



Claws to the Fore

Jane stood up to speak, "It all started with Haakon Harvadson Klo in 1140," "What?" cried two smart Alecs, "Twenty to twelve?" More from Jane later.

President Jeff welcomed 37 members and three guests with 14 apologies received. Guests were prospective member (for the last time) Maura Kennan, Helen Easton from Darlington Building Society and past member Andy Fenner who has started the process to rejoin.

Thought for the Day was given by Philip Cook who ran through some events that happened on this date through history and took us from John Wesley to Pope Benedict XVI. His conclusion was for us to think that, sometimes, resignation should be considered for the greater good.

Two notices from members: 1) Jane Bradshaw announced the International Committee Meal on the 8th May; 2) Tony Marshall introduced new Photo ID lanyards – photos taken from the directory or contact Tony.

Walid confirmed that Gabriel Lowes was now settled at Abbeyfield (contact details have been circulated by the Secretary) and Bill Carter is home. The President welcomed Richard Western back.

President Jeff reported that Club Council had been held on Monday and that January minutes were now being circulated. He also reported that he went to the PR meeting on Wednesday before going on to the Ten Pin Bowling evening. He thanked Ian Lyle for organising the evening and congratulated him on his victory.

The President encouraged members to come to the International Committee on Tuesday 4th (details overleaf). He also asked for people to come up with ideas for The Hit Squad – contact Gary Blenkinsopp if you have projects they could take on. He reported that Rotary had celebrated our 120th birthday on the 23rd February. The club has donated £1,913 to Foundation thanks to Bonus Ball and subs. This week's Bonus Ball was won by Kevin Robinson and Michelle Thompson and the Wine Draw went to Sue Campbell with number 666.

The Secretary confirmed details for International Committee and Community Service Committee (Thursday. 6pm at Blackwell Meadows) next week and that there would be a breakfast on Friday when Jack Ryan from Great North Children's Hospital would be speaking.

Maura Kennan was welcomed to the club and inducted as our newest



member – the former teacher was proposed by Sue Campbell and we look forward to getting to know her in the coming weeks.

Continued overleaf.....

Coming Soon...

March

Tuesday 4th

6:00pm International Committee - see overleaf

Friday 7th

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting
Speaker: Jack Ryan, Great North Children's Hospital

Friday 14th

12:15 Club Lunchtime Meeting
Speaker: Darlington MP Lola McEvoy

Friday 21st

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting
Club Recruitment Workshop

Friday 28th

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting
Club Recruitment Workshop

April

Friday 18th

GOOD FRIDAY - NO MEETING

Five Dates to Note

Thursday 8th May:

International Dinner, Darlington College

Thursday 15th May:

Quoits Night, Quoit Club

Thursday 22nd May:

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

Tuesday 10th June:

Choirs Against Cancer, Central Hall

Friday 27th June:

Handover Dinner, Headlam Hall
(No Lunchtime meeting)

Boards & Emails coming soon

Claws to the Fore.....continued

Our speaker was Rtn. Jane Cook who gave us her "My Life So Far" having transferred from Rotary Orkney last year. Rather unusually, she started in the year 1140AD and the arrival in Orkney of Norseman Haakon Harvadson Klo. (Klo translates as "Claw" due to a congenital condition that curls the fingers.) It turns out that Jane is directly descended from Haakon and her family name, Clouston, is a derivation of the original.

Jane's knowledge of her family heritage is impressive and interesting. This included the detail of how her direct family had ended up in the North East. Her great grandfather got rather amorous with the Middlesbrough Dock Gatekeeper's daughter and, thanks to a persuasive (and metaphorical) shotgun, married and settled in Redcar.

Jane lived very near to Philip and they met when she was 16 and he was 18. Despite going to separate schools and universities they stuck together and married later having two sons.

Jane comes from a Police family and followed them into Cleveland Police until having children. When able, she studied Theology in Durham and retrained to become a Methodist Minister. She enjoyed many years working in the Durham Coalfields around The Trimdons including conducting over 500 funerals. She later converted to Roman Catholicism where she enjoyed a highly successful career as a Chaplain and educator. This included work in prisons as well as schools and colleges.....and having a front row seat at a mass given by Pope Benedict XVI.



Jane and Philip moved to Orkney where they worked in tourism by running a very well-regarded holiday bungalow and also becoming tour guides.

They have now resettled in Melsonby to be nearer their two sons, both of whom are police officers.

The vote of thanks for a fascinating "Life so Far" was given by David Selby.

International Committee

The next International Committee to be held on Tuesday 4th March, 6.00pm in the Stephenson Suite at the Dolphin Centre including a visit from Australian student



Tori Ball (see last week's report). There will also be a Zoom presentation from the Hospice Ethiopia Charity at the meeting. Chair, John Wright has asked all attending to visit their website prior to the meeting - [Click here](#).

Stockton & Darlington 200

Mini Cavalcade on August 2nd in Shildon - [email here](#) to volunteer. (This is not a Rotary event and is the day before the 10k Run);

Greet the Walkers – September 27th 10.30-12.00 at Heighington Station. Details to follow; Big Darlington Event in the Town Centre also on September 27th – it is expected that Rotary will be asked to help stewarding;

Chris Lloyd, Northern Echo Memories - 200th Stockton & Darlington Thursday 22nd May, 6.30pm at The Bannatyne Hotel, Darlington. £20 per head. Board circulating soon. Maximum 90 people. Book on the board or by email to [Steve Rose](#);

Locomotion No. 1 will be coming back to Darlington for 6 months and we should help campaign to get it here permanently;

The Ghost Train – an interactive telling of the story of the railways will be coming through Darlington on August 20th.

Ten Pin Bowling

20 members and guests took part in the annual challenge to get a heavy ball down a narrow aisle and then knock down some pins.

Many thanks to Ian Lyle for organising the evening he also came out as the winner with David Robertson and Paul Robinson also doing well!

So, many thanks and a big "well done" to Ian.



Sign up for.....

Ron Hall Trophy: The Winter Golf Tournament Next round to be held on Wed. 12th March at Blackwell Golf Club - Tee off 9.00am Contact Ian Lyle for details



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

Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

Club Diary: [click here](#)

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary