funds for this device and this PAD will be available 24/7. It was delivered with the support of the Rotary Club whose Heartstart team will also be providing Heartstart/Defibrillator Training. Sheenah Nelson the Clubs Heartstart Co-ordinator said " This is the second PAD that the RAOB have assisted Helensburgh & Local District Defibrillator Association in placing in our Community. The first was in Cardross in 2016, which has saved two lives. We would also like to thank the management of the Beachcomber Café for kindly hosting this machine. "

This defibrillator was donated to the Lodge by St George, Helensburgh, Royal Arch Chapter No 522. The Club were delighted to assist them to purchase a defibrillator and indoor alarmed cabinet which is available on the premises to the many groups that use this building. Those pictured in the photograph L to R at the handover of the defibrillator were First Principal Alistair Paton of the Royal Arch Chapter, St George No522, Sheenah Nelson and Second Principal Dr Roddy Mackay. They will be returning to deliver Heartstart/Defibrillator Training later this month.



They were delighted to receive a donation from Miller Homes which will assist them in maintaining PADs (Publicly Accessible Defibrillator). These defibrillators have saved 43 lives in the community since 2015 when the Scottish Government launched the Out of hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy. Working with Save a Life for Scotland, the aim of this scheme was to train 500,000 members of the Community to deliver bystander CPR. In doing so we could save over 1,000 people each year.

Photographs are courtesy of Brian Averell, an honorary member of Lomond Rotary.

QUEEN'S MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN ANNAN

Annan and District Rotary have inserted a plaque on Annan High Street in recognition of the late Queen who was the longest reigning monarch in British History.

The club are indebted to Dumfries and Galloway Council who very kindly supplied the stone which actually matches paving slabs already in place around the War Memorial, and also for undertaking all the necessary works associated with the installation. The design and lettering was done by Edward Layden, Memorial Sculptors in Dumfries.

The siting of the Queen's Memorial Plaque in the proximity of the War Memorial is appropriate for two reasons: the late Queen served in the Military during the war and she was the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces thus respected by all who served under her. The War Memorial Commemorates Those who Gave their Lives For the Country; The Queen's Memorial commemorates the Giving of Her Life To the Country.



The plaque was recently unveiled by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries Fiona Armstrong Lady MacGregor, accompanied by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Hardip Atwal BEM after which Piper Reilly Shearer played flawlessly.

Photograph courtesy of DNG Media.



AYRSHIRE ALPS CHALLENGE

One of Ayr Rotary Club's major fundraising events was the Ayrshire Alps Challenge held on Saturday 24th June in partnership with Malawi Fruits, a Scottish charity which provides start up finance, training and support to agricultural enterprises; encouraging smallholding farmers to see their farms as businesses. Fundamentally, it enables the transition from subsistence crops to cash crops by providing support, training, irrigation and a market, therefore farmers have a guaranteed income. By supporting sustainable businesses this reduces poverty and so gives access to better health, education, stability and hope in northern Malawi.



The event base was at Turnberry airfield, with feed stations in Straiton and Barr, offering soup, filled rolls, tea coffee and home baking all supplied by Rotarian spouses and partners. A network of signed hill climbs, stylishly mapped and promoted, forms the basis of this event. Riders who pre-registered, started to arrive at Turnberry early and set off between 8am and 10am. This exciting new sportive was launched with great success in 2022, offering a choice of the long 80 mile route with 2170m climb, a medium 62 mile route or the shorter 48 mile course with 1300m climb. Stiff climbs and sweeping descents over spectacular hills, including the iconic Nic o'Balloch, are guaranteed as are the really quiet roads.

Of the 163 registered entries, over 150 arrived on a beautiful summer's morning. For this second event within 10 months, Ayr Rotary Club were delighted to raise £5527 of which 50% goes to Malawi Fruits charity with the balance going the Ayr Rotary Club's benevolent fund. An excellent result. It is therefore proposed to repeat the event in 2024 when the entries target will be 200, to hopefully raise, £6000 to £7000.

The Ayrshire Alps is a concept with the aim of enriching the cycling experience in the South Carrick area through partnership working with community, tourism, local authority and enterprise. The aim is to create Scotland's first road cycling park, similar in ambition to the off-road trail centres found across Southern Scotland.

Organiser, Bob Cherry, also a keen cyclist and President of Ayr Rotary Club, received numerous complimentary reviews from the majority of entrants and volunteers on the smooth running and success of the event.

LINLITHGOW GRANGE CHARITY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

The Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange held its annual Charity AmAm Golf Championship on August 28th where 22 teams competed for the prestigious St. Magdalene Cup.

With perfect weather, all the teams enjoyed tackling the tricky course at Linlithgow Golf Club although some suggested that the 'height of the grass' restricted their best performance! Additional cash prizes, provided by some of the sponsors for specific holes, included 'the longest drive', 'nearest the pin' and 'lowest team score'.



The overall first place was awarded to 'Insurance Apps' (L to R) Leslie Boswell, David Sneddon, James Campbell and Stephen Marshall, 'Glensburgh Consultancy' were placed second followed by "The Four toppers", the winners also collecting first prize in the parallel 'Yellow Ball' competition. During the evening prize giving, attended by 23 members, their partners and guests, there was a Silent Auction for several significant activities and gifts along with a prize raffle.

Club President Ken MacKenzie thanked everyone for their help in making the event so successful and for generating funds for

his selected charities, 'Whizz-Kidz' and 'Young Lives vs Cancer'. In her vote of thanks, President Elect Elma Birrell commented that the charity representatives who talked to the players during the day were delighted with the opportunity to discuss their work and assured them that the funds would be much appreciated by their recipients. Elma also acknowledged the contributions from all the commercial sponsors and the volunteers from the Golf Club, adding that the event exemplified the how Rotary objectives can be achieved with fun!



Club President Ken MacKenzie enjoying his round