

RYLA Reports

30 members in and four guests in attendance. It was the first time for lunch in the 'acoustically challenged', Central Hall. The sound system suffering from loud feedback until kindly sorted out by Paul Soderman. The guests were Peter Chandler from the District RYLA Team and RYLA participants Mudaris and Connor, along with Barbara Barker representing DBC Care leavers Team. There were 15 apologies from members.

President Jane opened proceedings by asking the newly returned from the Antipodes, Kevin Robinson to give his thought for the day. Kevin went on to give a heartfelt and moving tribute to today's young people and the pressures and uncertainties they face in today's world. He remarked that we should nurture them and pass on our knowledge and experience, as one day they will probably be having to look after us.

There were no Rotarians wishing to speak - not even David Hayward! A rare occurrence indeed.

Jane introduced our visitors and mentioned that Walid had nothing to report regarding members health, before inducting new members Brian Jones (left) and Mike Lofts (centre), both proposed by Heather Scott. Brian is known to us as a returning former member.



The induction over, Jane went on to outline her week. The handing over of 200 Advent boxes for young care leavers at St. Augustine's on Saturday, followed on Sunday by the medal presentations at the St Teresa's Hospice Festive Fun Run. Chairing the Membership Team meeting on Tuesday, Tree Tagging, despite a spelling mistake. Listening to Nigel Little on Radio Tees talking about our Advent Box project and the New Year Christmas tree collection (see overleaf). Jane's busy week ended up with a visit, just before our lunch, to the splendid Viking Boat Company.

A letter from Shelter Box was read out thanking the club for our donation in response to the Gaza situation.

The wine draw this week was won by guest Peter Chandler and the Bonus Ball by Rotarian Paul Robinson.

An announcement was made that places for the Christmas Message are going fast - so could Rotarians please register their intentions and menu choices via the Events Hub. Payments to be made on the day.

Lunch and the formalities over, Jane announced our speakers, whom she had already met at a 'posh do' in Newcastle, before asking Kevin to introduce the presentation. It began with a short selection of amusing phone pics of their experiences on the course, before he interviewed both young men, asking what they thought of the whole exercise and what they got out of it personally. Apart from them both commenting on the rain and wet, the main thing was they gained confidence in themselves and their abilities.

Continued overleaf...

Coming Soon

December

Thursday 18th

19:30 Christmas Magic Concert
All Saints Church, Ravensdale Rd.

Friday 19th

Christmas Message
12:00 Central Hall



Details of booking overleaf
Entrance through Bull Wynd

Friday 26th



Boxing Day
No meeting



Merry Christmas Everybody

January

Friday 2nd (Soft Play)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting
Entrance through main reception

Friday 9th (Central Hall)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting
Entrance through Bull Wynd

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th

Christmas Tree Collection

From 08:30 at Taylor's Café,
Lingfield Way, Darlington DL1 4PZ

Friday 16th (Soft Play)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting
Entrance through main reception

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

THE ROTARY RAP

[CLICK HERE](#)



Dress Code is "Christmas"

Last call for orders

Christmas Message

Friday 19th December from 12:00

Three speakers on "Christmas Memories"



Make menu choices on Event Hub – details below
 Also state names of others on table if known.
 Pay £27.50 on arrival
 Details: [CHRISTMAS MESSAGE MENU](#)



RYLA Reports continued

This was followed by video showing their participation in canyoning, rock climbing and abseiling, archery, tree climbing, kite making and flying, canoeing, paddle-boarding whilst transporting a ShelterBox. The overall impression was how much they all got on and enjoyed the experience, despite the wet! This ended with all the participants thanking Rotary for the opportunity!



Kevin introduced Peter Chandler who he described as the driving force in our District. Peter reported that this year was over-subscribed with more applications than usual. These were whittled down to 20 on both weeks. Despite the weather, they all slept in tents, which they didn't have to erect, which has caused much amusement on previous years, and met in a Yurt for the evening get togethers. The food was great and all the young people were wonderful, coming away from the experience confident and having made new friends, all can be seen in a longer video on YouTube.

Some good publicity for the scheme resulted from a group of Candidates paddle-boarding the length of Ullswater (14miles) carrying a ShelterBox and raising two thousand pounds.

In winding up Kevin gave his own tribute and outlined what our two candidates who were present had in their future. Mudaris and Connor are both at college and also members of the Old School Boxing Club, who we have supported regarding equipment - Connor is to join the Rifles Regiment in March and Mudaris hopes to go into the Social Services sector. Barbara Barker, who is a personal advisor to DBC Care Experience Independent Living, said she is so proud of Mudaris, who at 17 years, lives at the YMCA and looks after himself, although she is slightly concerned that he has mentioned that he has set his eyes on her job.

Connor's final verdict on the RYLA Experience was, "It is Cool, Fun and very Wet!"

NIGEL ON THE RADIO

Nigel Little on BBC Radio Tees talking about Reverse Advent Boxes & Christmas Tree collection – well done Nigel, great publicity
 To listen [CLICK HERE](#) – interview is at 2 hrs 15 mins

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.



Dolphin Centre

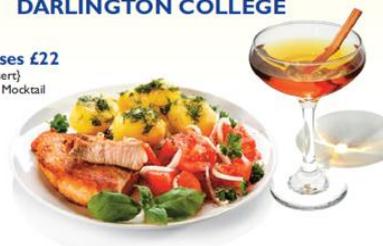
No pun intended ... meeting arrangements seem to be a moving feast watch out for announcements from the Secretary.

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](#)

Committee Meetings

All 6pm at the Dolphin Centre unless stated

January 6th: International Service
 1st Tuesday bimonthly

January 8th: Community Service
 1st Thursday monthly (not August)
 Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

January 13th: Youth Service
 2nd Tuesday bimonthly
 Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

January 15th: Club Service
 3rd Thursday bimonthly – venue TBA

January 28th: PR Group
 4:30pm – schedule circulated to members of the group. Venue TBC

January 28th: Club Council
 4th Wednesday monthly

Club Information

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