

**Sharon Jordan**

**President's Report 2017-2018**

This past year has not gone as smoothly as I had first hoped it would. Some fundraising events, for reasons outside our control, have not come to fruition during my year – but the good news is that there will be plenty of fundraising events coming up, which will hopefully re-float the main spending committees.

It has to be said that our Duck Race back in September was a great success and possibly the best one yet, which saw all our ducks float – and we could have sold more! This year will see our race brought forward by two weeks and changed from a Sunday to a Saturday and from morning to afternoon; this is in order to showcase the event to our Rotary District 1120. More ducks have been obtained and we plan to have a race within a race!

We have had several bucket collections: one in aid of the hurricane to raise monies for ShelterBox, which saw all three Canterbury Clubs in action.

The Christmas collection saw us collect at Sainsburys, raising lots of monies for SCATS – remembering Hannah Loughran. This year at Morrisons we tried out “Supermarket Bagging Collections”, which received mixed reviews but in the main positive.

With regards to fellowship and fun, my year kicked off with a Canterbury Festival Summer Picnic, Jazz & Blues event at Barham, which was well attended; the weather was great. This was followed by a Finger Prints and Murder Guest Night at Boughton. Then came the “Halloween” Quiz Night and later a successful Christmas Dinner with entertainment from Cameo Opera. An evening with Rosie Duffield and a “Kick up the Sixties” with Alan Haines. My last event is in two weeks’ time – the Fawlty Towers Experience.

The new-look website is also proving successful, with all events and speakers being posted at least weekly if not more frequently and my thanks goes to Julie for her enthusiasm and work with the reports and photos.

I have also had the pleasure of being invited to various schools’ events put on by our Vocational Committee: the Innovation Competition, Writing Competition and ESU Public Speaking Competition. Alan Mepstead and Brian Dobinson put a lot of work into these; we all enjoy the rewards such competition gives.

We helped celebrate Saint Quentin’s 70th Anniversary and our joint 70th connection. There was the laying of the Rotary wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

At the Presidents’ Weekend in Leuven we update our fellow Pentangular Clubs on our JPP3 Project.

Sadly, there seem to have been lots of Funerals to attend: Alan Holmes, Marie Denne, Keith Sullivan, Pam Evans, Hazel Naumann, Jenny Bickerton and Shirlee Sandy.

We lost three members early on; one transferee saw Forest of Blean take on their first lady member. But I am pleased to say we have received four new members during this past year and one of them is (finally) younger than myself!

Communication is a wonderful thing, if used correctly and I would ask you all to consider how you communicate with others, remember we are all volunteers hopefully with the same aims; to do good both in our community and worldwide, whilst enjoying good fellowship at the same time.

I have already handed cheques of £500 to each of my two Charities, SCATS and Kent Air Ambulance and I am hopeful that at the end of my year they will receive a further cheque, each in excess of the original cheques.

I would like to thank all members for their support during my year and with just over a month to go I would like to say that it is has been a privilege to be the first lady member to lead this Club. If I have one regret, then that is not having enough time to give to attending more events and committee meetings, whether that be for our club or representing our club.

Sharon Jordan

President 2017-2028