



Shunting not Lifting

Always a pleasure to arrive for breakfast and see that Katie and Jamie were on duty – excellent service and a jolly smile despite being very early for those so young!

President Jeff welcomed 26 members and three guests with 15 apologies received. Guests were prospective member Maura Kennan, Peter Barron from Darlington Building Society and past member Andy Fenner who has asked to start the process to rejoin.

Robin Raine is seeking volunteers to assist with the GreenPower Sustainable Car Project running at Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College and Abbey School (aka The Goblins). The QE6 group meets on Wednesday from 12:40-13:40. The Goblins will be taking part in full-day workshops on the 7th and 9th April. A board is circulating or, alternatively, contact Robin or Iain Anderson.

Walid let us know that Rotarian Bill Carter was now home and that Gabriel Lowes was also getting ready to leave hospital (“I feel 100% better”). We heard that David Whitely has been going through some health problems and we wish him well for a speedy recovery. The President also gave the club’s best wishes to Andy Teague and Richard Western.

The President reported on very good Youth and Club Service meetings held in the week. He also reported that a Committee Chairs’ meeting would be held following breakfast. He asked again that members submit apologies so that we know that they are OK even if unable to attend.

It was the President’s 79th birthday last Monday and then we discovered it was Maura Kennan’s on the same day so we trust they both celebrated in style. (Look out for Aquarian traits in both!)

The Bonus Ball was won by Ged Wiper who donated the proceeds to Foundation; the other winner was Tony Pinkstone.

Ged Wiper, standing in as Secretary for Andy, announced a Council meeting on Monday, 10 Pin Bowling on Wednesday and next week’s lunch meeting when Jane Cook will be delivering her “My Life So Far”.

Our speaker, Rachel Steedman, had to give her apologies and was not present. As a junior doctor at Darlington Memorial her shift was rescheduled at short notice. We will, therefore, have to wait to hear about her success as a GB powerlifter - we have helped with some of her travel costs. Here’s a pic of her to make up for her not being able to attend.



continued overleaf.....

Coming Soon...

February

Wednesday 26th

Ten Pin Bowling Night – see overleaf

Friday 28th

12:15 Club Lunchtime Meeting
Speaker: Rtn. Jane Cook “My Life So Far”

March

Tuesday 3rd

6:00pm International Committee
Guest speaker – 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 4th

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting
Speaker: TBA

Friday 11th

12:15 Club Lunchtime Meeting

Friday 18th

GOOD FRIDAY – NO MEETING

Shunting not Lifting.....continued

In Rachel's absence a presentation was made by SVP Jane Bradshaw and Steve Rose about plans for the forthcoming celebrations for the 200th Anniversary of Passenger Railways that all started with the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 1825.



Jane reported that the official festival, S&DR200, has not published the final programme that will run for two years and will include a range of activities aimed at celebrating the anniversary. The full programme and any updates will be found on the [S&DR200](#) website.

Jane has been chairing a meeting of the six Rotary Clubs on the route and the following is being discussed:

- 1) Request for volunteers at 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);
- 2) Greet the Walkers – September 27th 10.30-12.00 at Heighington Station. The [Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway](#) are walking the 26 mile route of the original railway on the actual 200th anniversary date. The Rotary Clubs will greet them at the first ever passenger Railway Station in Heighington with Tea & Buns accompanied by a Brass Band and lots of other jollities;
- 3) There will be a big Darlington Event in the Town Centre also on September 27th – note the date as it is expected that Rotary will be asked to help with stewarding;
- 4) Rotary Darlington Event: **Chris Lloyd**, Northern Echo Memories, delivers his talk on the **200th anniversary of passenger railways**. 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](#);
- 5) Locomotion No. 1 will be coming back to Darlington for 6 months and we should help campaign to get it here permanently;
- 6) *The Ghost Train* – an interactive telling of the story of the railways will be coming through Darlington on August 20th.



Watch this space for updates as we get them

International Committee

The next International Committee to be held on Tuesday 4th March, 6.00pm in the Stephenson Suite at the Dolphin Centre will include a visit from Australian student **Tori Ball**. She is a sponsored student under the Rotary Global Scholar Programme and is studying a PhD in Sustainable Farming at Durham University. She is sponsored by her home club of Hamilton, Victoria and is now being hosted by Rotary Durham.



The Hamilton website describes her thus, "*Tori had attended Hamilton & Alexandra College & also NYSF which apparently turned her off science. Her school & university studies were strong in the areas of politics & drama which she sees as complimenting each other. She has been politically active in many areas mostly relating to environmental issues. Her PHD focus will be in Anthropology & how that links with politics & climate activism & she hopes to engage farmers to adapt their practices & ethics in line with this.*"

There will also be a Zoom presentation from the Hospice Ethiopia Charity at the meeting. [Click here](#) for more information.

So a very interesting and busy meeting – please try to attend and give our guest a warm welcome.

Sports for All Sign up for.....



Ten Pin Bowling at the Dolphin Centre on Wednesday 26th February from 7.30pm. £15 - No food but the bar is open
Board circulating or contact organiser Ian Lyle for information

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