



Contrasting Awards & Recruitment

President Jeff welcomed 31 members with 20 apologies received – there were no guests or visitors for the second time this Rotary year. The President delivered a Thought for the Day which earned a round of applause. There were then some notices before we ate.

Nigel Little thanked those who had assisted with the Mowden “Walk to School” and for those signed up for further walking and support for “Cycle to School” in the coming days. He reported that the school are aiming to complete a virtual walk of the 2,000 miles of the King Charles III Coastal Walk of which they have completed 660 miles so far.

John Wright announced that, unfortunately, the International Dinner has been postponed and he hopes it can be rearranged with Darlington College soon.

Steve Rose gave details and passed the Board around for the talk by The Northern Echo’s Chris Lloyd on 200 years of Stockton Darlington Railway – details overleaf. Please note, there are very few places left.

It was good to see Peter Phillips who is back from Kenya with reports of Vingujini School and our 83,000 donation...of Kenyan Shillings (£500). This has been used to construct much-needed new toilets for the girls. He also reported that Abbey School RotaKids have agreed to twin their toilets with Vingujini. Unfortunately for Peter, who is Welsh, he was reminded of the rugby by Nigel Little and Mike Stephenson (see overleaf).

Roly Lang reported that Richard Western continues with his treatment and that he would pass on the best wishes of the club to him.

President Jeff’s Week: Bonus Ball – Robin Raine & Gabriel Lowes;

- Saturday – Rotary supported Northern Voices Choir at St. Cuthbert’s for their “excellent” concert;
- Monday – Club Council – minutes to be circulated;
- Wednesday – Care Leavers Awards with the Mayor. This included a presentation to the Club as we won the “External Organisation Award” (right);
- Thursday – Games Night at The New Club. Mentions to Mike Stephenson and others for failing to complete a game of snooker within 2 hours. Also to Eric Ashwin-Keen for his impressive equipment.

Secretary Andy announced that there will be a Community Service meeting on Thursday (3rd) – 6:00pm at Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows.

After lunch there was another Membership Recruitment Workshop which was led by The President and supported by SVP Jane,



continued overleaf.....

Coming Soon...

April

Friday 4th

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Friday 11th

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting

Speaker: Roman Pronyszyn
“A Brief History of Ukraine”

Friday 18th

GOOD FRIDAY - NO MEETING

Friday 25th

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May

Friday 2nd

07:15 Club Breakfast meeting

Speaker: Michael Hall from the
Old School Boxing Club

Friday 9th

12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting

Five Dates to Note

Thursday 8th May:

International Dinner at Darlington
College **POSTPONED**

Thursday 15th May:

Quoits Night, Quoit Club

Thursday 22nd May:

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

Tuesday 10th June:

Choirs For Cancer, Central Hall

Friday 27th June:

Handover Dinner, Headlam Hall
(No Lunchtime meeting)

Contrasting Awards & Recruitment ...continued

Sue Campbell and Gary Blenkinsopp. He introduced the session with his exhortation that we all assist with the search for recruiting a diverse and committed membership to ensure the continuity of the club. SVP Jane explained that Rotary International expect every club to have a Membership Strategy and that she was committed to having one that came from sessions such as this.

Sue described the different kinds of membership now available and the state of Rotary numbers across the world. This included restating that Rotary North East has 977 members and will probably be disbanded in 2028 if number do not increase to 1,100 by then.

Gary distributed a different scenario to each table which asked for an "Elevator Pitch" to different people. This resulted in Charles McCain, David



Hayward, Peter Phillips, Alan Cowie and Andy Teague proving that we have excellent advocates for the club in our midst. Gary read an AI generated version which was surprisingly similar to the others.

The President ended the session by going through some Rotary Mythbusters which can be found [here](#).

Chris Lloyd talk on 200th Anniversary of Stockton & Darlington Railway

Thursday 22nd May

Bannatyne Hotel

£20 per head

Two course meal



Email [Steve Rose](#) to book and give meal choices/dietary needs

Please pay to:

Darlington Rotary General Account:
52-30-18 41856384

Please note time:

6:30 for 7:00PM start

**Newsflash: Saturday 12:00
Only 9 places left**

QE6 GreenPower

Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College GreenPower got good coverage in The Northern Echo this week. See our [Facebook page](#) for the full article.



Included was this picture (left) of Ged and Robin explaining things to an admiring audience (they'll learn!).

Contact Iain Anderson to help with the preparation sessions at Abbey School.

Next track day is at Gateshead Stadium on 19th May.

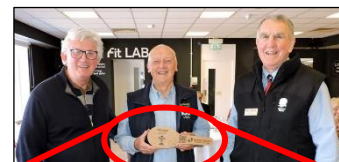
Full details of GreenPower [here](#).



Welsh Woes

Welcome back from Africa Peter...Nigel and Mike couldn't resist reminding him of the Wales performance in the 6 Nations Rugby.

"Mae'r hyn sy'n mynd o gwmpas yn dod o gwmpas"



Sign up for Quoits



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