



## Recruiting Peg Dolls

President Jeff welcomed 27 members with 21 apologies received – there were no guests or visitors for the first time this Rotary year.

When members arrived they were greeted by brightly coloured packets on each of the tables. These turned out to be a little gift from S&DR 200 as well as a request. In the pack was a badge and details of a peg doll initiative. We are asked to dress our doll (also in the pack) to describe a memorable journey we have been on – this can be a real journey or a metaphorical one. Thanks to Alex Nicholson for distributing the packs and also bringing along the examples shown in the picture of dolls that were dressed in Sierra Leone national costume.



Nigel Little asked for volunteers to assist with Mowden School's annual walk and cycle to school. He is looking for a few people to help walk on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 08:15 to 09:00 and/or assist with the Bike to School on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April (which does not include having to cycle). In both cases a bacon sandwich will be waiting for you at the destination.

Iain Anderson gave an update on Abbey School's GreenPower Project. For newer members this is a project we support that gets school children to build their own sustainable vehicles then drive them at a venue with other schools. The GreenPower Charity website giving full information can be found [here](#). Dates for Abbey School are 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of April then Thursday between 15:15 and 16:45 culminating in the Track Day at Gateshead Stadium on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Contact Iain if you are interested and available to assist.

Tony Marshall appealed for people who had put their name down for Quoits to delete them if they weren't going to attend...the Quoits Club will be ordering drinks in specially and don't want stock left over.

Gary Blenkinsopp gave a series of notices.... Firstly he described his and Alan Cowie's visit to the Gary Phillipson Show on BBC Tees where they talked about The Hit Squad. Their performance can be judged by going to the show [here](#) – Gary and Alan appear at an hour and seventeen minutes. Well done to them – the boys did good.

Gary then gave details of The Hit Squad project at Gurney Pease School taking place over the weekend. Finally he promoted the visit to The New Club next week – Pie, Peas and Pickle available as well as an evening of games.

President Jeff commented on the lack of Red Noses on Comic Relief Day despite there being a few comedians in the room.

Continued overleaf.....

## Coming Soon...

### March

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

**12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting**  
Club Recruitment Workshop

### April

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

**07:15 Club Breakfast meeting**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>

**12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

**GOOD FRIDAY - NO MEETING**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

**12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### May

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>

**07:15 Club Breakfast meeting**  
Speaker: Michael Hall from the Old School Boxing Club

### Five Dates to Note

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May:

**International Dinner**, Darlington College

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May:

**Quoits Night**, Quoit Club

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May:

**Chris Lloyd - 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of S&DR**, Bannatyne Hotel

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June:

**Choirs For Cancer**, Central Hall

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June:

**Handover Dinner**, Headlam Hall  
**(No Lunchtime meeting)**

## Recruiting Peg Dolls.....continued

Walid reported that Gabriel Lowes's health was very much improved but, unfortunately, that Richard Western is having a hard time. Our very best wishes go to him. The President also said he had spoken to Bill Carter who is on good form and looking forward to visiting the club soon.

Your correspondent didn't note who won the Bonus Ball – fortunately a proof reader knew it was Christine Lunn. He did, however, note that Sue Campbell celebrated 15 years in the club and Andy Teague 10 years this month for which they got a round of applause (and some comments!)

After the notices the President, SVP Jane, Sue Campbell and Gary Blenkinsopp led a workshop on Membership and Recruitment. This is to be followed up next week at lunch after which a full report will be made. Suffice it to say that information was shared about the different types of



membership available and the current state of membership in Rotary. There were reflections why people had joined Darlington Club, especially from those who had come from elsewhere.

The conclusion to this part of the workshops was that membership recruitment and retention is everybody's responsibility in order to ensure the longevity of our club.

## Chris Lloyd talk on 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stockton & Darlington Railway

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Bannatyne Hotel

£20 per head

Two course meal



**Board circulating or email**

**Steve Rose**

**90 places available**

## International Committee Dinner

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May

at Darlington College

**A meal based around the charity Mary's Meals**

Full details to follow

Maximum 60 places

[Click here for the Mary's Meals Website](#)

## Donation for Cycle Ambulances

The club donated £1,500 for Cycle Ambulances in Zambia. This week we received a full set of pictures showing the bikes with our club branding on them. Here are a couple of those pics – if you would like to browse through the whole set then [click here](#).



The ambulances are all a part of the Transaid Charity who “transform lives through safe, available, and sustainable transport.” Full details of the charity can be found by clicking this link to the [Transaid website](#).

## Boards circulating: sign up for.....

**Visit to The New Club** all members welcome for a night of games with exclusive use of The New Club, 2-4 Quebec St, Darlington DL1 1LX Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March – 7.00pm. Organised by Gary Blenkinsopp



**Annual Quoits Evening** to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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



## Polo Shirts

Tony (Marshall!) has a few branded polo shirts still available – are you medium, large or extra large? You may be lucky.



**Only £15**

## Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

Club Diary: [click here](#)

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary