

CSI Darlington (Chartered Surveyor Investigates)

President Iain welcomed 25 members, 1 honorary member and 2 prospective members. 14 apologies were received. Prospective members were Julian Cound and Andrea Sutton. The President then opened proceedings by presenting Mike Stephenson with the jewel of office for Senior Vice President. He was unable to attend handover and this was the first opportunity. Mike gave a short thanks.



Notices:

Nigel Little: Scatter Week board is now circulating – please sign up!

Maire Kennan: 1) World Polio Day tulip bulbs can now be ordered at £10 per box – board circulating;

2) The club's Nepal/Tibet Flash Flood appeal is still open – please donate and Gift Aid will be added [CLICK HERE](#);

Steve Rose: The Dolphin Centre works are nearing the end! Now expected to be November – please check emails for venue of meetings;

Gary Blenkinsopp: 1) Thank you for those who signed up to marshal Duck Race on the 26th – meet 1pm at the Stonebridge, St. Cuthbert's Way;

2) Please sign up to help at Bellburn Allotments on 10th October (see over);

Alex Nicholson: Duck Race: To date over 1,000 sold towards ambitious target of 2000 to help the hospice – £5 and many more available from Alex or the hospice website. (Need to be 16yrs to buy and there are some T&Cs.)



Before welcoming our speaker, President Iain presented Past President Jane (on behalf of all of us) the Rotary International Club Excellence Award for Rotary year 2025-26. We achieved the necessary standards again and are one of around ten clubs in the North East to gain this recognition.



The President confirmed that Walid had no health issues to report and that he didn't have details of the Bonus Ball winner.

Secretary Philip confirmed meetings this week (see overleaf) and that speakers from the NSPCC would be joining us in Central Hall next week.

Our speaker was our own Alan Cowie who asked, "Do You Really Need a Property Survey?" Over the following 30 minutes Alan described many aspects of his Chartered Surveying profession and by so doing answered his own question with an authoritative, "Yes."

Alan started by describing how the world of surveying, like everything else, has benefitted from technology and, especially, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.). He used Nigel Little's house as the example of what information is now available online without having to visit the property.

Continued overleaf....

Coming Soon September

Wednesday 23rd

18:30 RYLA Presentation Evening

At The Fed, Gateshead - £24

Friday 25th (Central Hall)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Speakers: Josie Bell & Cheryl Ellis from the NSPCC

October

Friday 2nd (Venue TBC)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: High Sheriff of Durham
Arnab Basu

Friday 9th (Venue TBC)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Speakers: Tracey Wright & Sophie
Snowdon, Great North Air
Ambulance

Friday 16th (Venue TBC)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: Miranda Thain & Emma
Rees, Hullabaloo Theatre

Friday 23rd (Venue TBC)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Speaker: TBA

Week of Friday 30th

Scatter Week

Organised by Nigel Little

No meeting on Friday 30th October

Members will be asked for preference of days/times to visit another club – some options have been identified although members are encouraged to visit any club, anywhere and report back!

Board circulating now



Christmas 2026

Thursday 17th: Xmas Magic Concert

Friday 18th: Xmas Message lunch

No meetings on Fridays 24th & 31st
December



CSI Darlington....continued

Alan then went on to itemise those issues that can't be identified without attending a property. The extensive list included:

- Evidence of movement and subsidence;
- Cavity wall tie erosion that leads to bowed brickwork;
- Effects of foam insulation on roof tiles (not good!);
- Woodworm and rot;
- Asbestos including in Artex ceilings;
- Japanese Knotweed;
- Future risks, especially impact of trees....and more!



Alan, in his usual humorous style included a number of anecdotes from his long career as a local housing surveyor. Tales from over 60 years from working on a pushbike to the modern day where his practice uses all the latest gizmos and tech to assist with their work...and keeping the price down for customers.



He concluded by pointing out that for all its advantages, A.I. can't take professional responsibility for its conclusions which is why surveyors are still necessary.

Alan's talk inspired a number of questions which included Mike Stephenson reminding us to purchase Alan's book. Keith Gunning gave the vote of thanks for a much appreciated talk.

Dolphin Centre

Breakfasts continue in Soft Play.

Lunches in Central Hall

Completion now expected

November/December

Current arrangements continue until further notice.

Emails

Club Secretary Team Jane and Philip Cook apologise for a glitch in sending out messages. A software problem that affects mailing of more than 60 messages has now been resolved. In future, if you don't receive the Weekly Report, please let them know.

Missing Ducks

The reported rescue of ducks was not accurate – there are still hundreds of rubber ducks belonging to the club missing! Please let Tony Marshall know if you have any information as to where they are.

Wild About Darlington Hit Squad Needed!

Please contact Gary Blenkinsopp to help out



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

Sept. 22nd: PR & Marketing Group
4.30pm – 22 Glenfield Road

Sept. 23rd: Club Council
4th Wednesday monthly

October 1st: Community Service
1st Thursday monthly (not August)
The Mowden Pub

October 6th: International Service
1st Tuesday bimonthly

November 8th: Youth Service
2nd Tuesday bimonthly
The Mowden Pub

November 17th: Club Service
3rd Thursday bimonthly

Jan. 27th 2027: Membership Group
Quarterly: 4:30pm - 22 Glenfield Road

Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Weekly Reports: [click here](#)

Club Diary: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary