



A BIG Breakfast with Jane

Senior Vice President Jane welcomed 27 members and one Rotary visitor with 22 apologies received. The visitor was Tundé Olumasimirin who has moved to Darlington having been a Rotarian in Nigeria – this was his second visit and we look forward to seeing him again.

There were apologies from those assisting with the Mowden “Bike to School” Day. Absent from our breakfast was our President who was at this event...but where were his apologies? (The President reported later that the Bike to School had been very successful with as many as 250 taking part and then enjoying a communal breakfast. This followed the equally successful “Walks to School” in recent days which we also helped to supervise.

The authoritative and comforting figure of Secretary Andy Teague was also not there as he is isolating following further treatment and we wish him all the best – he reports that treatment was “boring” and he is feeling OK. Fortunately, Andy’s role was taken by Ged Wiper who demonstrated that Andy does not have the monopoly in authority and competence.

Following a very full “Full English” and an initially fruitless Continental, there were a few notices....Steve Rose announced that, following the email stating that the Chris Lloyd Talk had sold out, there were now two places due to Heather Scott having DBC commitments. He tried selling to the few people present who hadn’t booked to no avail – two places still available.

SVP Jane gave a full and interesting report which started with news of our friend Richard Western who continues his treatment and is feeling lethargic and weak – we send our best wishes to him and Sylvia. She reported no other health issues but did ruin everyone’s morning by letting us know that David Hayward and Paul Robinson had won the Bonus Ball.

Jane gave us some District news including details of an environmental project called Operation Pollination which should be a good fit with Michelle Thompson’s “fully-costed” Green Project that she is proposing.

Although there were no events to report, Jane did give a full briefing on Community Service including the updates that Chair Gary Blenkinsopp had shared at the meeting ... £4,295 given in small grants this Rotary year; defibrillators registered on The Circuit; Hit Squad (lots of enquiries); 10K Run; BBQ; Axe Throwing....AXE THROWING?? (apparently we will be told all by Nigel Waterfall-Brown.) Also plans for Christmas Card designed by Darlington College students. What a busy meeting – well done Gary.

Jane also reported on her national and District training to become President which she said was introducing her to new people and ideas. The national training had been by Zoom with participants from across Great

Continued overleaf.....

Coming Soon...

April

Friday 11th

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting

Speaker: Roman Pronyszyn
“A Brief History of Ukraine”

Friday 18th

GOOD FRIDAY - NO MEETING

Friday 25th

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May

Friday 2nd

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Speaker: Michael Hall from the
Old School Boxing Club

Friday 9th

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting

Thursday 15th May:

Quoits Night, Quoit Club

Friday 16th

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Speaker: Michael Hall from the
Old School Boxing Club

Thursday 22nd May:

**Chris Lloyd - 200th Anniversary
of S&DR, Bannatyne Hotel**

Friday 23rd

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Other Dates to Note

Tuesday 10th June:

**Choirs For Cancer Care, Central
Hall**

Friday 27th June:

**Handover Dinner, Headlam Hall
(No Lunchtime meeting)**

A BIG Breakfast with Jane ..continued

Britain and Ireland. The upcoming District training will be face-to-face and will introduce the 1030 Presidential Team for 2025-26.

Finally, Assistant Secretary Ged confirmed that there will be no Committee Meetings in the coming week and that next week's lunchtime meeting would feature speaker Roman Pronyszyn on "A Brief History of Ukraine". Congratulations to Ged for pronunciation!

Vingujini Toilets Update

Peter Phillips has returned from Kenya with news of the Vingujini School Girls' Toilets which we have supported. He confirmed that the first £300 built the shell of construction blocks and then our £500 donation allowed the roof, plastering, all the plumbing sections and hand washing facilities to be added.



A 50% capacity increase going from 8 to 12 cubicles. The rather more concerning news is that these have to serve 650 girls. A full set of pictures can be seen on [Facebook](#).

Chris Lloyd talk on 200th Anniversary of Stockton & Darlington Railway

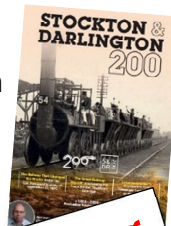
Thursday 22nd May

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Bannatyne Hotel

£20 per head

Two course meal



2 Places Remaining

Please ensure you have sent **Steve Rose** your meal choices and paid for the event into the Club's General Account

Darlington Rotary Club
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The Hit Squad at Gurney Pease Academy

The most energetic group of Rotarians "hit" Gurney Pease Academy last Saturday and completed some much-needed TLC of the grounds. Glad to report that there are appreciative messages of thanks on our Facebook page so we obviously did something right....some concern has been expressed, however, about the size of the President's spade!



Handover Dinner

Our annual black tie dinner to mark another year and the handing over of the Presidency....and have a bit of fun too.

Friday 27th June
Headlam Hall Hotel

Reception 6.30pm

Meal 7.15pm

Price to be confirmed by Club Council

Rooms available at special rate

Boards circulating: sign up for.....



Annual Quoits Evening to be held on Thursday 15th May at Darlington Quoits Club, Raby Terrace, DL3 7AB Being organised by Tony Marshall. Board circulating Always a good night out in a traditional setting

Darlington 10K Run – Sunday 3rd August 08:30-12:30. Yes, it's back with a call to the **WHOLE CLUB** to participate in marshalling this fantastic event. Ken Wiper is asking for you to confirm attendance and chosen duty.

Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

Club Diary: [click here](#)

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary