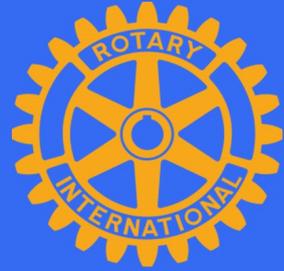




# The ARCH

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Hexham



August 2019

## “ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP”

As I start my year as the President of The Rotary Club of Hexham, three things impress me with the Club. First the never failing energy, commitment and enthusiasm of Club members, second the vast sums of money raised for good causes and, thirdly, the variety and quality of social activities, events and speakers at Club meetings. I feel privileged to take over as President and I also offer my thanks to Roy Dallison, my predecessor, who had a very successful year and I look forward to building on Roy's achievements.

Although relatively new to Rotary, I have had many connections during my career. The main reason I have never been an active member is that, in my various jobs around the UK, my office base has always been located many miles from my home which meant I was never near meeting venues at lunchtimes. Rotary meeting times are however now far more flexible, including evening and weekend events. This caters for both working and retired male and female members. A very early personal connection with Rotary after graduating in 1975, was that I was a finalist for the Rotary Scholarship competition, in my case to travel to Canada to complete a Master's degree. Being runner up in that competition was a rewarding experience and I was very grateful for the opportunity. The winner as I recall was a veterinary surgeon from Jersey.



We already have a very varied and diverse programme of both social and fundraising events including some interesting visits and an initiative to raise up to £40,000 to fund some vital medical equipment in the fight against cancer. Several notable guest speakers have been booked and even a Jazz Festival planned over the weekend of May 15th and 16th in 2020. The purpose of the varied program is, of course, to make our fundraising and community work both enjoyable and friendly. Many of

the events will be open to the public and I very much welcome you all to these. The full program can be viewed on our website [www.hexhamrotary.co.uk](http://www.hexhamrotary.co.uk) then click on 'future program'.

Rotary is a vibrant worldwide organisation. It was formed in 1905 by Paul Harris and currently has a presence in over 200 countries with 1.2 million members worldwide and 1,700 clubs in the UK alone. Locally in Hexham our focus for the year includes youth projects, including youth leadership, development and career advice, community service projects, fundraising to help eliminate polio worldwide, continuation of the valuable work raising money for our International Disaster Fund and environmental projects including tree planting in the Autumn. We hope to help replace ash trees affected with Ash Die-back with new Oak trees. One of the most efficient ways of removing CO2 from the atmosphere is to plant more trees. 'Active Citizenship' means that all this valuable voluntary work is undertaken enthusiastically by our members in partnership with local businesses; in short, we are people of action.

If you are interested in finding out more about **Rotary** then please speak to our membership team leader Brian Massey who many of you will know, or myself. An email to [membership@hexhamrotary.co.uk](mailto:membership@hexhamrotary.co.uk) will reach us, or you can easily **find us on Facebook or Twitter**. I do hope you will be able to enjoy some of the many events we have proposed for next year.

Thank you, and I look forward to both your support and to a very exciting and rewarding Rotary year.

*Andrew Rigg, President*

# Rotarian Eric Blackburn (24th February 1935 – 24th June 2019)

Born in Scotswood, Eric grew up in Fenham and went to Pendower School. He was interested in all types of sport, playing football and cricket and was a very keen runner with Gateshead Harriers and regularly cycled to Stamfordham and Matfen to the Old Scout Hut.

On leaving school he worked for Stephenson Clarke Shipping on the Quayside before his National Service in the RAF. After a further period with Stephenson Clarke, he moved to British Paints, eventually becoming their Ports Inspector. He moved back to the North East, working for Grabhams, eventually being promoted to director level. He then set up in business on his own, opening a number of paint and wallpaper shops in County Durham. He was very much a people man and part of the success of the business can undoubtedly be put down to the way he looked after his staff and customers.

He married the love of his life, Dorothy, at St. George's Church, Low Fell in 1963 and they had one son, Jeremy who was born in 1980. Eric was a loving father and very proud of his son. When Eric was visited in Shotley Care Home, he talked regularly about Jeremy and how well he was doing in London.

Eric and Dorothy had always wanted to live in the Tyne Valley and moved to Dilston in 1993, subsequently moving to Newfield on the Minsteracres estate. The latter property had a lot of land but this did not phase Eric or Dorothy who put in many hours of hard work to create their garden. Eric had dogs throughout his life and their houses were ideal spots from which to take the dogs on country walks.

Following retirement, Eric became involved in the local community, joining the Elvaston and Hexham House Bowls Club and The Albert Edward Club where he enjoyed playing snooker. He joined the Rotary Club of Hexham in 2001 and was a hard working Rotarian who could always be relied upon to volunteer to fill any spare slots on the rota for the Christmas Fore Street collection.

As a result of ill health, he had been unable to come to Rotary for the past 2 years. More recently however and feeling that his health was improving, we arranged for him to come to our Presidents' handover meeting on 1st July. It was wonderful for us all to see him looking so well and he even joked with Max that when his hip had been replaced, he would be ready to join the Hexham Walking Football group!!

Eric passed away exactly 7 days later but we will remember him for his positive attitude, "never give up" mentality, thoughtfulness, community spirit, friendship and love of life. A committed family man, he will be sadly missed.



*Andy P*

## Our President's "At Home"



Sunday 16th June saw the club invited to lunch at our President's house. Roy and Irene had been very busy and we were made most welcome. There was an excellent cold Buffet and drinks for everyone's taste. After several days of heavy rain, the big question was what to wear? Would it rain? Depending on who you listened to, it would be "sunny and showers" or "rain at lunch time" or "rain at 4pm". Roy gambled on the latter and we enjoyed brilliant sunshine in Irene's beautiful garden. By four o'clock we had all dispersed and it started to rain!!!.

Most of us arrived shortly after midday and were greeted by Roy who had turned barman for the day. After a welcome drink, we chatted among ourselves in the back garden or, for those wishing for shade, in the sitting room. The garden was beautiful, quite small but set into the hillside and was a mass of colour with flowers and shrubs.

Lunch was at one o'clock and a veritable feast was

laid out for us to help

ourselves - pies, cold meat, salmon and several excellent salads. After this there was an amazing array of desserts - trifle, cakes, fruit salad, Eton Mess and more, with a large selection of cheese and biscuits.



Roy and Irene had been very busy but they even found time to mingle amongst us and we all had a very pleasant time. All too soon it was time to depart but before that Andy Rigg, on behalf of us all, thanked Roy and Irene for a lovely day. As the last of us left, the rain began to fall.....



# The Delights of Lambshield Garden



**David Young introduces us to the garden**

For our weekly meeting, on 8<sup>th</sup> July, club members departed from routine and, together with guests, enjoyed an outside visit. We were privileged to have a private tour of a large garden at Lambshield, near Hexham, that has been created all around the house from former grassland within the last 12 years by the owner David Young.

The design and layout of the garden areas were delightful and there were surprise features round every corner. The variety of the colourful flowers had the connoisseurs talking and picking favourites from the quality plants for sale.!

Although the day had been fine and sunny, the



drizzle that pervaded the tour in no way detracted from the splendour of this garden. In appreciation, a £200 donation was handed over for the National Gardens Scheme cancer charities.

To round off the evening, 38 Rotarians, partners and friends then retired to the Boatside Inn at Warden where we took over the whole of the restaurant for an excellent meal during which Brian Massey was able to thank David Young for making the visit a fitting start to a splendid evening..

*Brian Massey*



## We Give £500 to Journey Enterprises

Hexham Rotary Club raised £500 to help Journey Enterprises whose Hexham Hub is based in Acomb. Journey Enterprises is a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities and additional needs. Journey Enterprises' Hexham Hub received the money which will help to set up a cafe in Hexham Bus Station where adults with learning disabilities can learn how to manage a small business. Besides offering business training opportunities, the hub at Hexham is also setting up a sensory garden for people with eyesight problems. This will allow them to appreciate the garden.



Journey Enterprises currently have three Hubs: Hexham, Coundon (Co Durham) and Wallsend (Newcastle). All hubs have a fantastic array of activities from a training Bakery (Hexham) to a dance and drama programme at Wallsend. Each hub provides an extensive independent living skills programme which is tailored to meet individual needs, such as healthy living, cooking, travel training, relationships and employment. Hexham Rotary

Roy Dallison

Linzi Metcalfe

Hazel Miller

Jim Yeomans

are proud to be able to help this excellent enterprise. Linzi Metcalfe and Hazel Miller received the cheque from Roy Dallison and Jim Yeomans of Hexham Rotary.

JLD

## Are you interested in learning to play bridge?

Hexham Bridge Club is again running its successful bridge beginner classes at the County Hotel on Tuesday evenings from 7pm-9pm (starting on September 17th).

For more information and/or to secure a place, please go to [www.hexhambridge4all.co.uk](http://www.hexhambridge4all.co.uk)

Andy P

## What a Busy Year We Had

The past twelve months have offered lots of positives with plenty of opportunity to enjoy a varied calendar of social and fellowship occasions. This was demonstrated when we gathered with wives, partners and friends at our last fundraising event at the end of June. We shared a wonderful evening together and raised almost £800 in the process which, together with gift aid, enabled the club to send a cheque for £1,000, towards the eradication of Polio. This will be doubled by the Gates Foundation making a total contribution of £3000. For me, such occasions represent the values of being a Rotarian.

During my year as President I have received great support and valuable contributions from the Club's Officers, Team Leaders and members, I thank you all.

This year, we established our own Disaster Fund, created to allow us to react quickly in support of those affected by what seem to be an ever increasing number of disastrous events worldwide. From a start point of just £1,000 from our Club funds, we have already made donations of £3,400 and ended the year with available funds of over £2,000 available to help those affected by the next disaster wherever it strikes.

The launch of this magazine is, I believe, another success, giving Rotarians and members of the public who have an opportunity to read the Arch a better insight into our activities and projects together with those of Rotary Clubs elsewhere in the world.

Our hard working and enthusiastic Youth Team have worked tirelessly throughout the year with local schools, with Hexham Youth Initiative and the young people involved in performing arts through the Queens Hall. This work clearly shows the Clubs commitment to the youth of our local area.

How do we measure our success?

If it's about the funding and charitable support we give, the figures speak for themselves: in addition to the Disaster Fund, the Club has made donations totalling £11,000 to other Charities. Also many of the clubs members gave their time, as we do every year, to sell poppy's in support of the British Legion Poppy appeal; this year we collected £1265.

We have also given £2,000 to Rotary's own charity, The Rotary Foundation, which receives contributions from Rotary Clubs globally to help and support projects and peace wherever help is required. One such project is Polio Plus which was established in 1985 to rid the world of this terrible and wholly preventable disease; we are 99.9% there with reported cases in 2019 world wide down to 33.

If success is membership stability and growth, we can also tick that box. If it's about sharing time together, utilising the range of skills and assets we have for the benefit of others and having fun along the way, I'm sure we did that as well. Have our successes made us feel good about doing good and made us proud to be Rotarians? The feedback from our members is a resounding **YES**.

I have enjoyed the year and am grateful for the opportunity given to me. I have great pleasure in welcoming Andy to his year as Club President. I look forward to being part of his team and am confident that he will build on what has been achieved by this Club.

*Roy Dallison*

*President 2018/2019*

## The North West Passage

Hexham Rotary Club is organising, what will surely be, a fantastic Lecture to be given by the South African, Rob Caskie in the Forum Cinema at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 23rd October. The talk with a sub title of;

### Triumph and Tragedy in the Arctic Ice

Traces the history of the search for a route through the Arctic Ocean around the north of Canada to the Pacific Ocean. This had been a quest for decades as Britain, Europe and America all wished to find a route linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and so shorten the great ocean journeys to the East.

Finding a route between Greenland and Canada through the Bering Sea proved well nigh impossible, due to the Arctic Ocean's icecap and sea ice. A number of attempts to find the fabled North-West Passage had failed, many ending in disaster.

It was the Norwegian Roald Amundsen, perhaps the greatest Polar explorer of all, who in 1903-1905, with a small boat and team, finally found a way through. The renowned lecturer, Rob Caskie, will share stories of the North-West Passage, of the daring men and the triumphs and tragedies of the human spirit in the frozen Arctic.

All proceeds will go to charity – Hexham Rotary Club Emergency Disaster Fund and Tynedale Hospice at Home. This is sure to be popular and early booking is advised, tickets (£15) can be obtained online from the Forum Cinema at [www.forumhexham.com](http://www.forumhexham.com)



## A Rewarding Experience

About five years ago the club visited Graeme Atkins, the executive headmaster of QEHS and Hexham Middle Schools and asked him “*what can the club do to help the schools?*”. Without hesitation he replied that the best thing we could do was to help young people at the Middle School to read. He said that there was a real problem with so many young people transferring from the Middle School to the High School without being able to read properly.

As a result, two Rotarians from this club, latterly assisted by a Rotarian from the Tynedale Club have been spending a couple of hours each week helping boys, and it is usually boys, with their reading.

The head of English at the school has said that there are about 30 perfectly able “lost boys” at the Middle School who, unfortunately, will not amount to much, simply because of their family background and situation.

I find that less than 50% of the time is spent actually reading. Often boys will open up about their problems and they face: bearing in mind that there is rarely a responsible male role model in the family. This is an extremely rewarding way to spend some time – and one that demonstrably can make a real difference to the individual and to our local community.

Please consider joining our small team.

*Paul Wharrier.*

# Future Events

We have an interesting speaker at most of our meetings and a full programme of events is published on our website at <http://www.hexhamrotary.co.uk/Future%20Events/Calendar-2.html>. The programme for the next Rotary Year, which started on the 1st July, for the first three months is shown below.

Month	Date	Speaker/Event	Subject/Remarks	Host
<b>July</b>				
	Monday 1	President's Handover		
E	Monday 8	Lambshield Garden	Private tour of followed by a pub supper	Brian Massey
	Sunday 14	District	Games for the Disabled, Eston Leisure Centre.	
	Monday 15			
	Tuesday 16	Club Council		
	Monday 22	Business Meeting		
EG	Monday 29	Catherine Bush	The Rotary Foundation	Sandy Rutherford
<b>Aug</b>				
	Monday 5	Let's get Growing'	Katrina Padmore and Ross Menzies	Brian Massey
	Sunday 11	BBQ	Andy Rigg's Garden	Andy Rigg
EB	Monday 12	Victoria Lancaster	Wilding the Countryside	Miles Middleton
	Wednesday 14	District Council		
	Monday 19	Mike Coleman	Core Music	Peter Jewitt
	Monday 26	No Meeting		
	Tuesday 27	Club Council		
	Saturday 31	Stall in the Wentworth	Hexham Community Group Showcase Event	Membership
<b>Sept</b>				
	Monday 2	Business Meeting		
EB	Monday 9	Professor Michael Green	The Ghosting of Anne Armstrong - Witchcraft in the Tyne Valley	Andy Pryor
	Monday 16			Tom Jobson
	Monday 23			Andrew Moore
EG	Monday 30	Professor Alec Crombie	Military Medicine in the Peninsular War	Miles Middleton
<b>Oct</b>				
	Friday 4-Sun 6	District Conference 2019	The Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton	
	Monday 7	Anne Dale	A privilege to serve for 25 years	Rita Marrison
EB	Monday 14	John Dumbrell	The World Wide Web of Rotary	John Dumbrell
	Tuesday 15	Club Council		
	Monday 21	Business Meeting		
	Wednesday 24		World Polio Day	
Forum	Wednesday 23	Rob Caskie	The NorthWest Passage-Triumph & Tragedy in the ice	Brian Massey
EG	Monday 28	Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington	Memories of Policing	Andy Rigg

## We Need Your Views

To keep our magazine alive and up to date, we need more articles from club members. It is your magazine - articles can be on any subject, local stories, review of a meal out, or an interesting visit. Stories, especially with pictures, are most welcome. It is better to email the pictures but actual photos can be accepted and will be returned after being copied.

As you can see in this issue, there are topics ranging from helping a local charity to the latest on Polio Eradication, but the number of writers can be counted on one hand. We desperately need more articles on a diversity of subjects. Why not write about your favourite charity or your hobby or even suggestions of how the club might improve. We even accept articles from non Rotarians.

We also need write ups of Rotary events, if you are involved in any aspect of Rotary, then let us know what you are doing. It might be helping children in school, giving time to a local charity or tidying up the town.

Send any items to me at [dumbrelljl@btinternet.com](mailto:dumbrelljl@btinternet.com).

*John Dumbrell, Editor*