

There they DAR again

President Jane welcomed 21 members, one Rotary visitor and three guests (of which one would be inducted as a member during the meeting). The visitor was Susan Rogers from the Rotary Adventurers Club – this is a project-based “Passport” club drawing its membership from a wide geographical area in North Yorkshire and Teesside/County Durham. Guests included Rachel Stocker (pic with Pres. Jane) and our speakers Fran Wood and David Walker from Darlington Assistance for Refugees (more later).



President Jane started the meeting with news of members’ health. Unfortunately, the stroke suffered by Stuart Clark was quite severe and he is gravely ill. Bill Carter continues to improve following a brief stint in hospital and Jenny Waller is recuperating after a foot operation....she literally has her feet up. Jane also confirmed that Derek Alderson won the Bonus Ball.

It was the President’s pleasure to induct Rachel Stocker into the club. Rachel has been to a number of meetings, events and committees and is known to many of us. Proposed by Steve Rose, she is a Doctor of Health Psychology at Newcastle University. Born and bred in Darlington, Rachel is looking forward to making a difference in her community.

Jane reported on her week which included the Rotary GB&I District Team Symposium at Warwick Business School in her Public Image role. Discussions included new awareness-raising initiatives. She said that the best bit was meeting and mixing with Rotarians from across our islands.

Meetings this week included International Service on Tuesday. Discussions included a possible link-up with Youth Committee and schools to promote Just Diggit, the project that brings irrigation and crops to the world’s deserts.

Thursday was Community Service where Michelle Thompson talked about the Wild About Darlington Pollination Project. She suggested links with the Hit Squad as well as creating a “Donate a Habitat” initiative whereby plants or bird & bat boxes can be bought.

Jane also mentioned the Mental Health First Aid taking place on Saturday – places are available due to people being unable to attend. She thanked Mike Daynes for running the training. Later on Friday this was postponed

Ged Wiper, continuing to deputise for Andy Teague (all the best Andy), gave Secretary’s notices. On Tuesday the Youth Committee meet at Blackwell Grange. On Wednesday Ged with Robin Raine and Iain Anderson will be testing the QE6 Greenpower car at Croft. Next week’s lunchtime meeting will have Sue Campbell telling us about the Rotary International Assembly in Florida.

Our speakers were Fran Wood and David

continued overleaf....



Coming Soon

March

Saturday 7th
 10:00 A...
 Health... Aid
POSTPONED

Friday 13th (Central Hall)
12:15 Lunchtime Meeting
 Speaker: Sue Campbell - “Rotary International Assembly in Florida”

Thursday 19th
District Quiz Final – contact Jane Cook for details

Friday 20th (Soft Play)
07:15 Breakfast Meeting
 Speaker: Sam Binns - “The Ironing Man”

Friday 27th (Central Hall)
12:15 Lunchtime Meeting
 Speaker: Mark Coleman - Diabetes UK

April

Friday 3rd (Soft Play)
GOOD FRIDAY – No Meeting

Friday 10th (Central Hall)
12:15 Lunchtime Meeting
 Speaker: To be announced

Friday 17th (Soft Play)
07:15 Breakfast Meeting
 Speaker: To be announced

Friday 24th (Central Hall)
12:15 Lunchtime Meeting
 Speaker: To be announced

Other dates for your diary
Club Handover: Friday 26th June – lunchtime at The Dolphin Centre from 12:00

District Handover: Sunday 5th July
 Sue Campbell becomes DG at The Fed, Lancaster Road, Gateshead NE11 9JR from 12:00

There they DAR again continued

Walker from Darlington Assistance for Refugees (DAR). Fran spoke again about how the charity had started in 2015 when 10 Syrian families were welcomed to Darlington. She described a number of success stories of children who had gone on to achieving high academic qualifications at a number of universities.



“dar” in Arabic translates as “home” in English

DAR’s mission from their [WEBSITE](#) is, “Being a refugee or asylum seeker means reaching a foreign land after fleeing one’s home in fear. It means leaving everything and everyone behind.

“At DAR, we want to ensure that those men, women, and children who come to us, not as a choice but to save their lives, have the warm welcome they deserve.

“We offer them a safe and friendly environment where they can get the support they need to rebuild their lives in our country. We introduce them to our system and community as we would a dear friend who just moved from abroad. We respect their culture and heritage and cherish the richness they bring into our lives.”

More about DAR activities can also be found on [FACEBOOK](#).

Fran ended by introducing their new Chief Executive, David Walker, who said a few words and showed appreciation for Fran’s commitment in creating and getting DAR to where it is today. In post for only a month



he said he was looking forward to working with Rotary to continue to give the best possible welcome.

A knowledgeable vote of thanks was given by Paul Robinson who, when in Durham Police, had some responsibility for supporting new arrivals.

“Fifth Friday” Meal

Thursday 28th May
at Bannatyne’s Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington, DL3 7HZ
6:30 for 7:00 start.
Cost £22 – book on Event Hub please

Speaker: Michelle Thompson B.E.M.

“A Life of Fundraising the Hard Way – including my recent trek in Peru”

Wild About Darlington

Click for [BELLBURN SHEET](#) or [SCHOOLS SHEET](#) circulated 13th February
1) [BELLBURN](#) Lane allotments full details 2) [SCHOOLS](#) full details
To sign up to take part or to find out more **contact Michelle Thompson.**



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

Breakfasts now in Soft Play. The Dolphin Centre will be serving our usual Full English or Continental.

All **lunches** will now be in Central Hall, entrance in Bull Wynd.

PLEASE NOTE: Card payments only



The New Club (Key Club)

Wednesday 18th March (6.00pm)

Quebec Street Darlington (opposite Wilko’s)

Pie & Peas & gravy and 2 free snooker tables all night + dominoes

Our annual foray into the world of pub games

Please contact Gary Blenkinsopp for full details



Committee Meetings

6pm, Dolphin Centre Function Room or as stated

March 10th: Youth Service

2nd Tuesday bimonthly
Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

March 19th: Club Service

3rd Thursday bimonthly

March 25th: Club Council

4th Wednesday monthly

April 2nd: Community Service

1st Thursday monthly (not August)
Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

April 7th: International Service

1st Tuesday bimonthly

April 8th: PR & Marketing Group

4pm – Function Room, Dolphin Centre

Club Information

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