

I Kay, I Kay, I Kay

President Jane welcomed 35 members which included Honorary Member Derek Risbey celebrating 40 years in Rotary (see overleaf). There was one visitor who was also our speaker, Assistant Governor Rotarian Iain Kay from the Durham Club. 13 apologies were received.

There were three notices given by two Rotarians before the President spoke:

- Steve Rose, speaking on behalf of Gary Blenkinsopp and the Community Service Committee, encouraged members to sign up for the meal at Darlington College in aid of our local foodbanks;
- Michelle Thompson firstly thanked everyone who had sponsored her recent trek in Peru which had already raised over £2,500 for St. Teresa's Hospice. She asked that members who had pledged outstanding payments totalling £180 give her the money as she would soon be closing the fundraising page;
- Michelle also promoted the Wild About Darlington initiative – a board is circulating and how to find full details are overleaf.



A well-researched and presented Thought for the Day was given by Jane Cook. 9th January is the Feast of the Black Nazarene in the Philippines – a major bank holiday which focuses on a charred representation of Christ (left) and includes many thousands taking part in a parade (right).



Jane went on to consider the many ways that Filipinos contribute to life in the UK: 40,000 nurses, 90,000 care workers, 6,000 working on Scottish trawlers. She also said that 25% of sailors in the merchant marine in the world were Filipino. Wow!

Rotary in Manila, chartered in 1919, was the first Rotary club in Asia and there are now 25,000 Rotarians there in 100 clubs.



President Jane welcomed the returning Bob Schofield (left) following his stepping down due to having two hip replacements which had limited his mobility. Welcome back Bob!

Although Walid had nothing to report, the President thanked Ged Wiper for again stepping in as secretary as Andy Teague is having back and shoulder problems. We wish him well for a speedy recovery.

Jane's week, "Moderately busy," she said, included International Committee where fundraising ideas were discussed. She also attended a national seminar on Communications and PR as district representative. She went to the meeting ready with a number of issues she was facing only to find that everyone else was experiencing the same. These included limited impact of using Facebook to attract new members and she again urged everyone to "Like" and "Share" our posts to increase reach.

Jane and Sue Campbell revisited the Viking Boat Company to support some

continued overleaf....

Coming Soon

January

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th Christmas Tree Collection

From 08:45 at Taylor's Café,
Lingfield Way, Darlington DL1 4PZ

Friday 16th (Bistro)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: Faye Marsh, DBC Looked
After Through Care Team

Friday 23rd (Central Hall)

12:00 Austin Brooks Youth Day

Entrance through Bull Wynd

Thursday 29th January

Meal in aid of our Food Banks at
Darlington College – see overleaf

Friday 30th January

"Fifth Friday" – No meeting

February

Friday 6th (Soft Play)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Friday 13th (Central Hall)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Tuesday 17th

**Special Concert at Queen
Elizabeth 6th Form College**

Time & Cost: TBC

Friday 20th (Soft Play)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Monday 23rd

**10:30: Backstage Tour of The
Hippodrome Theatre** (details to
follow)

Friday 27th (Central Hall)

07:15 Lunchtime Meeting

March

Friday 6th (Soft Play)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

I Kay, I Kay, I Kay continued....

fundraising ideas as well as progressing their interest in becoming more closely involved, possibly by becoming a satellite club.

Community Service meeting had been cancelled due to the weather so it remained for Jane to congratulate Alan Charlton on winning the Bonus Ball then pulling out Ged Wiper's number in the wine draw. Ged then gave details of meetings next week which are all covered in this report.



Our speaker, Assistant Governor Iain Kay (above), gave an enthusiastic summary of his time giving support for Group 5 clubs which are those in central and south Durham. He went through the work he was undertaking to try to revitalise the membership and described ways of forming new clubs as well as having better links to parents of Rotakids and Interact.


Iain was open to questioning which included Peter Phillips making a fine pun involving "decade" and "decayed." Iain, a vegan, was also delighted that he had been served a delicious tomato and basil tart for lunch instead of the usual mushroom stroganoff.

President Jane gave the vote of thanks for his talk and for all the work he is doing for clubs in our area.

Dolphin Centre

Breakfasts from February 6th will be in Soft Play - menu choices to come.

All lunches will now be in Central Hall, entrance in Bull Wynd


Rotary
 Darlington
present
DINNER
A sumptuous repast!
 OF
STORE CUPBOARD STAPLES
 In aid of
THE DARLINGTON FOOD BANKS
Thursday 29th January 2026
 At
DARLINGTON COLLEGE

Two Courses £22
 (Main and a dessert)
 plus Cocktail or Mocktail
 on arrival
 6.30pm
 for 7.00pm
 service




Please order tickets or on event hub (QR code above) from Friday 5th December



CELEBRATE!



The following members are celebrating key milestones and we salute them all:

Michelle Thompson: 10 years

Nigel Little: 15 years

Alan Cowie: 35 years

Hon. Rtn. Peter Tindale: 35 years

Hon. Rtn. Derek Risbey: 40 years

Hon. Rtn. Mike Swinney: 55 years

Wild About Darlington

Wild About Darlington is a Rotary-led community initiative that brings together:

- Support for pollinators and wider biodiversity, and
- The creation of calm, welcoming green space that supports mental wellbeing.

There are two strands to Wild About Darlington (click for all details):

- 1) [BELLBURN](#) Lane allotments
- 2) [SCHOOLS](#)

To sign up to take part or to find out more contact Michelle Thompson by email or phone.



DARLINGTON ROTARY EVENT HUB

Club events are booked by clicking [EVENT HUB](#) or using this QR code. Events are either "Members Only" or "Public" and can easily be found by scrolling through.

Committee Meetings

6pm, Dolphin Centre Function Room or as stated

January 13th: Youth Service

2nd Tuesday bimonthly
Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

January 15th: Club Service

3rd Thursday bimonthly

January 28th: PR Group

4:30pm – schedule circulated to members of the group. Venue TBC

January 28th: Club Council

4th Wednesday monthly

February 5th: Community Service

1st Thursday monthly (not August)
Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

March 3rd: International Service

1st Tuesday bimonthly

Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Weekly Reports: [click here](#)

Club Diary: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary