



## Hospice update from Nicola

**President Jeff** welcomed 32 members and one guest, with 12 apologies received. He welcomed our golf supremo Mike Hall back to our breakfast meeting and asked if he would consider re-joining. Jeff went on to say he'd had a quiet week as regards club business, (but see Council meeting bullet points overleaf) before handing over to acting secretary Ged Wiper.

Following his announcements, Jeff opened the floor to three Rotarians who wanted to speak:

- First up was Sue Campbell who commented on our involvement in the Wall of Kindness coat donation scheme which is to be launched at Firthmoor Community Centre next Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Sue was followed by Peter Phillips, who had a cautionary tale about a sophisticated 'Yes and No' text/telephone scam he encountered which purported to be from his account at Santander. Luckily, he didn't fall for it and contacted the bank to report what had transpired.
- Last, but by no means least, was David Hayward, who reminded us that there were only 51 sleeps to Christmas. He then went on to tout for helpers with the Christmas Tree tagging and the Hospice Festive Run around West Park. When pushed on information regarding the Christmas Tree collecting, he said it was now scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup> but, due to Drive having knocked down the office we used in Chesnut Street, we are relocating to Taylor's Pies.

Walid mentioned that Alasdair MacConachie was hoping to go in for a hip operation very soon.

Sue Chapman won the Bonus Ball. And then for some reason, Jane Bradshaw mentioned that it was 'Bat Week'! (obvious really as it was Halloween yesterday). Unfortunately, this prompted our President to relate the only 'Bat Joke' he knew....that was 5 minutes I won't get back again!

Joke over, President Jeff then introduced our speaker Nicola Myers, CEO of St. Teresa's Hospice.

Nicola started by expressing her heartfelt thanks for all the work that Darlington Rotary does on behalf of the Hospice. The £8,206 which was raised from the Charity Golf would be put to good use. For example, it could pay for 2 months of care from specialist Nurses, or over 100 bereavement counselling sessions for children.

Nicola then explained the problems created by the loss of the vital rapid response service contract. This has gone to the NHS Foundation Trust. All their appeals have been unsuccessful, but Nicola thanked Rotarians for their letters of support. They are concentrating now on growing the 'Hospice at Home' service. This will need another £144k to cover the service. The deficit for this year was £500k, but plans are afoot to address this and they hope that things will turn round next year. Continued.../

## Coming Soon...

November Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>  
**6:00pm - International Service Meeting**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>  
**6:00pm - Community Service Meeting**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>  
**12:15pm - Club Lunch Meeting:**  
Remembrance Day message

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>  
**6:00pm - Youth Service Meeting**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>  
**7:15am - Club Breakfast Meeting**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
**6:00pm - Club Service Meeting**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**12:15pm - Club Lunch Meeting:**  
Special General Meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
**10:00am - Tree Tagging at Croft Trees** (& next two Wednesdays)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
**7:00pm - "Fifth Friday" Social: Race Night** – see overleaf

Friday 29<sup>th</sup>  
**FIFTH FRIDAY: NO MEETING**

December Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>  
**7:30pm – Christmas Magic Concert** - All Saints Church

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
**12:00 noon Christmas Message**

**Hospice future plans...**

The beds are all full at present and demand is high – they have had over 500 contacts this month alone.

In closing, Nicola once again thanked Rotarians for their unwavering support for the Hospice over the years and long may it continue.

It was then down to her host Ian Lyle to thank Nicola for the wonderful work that the Hospice does for Darlington and how pleased we as a club are to support it.



President Jeff then presented Nicola with a large golf ball inscribed with the amount raised.

(This was done by the amazing Rotarian, Tony Marshall\* – similar items can be produced for you at very reasonable cost.) That out of the way, Ian and Jeff presented Mike with a bottle of whisky in recognition of all his hard work in organising the AM-AM



*\*Guest editor's note 1 – can you guess who did this week's report?!*

**Council Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October** – agenda items discussed included the following (note this is from draft minutes unadopted as yet):

- There were no new charity allocations, but it was noted that: The Austin Brooks book tokens would cost £450 (in budget) and £250 will be spent for Rotakids regalia (within budget).
- With one small invoice to be received, the October Ball made a surplus of around £650 which will be split between the Rotary Club and Inner Wheel.
- Photo id badges on lanyards are being costed for club members; these are increasingly required when working on public events.

**Humour?**

I'm not addicted to brake fluid! ... I can stop any time!

Two coconuts walking down the road. One said to the other. Can you hear a horse?

How can you tell if a bad singer is at your door?... They can't find the key and don't know when to come in.

**Pain**

Regular Weekly Report writer Steve Rose is away attending a posh wedding down Sarf... so he asked me to do it from his Word artwork. Try as I might, I can't work in it. I'm sure Word came free with a comic in the late 70's and I must have missed the following edition that showed you how it worked. \* I'll stick with what I'm used to in future. Respect to those who can work it!

*\*Guest editor's note 2 – thanks Tony – good job!*



Come to tag at Croft Trees  
**10:00a.m.**  
**27<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
 For full details contact  
**David Hayward**

**“FIFTH FRIDAY”  
 RACE NIGHT  
 NEW LOW PRICE  
 CONFIRMED!**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
 7:00pm at Rolling Mills Club,  
 Longfield Street, DL3 0HX**

**For the BARGAIN price of £15\***  
 you'll get professionally-run  
 programme of 8 races  
 + hot buffet and sweet treats  
**Board circulating or please email:  
 Jane Bradshaw or Steve Rose**

*\*Rotary Club General Account  
 52-30-18 41856384*

**Christmas Message  
 Meeting**



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
 12:00 noon



**£25 for two course  
 Christmas Dinner**

**inc. mince pies & coffee**  
 Meal to be ordered in advance,  
 pay on the door  
 Board & email to be circulated

**Wall of Kindness**

Donate good quality, clean coats and jackets on a hanger, direct to Firthmoor Community Centre or contact Sue Campbell.



A simple act of kindness makes a whole wall of difference!

**Club Information**

Website: [click here](#)  
 Facebook: [click here](#)  
 X: @darlrotary  
 Club Diary: [click here](#)  
 LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary