

Rotary Club of Canterbury
Consolidated Reports

President
Vice President
Community Service
MSTF
Vocational
International

The year started with the Club restricted to Zoom meetings and our first social get together was on the 20th July which trialled a Zoom/Face to Face combination meeting. A successful feature that has remained since. After that as the covid threat has ebbed and flowed we have still managed to meet regularly face to face.

We have managed to welcome several of our widows to many of our meetings throughout the year and this has been a very great pleasure for us, and I hope for them.

Very sadly we lost some great friends during the year Bob Anderson, David Barton, Ken Beere, Roger Bickerton and Roger Clarke. Their contribution to the Club's success is, in a big way, thanks to their individual contributions over the years. I had the great pleasure to induct Viv Hird, Jim Gascoyne and Keji Moses during the year who are all most welcome.

Our Regeneration Project started to take effect at the beginning of the year with a restructure of the Club's Committee responsibilities and a reduced size of Club Council. As President this has worked well and I am sure that the Committees have benefitted from their independence. More work needs to be spent now in expanding the Club's friends and associates.

During the year I wanted to share my love of the countryside with the Club and by following the "Food We Eat" theme we have learned about sea fishing, beef farming, spinach farming, bees & pollination, climate change and its effect on UK farming, cheese making and the dairy industry, lambing and sheep farming, farming in the UK and finally fruit farming. In addition to this we had the memorable falconry dinner and heard about conservation & shooting at Godmersham Park as well as coppicing and conservation work on farms.

On the social side great fun was had with the Car Treasure Hunt, American Style Lunch, Christmas Party, Music Quiz, Easter Egg Hunt and who will forget the Burns Night Dinner in Kingston Village Hall with Piper Ivan Brooks!

Sport featured during the year with the Bat & Trap evening at Broad Oak, the Wimbledon afternoon and the Club's Croquet Championship.

Culture too was embraced with the MacBeth evening at Nonnington. I am ashamed to say that this was my first dip into Shakespeare, but I was intrigued by the first world war theme!

So much for all of the fun, but we also have had a good year raising money and supporting many causes. In Fundraising we have held several events to keep the money coming into our Charity Account: the Horse Race Night, Bingo Night, Film Night, Quiz Night and Mini Auction. However, the star of the show was without doubt the Duck Race. Despite all of our concerns about the effects of the pandemic, hundreds of people flocked to the river and supported the Duck Race. The amount raised was on a par with many previous years.

The Committee heads will have reported separately but it has been a pleasure to see them back working normally, particularly when at the beginning of the year it was doubtful that we were going to be able to support charities and needy causes as we had pre-pandemic. This was achieved.

During the year we were able to develop closer ties with our two Canterbury “daughter” Clubs –Canterbury Forest of Blean and Canterbury Sunrise. Several meetings have taken place. The cooperation started with the Bat Trap Evening. In November I was present to support the President of Canterbury Forest of Blean in laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday and the strength of our association became evident when we all joined forces to carry out street collections for Ukraine in Canterbury. These meetings will continue as we work to benefit from each Club’s experience and knowledge and then share various events together.

Of course, this year we have had two key events to celebrate, the first being our Centenary.

Our Centenary on the 9th February 2022 commenced with a coffee morning in the Abode Hotel, where the Club started in 1922. This was followed by a dinner in the evening to replace our postponed party, where I had the very great pleasure to present long service certificates to Andrew Barchi, Roger Bickerton and David Naumann.

In March we held a dinner “1922 Remembered” where we were able to reflect on what life was like for our Rotarian predecessors as well as hear several stories about some of the Club’s past characters. I very much hope that the work that went into researching this evening will be able to be preserved and brought to light again in the future.

Our postponed party is now planned for Saturday 18th June 2022 at the Cathedral Lodge, an event that we all look forward to.

Throughout the year we have been continuing to develop our plans to establish a Drinking Water Filling Point in the Longmarket. The project has been beset with complications which we have managed to bump over and great progress has been made. Following a very successful fundraising campaign we have raised over 60% of the funds required and are now in the process of approaching grant funders to try to cover the balance. We will get there and my hope is that we will be able to unveil the tribute to our 100 years within our Centenary Year. The impressive sculpture will be our gift to the city of Canterbury.

The second key event is the Pentangular. The Pentangular is close to many of our hearts and in the week before Christmas we were able to enjoy each other’s company by Zoom and exchange Christmas carols and a story across Europe.

Now we have the Pentangular weekend upon us and not only do we have the very great pleasure of hosting the weekend here in Canterbury, we also have the privilege of celebrating its golden jubilee. Fifty years of this association is something for us all to be very proud of. In these unsettled times (political and otherwise) it is all the more important that within Rotary we maintain our close friendship with these special friends.

Finally, I have deliberately not mentioned any names in thanking people for specific events, for fear of missing someone out of the list! Each of you know who you are and please accept my thanks for your part in keeping the Club running smoothly, chairing committees, organising events and above all making my year as President so much easier. It has been a team effort - thank you very much.

Vocational Services Committee Report 2022

The primary objective of the Vocational Services Committee is to reach out to young people and work with schools in the Canterbury area.

As we reach the two year mark of the initial wave of the Covid-19 pandemic there is a growing awareness of the cumulative impact of Covid-19 pandemic not just on students' academic achievement but also on their physical and mental wellbeing. Over this unprecedented period the Vocational Team have endeavoured to continue to work with and support both teachers and students

There have been fewer school visits or in person contacts but modern technology has come to our aid and we have been able to maintain and indeed build on the positive relationships we have made within educational establishments over the years,

Competitions offered in 2022

The Primary Writing Competition.

One hundred and sixty five entries were received and prizes were awarded to six schools within the Canterbury area

The Secondary Writing Competition (Dear Future Me)

This is the second year of this competition . The competition, first offered in 2021 to inspire hope for the future during a difficult period and is open to students aged 12 to 18 years from the South- east region. This year prizes were awarded to students from Kent College ,Dover Girls' Grammar School and Invicta Academy Maidstone .

The Innovation Competition.

At the time of writing initial judging is underway for this competition. The finalists will make their final presentation at Old Sessions House Christchurch University at 10am on 29th June in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Canterbury.

The future of the Secondary Writing Competition and the Innovation Competition will be discussed in the Autumn - the Secondary Writing Competition was introduced in 2021 to encourage young people to express themselves during a difficult period and the Innovation Competition being now in its tenth year is due a review.

Upskilling/Mock Interviews

. This year owing to Covid -19 regulations in schools there has been fewer demands for our services however on Tuesday May 4th in person interviews will be conducted with the students of Canterbury College,

F1

Schools and young people have endured many difficulties during the last two years so I am especially pleased to report that Team Eclipse from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Faversham have once again achieved great success in the F1 Competition by reaching the Finals of this Worldwide Competition. This year the Finals will be in the UK . The Rotary Club should be proud that once again we have been able to obtain sponsorship for these young people . Hopefully we will be able to introduce our Pentangular guests to Team Eclipse when we are all guests at the school during our Penangular weekend .

Pilgrims Way Primary School

A senior member of staff from Pilgrims Way Primary School has been able to access courses and resources provided by the Centre for BMLS (Sponsored) thus enabling teachers at the school to elevate their expertise with new strategies for planning , teaching and assessing their bilingual and multilingual students .

Visits/Outings

Thankfully there were times during this Rotary year when Covid-19 restrictions were eased enabling Rotarians to once again enjoy planned visits.

In the Autumn of 2021 thanks to Mike we went on the Treasure Hunt followed by a delicious lunch at The Alma. Leslie organised a Spring visit to Brogdale near Faversham where members, on a sunny April morning surrounded by fruit trees in full blossom learned about fruit growing and afterwards it was off to Painters Forstal where once again we enjoyed a lovely lunch. We can now look forward to more pleasant outings in Summer. An away sailing day has been arranged by Brian when members / guests will enjoy a day of sailing on Miroso, a Thames barge, with morning coffee and afternoon tea provided . Fostering good relationships with schools is an important part of the work of the vocational team and a member of an educational establishment which has been especially supportive of our work over a number of years has been invited to join us on the Miroso . It is hoped that In July members and friends will be able to gather together with family and friends for a picnic on the farm as Gill is arranging a visit to Robert Boyd Howell's farm at Lenham .

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the members of the team for all the advice, help and support they have given me throughout the year .

Mary McGeary -Chairperson of the Vocational Team

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2022

Report of the International Service Committee

The Terms of Reference of the International Service Committee were reviewed in line with the Club's regeneration initiative. The revised and expanded terms for 2021/22 were agreed as follows:

- 1. To respond to international emergencies, especially in the developing world and donate money to the disaster relief organisations.*

2. *To support local charities which have an international perspective and who seek to alleviate water shortage, poverty, homelessness, job creation and inadequate education in Developing Countries.*
3. *To seek out new appropriate charities that might benefit from our donation scheme. The awarding of grants is based on agreed criteria. These criteria will be reviewed periodically.*
4. *To support the establishment of new small private enterprises in the developing world through participation in the microcredit scheme, Lend with Care.*
5. *To participate fully in Rotary Pentangular Projects.*
6. *To maintain regular contact with Pentangular partners, to keep abreast of developments and initiatives and to enhance fellowship.*
7. *To promote, within the Club, the international dimension of Rotary and the role of the Rotary Foundation.*
8. *To promote, within the Club, the Rotary commitment to raising funds for PolioPlus.*
9. *To assist with the Club's fundraising efforts.*
10. *The committee has delegated powers to award individual donations up to £1,000. Applications for donations of greater value will be referred to Club Council.*
11. *The committee has been delegated periodically to allocate the proceeds from the weekly raffle to Shelterbox, Aquabox and Water Aid.*
12. *A minimum of 5 members should be present at meetings to make decisions on donations. In exceptional cases, the chairman can consult members outside a formal meeting, including through email, to seek agreement if an urgent decision is required.*

The work of the International Service Committee continued to be affected, to a degree, by the pandemic, due to limited funds being available to support charities and new projects. However, it was a positive development to, once again, be able to meet regularly on a face to face basis.

After 4 years, the JPP3 Juba School Bursary project was completed in 2021. However, the club took the decision to deal with residual issues, in particular to continue to support three students whose education had been disrupted and who needed to attend a further year to complete their final examination. The final account for the project showed a surplus of £1,024. It was agreed that this sum should be given to The Salisbury Diocese to help fund the education of future talented students in Juba who, otherwise, would not be able to afford school fees.

The Juba School District Grant project, intended to support the school's effort to deal with the impact of the pandemic, was successfully completed. The project proposed two elements: firstly, the purchase of scientific textbooks for the school library, and, secondly, bursaries, primarily for students from poor families who were impacted by Covid. Margaret Griffin has been a true champion in establishing and developing the Juba School over many years and should be congratulated on her outstanding achievement.

During the past year, the club continued its international partnership with RC Dhaka following the success of their global grant project in early 2021 to equip a new Covid testing laboratory to enable cancer patients to receive treatment without potentially long delays. There have been a series of new projects supported by the committee:

- In October 2021, the committee agreed an initial donation of £210 to fund **eye surgeries** in special outreach camps in Bangladesh.
- Following the success of this project, an application for district grant was submitted in February to fund a further 25 eye operations at total cost of £1330. This application was approved and we anticipate this donation to be used at a new camp in the summer.
- Finally, in April, the Club agreed in principle to support another Dhaka global grant application, for a project to provide clean and safe water in 7 coastal villages. Although the club's financial commitment towards this major scheme is relatively modest at £1,000, this sum will help attract additional district designated funds and global grant. I am grateful to Julie Reza for her work in supporting the partnership with RC Dhaka through her fundraising efforts and her close liaison with Rotarians in Bangladesh.

During the year, additional donations were made:

- £600 to Shelterbox for their Haiti Earthquake Appeal.
- £590 to Shelterbox for their Yemen Humanitarian Appeal.
- £250 to Mary's Meals, a national charity encouraging children to attend schools, mainly in Africa.
- £425 to Child.org for post-natal care in the Meru district of Kenya
- £250 to New Life Nyambene, a local charity to support abandoned street children in Kenya.
- £250 to the Pilgrim's Way School to help with their work to integrate Afghan refugee children.

The committee's total investment in the microcredit scheme, Lend with Care, is £2,000, which has been used and reused to make a total of over £6,826 worth of loans. The account is being managed by Robin Vickers. The summary on the Lend with Care website shows that, to date, 238 loans have been awarded, 1103 entrepreneurs have been helped, 3470 family members have benefited and 764 jobs have been created. The pandemic continues to have a significant impact on economic prospects in the developing world. However, to date, we have been notified of just one case of default by a lender.

It is sad to report that the committee's long involvement with the local Tools for Self Reliance group is coming to an end. The group has been unable to find suitable new premises to operate from, following a notice to quit from its former workshop at the Pilgrims Hospice, and is in the process of winding up.

The Polioplus campaign raised a total of £2,100, mainly through the sale of crocus corms. The campaign culminated in the spectacular lighting up of St Dunstan's Church to mark World Polio Day in October, organised by Martin Ward and Philip Abbott. In addition, Julie Reza and Shabana Raman produced an online Recipe Book to attract further donations to Polioplus. The free purple-themed recipe e-book can still be downloaded from our website.

The committee was asked by Club Council to suggest ideas for future Pentangular projects. It was the view of the committee that we should continue to work together, following the same model as in the past, as this is an important glue to bind the pentangular partners. We believe, however, that more work needs to be done to help members in all the clubs to appreciate and take pride in the achievements of all the projects, regardless of who is leading. This will require much better communication of information about the aims and the progress of the projects. Graham Bough is actively pressing his contacts at the other clubs on this matter.

The three local clubs agreed to work together to help in the humanitarian relief and the plight of refugees affected by the war in Ukraine. The committee has sought to play its part in this joint effort. The three clubs raised a total of £7,212 to donate to the DEC Appeal, following a street collection and donations from members. The three club presidents are continuing to liaise on possible future fundraising initiatives.

I should like to thank all the members of the committee for their support throughout the year.

Viv Pritchard
Chairman
May 2022

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Membership Report: 2021-2022

I ended last year's Membership Report with a quote from Paul Harris. This year I begin with it: "This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."

There's no date given to the quote, but Harris might well have said it at around the time of our club's charter in 1922. Even then the world was facing dynamic and irreversible change and Harris realised that to survive, Rotary had to change with it. Since then, the world has changed immeasurably - perhaps not for the good - but so far at least Rotary's ability to change and adapt has endured. Today Harris's message is as relevant as ever.

And the pace of change is relentless – both externally and within our club – and largely out of our control. Looking through the current directory, we said sad farewells to Bob Anderson, David Barton, Ken Beere, Roger Bickerton and Roger Clarke, all of whom were at one time energetic and supportive Rotarians. And there are other members, whether through ill health or caring duties, who find themselves unable to resume attendance following the hiatus of the pandemic.

Our club suddenly finds itself in a very different position to where it was only a relatively short time ago.

Whilst we must be alert to change, we mustn't be overcome by it. Positive strides are being made in recruiting new members and we welcome Jim Gascoyne, Viv Hird, and Keji Moses into the club.

But equally we mustn't be complacent.

The overarching challenge in the immediate future is not only to increase our membership, but also to make our Rotary accessible, attractive, and relevant to our own members and to others who may wish to join us. How do we open ourselves up to those who want to serve their local community but are constrained by work, family, or other commitments?

But the Rotary Club of Canterbury isn't alone facing this challenge. Rotary membership is in decline worldwide. In the UK alone, two thousand members are leaving annually – the equivalent of a whole district. Within ten years, Rotary in GB&I will be half the size of today¹. Losses of this size are unsustainable.

In the wider world of Rotary, the challenge of maintaining a viable membership is universal. So, it comes as no surprise our sister clubs - Forest of Blean, and Sunrise – find themselves in the same boat as us. Expect to see over the next year or so greater emphasis on interchangeable programs, sharing of ideas and joint membership initiatives.

Plans to reach-out to members of the Canterbury 41 Club are still active and pre-lockdown discussions are resuming with Christ Church University over how to advance their interest in developing the Corporate Membership category with our club.

Looking to the future, the Regeneration Program, launched by our club and guided by PP Peter Hermitage, is actively exploring the issue of membership. The key topic of how to involve present members, who are committed to full-time work, but who also have a desire to support their local community via a service organisation like Rotary is high up the agenda. Rotary in GB&I has developed a number of initiatives and once these are understood, both in how they could impact our club as well as the benefits, they will be brought forward for wider discussion.

So, returning to Paul Harris, we ignore change at our peril. We must embrace it, be alert to how potential new members see us, and find new ways to accommodate them. New technology will play a key role and we must seize the initiative to develop it both as a communication tool and a means of taking part.

Above all we must always ensure we are welcoming, flexible, and show that Rotary is fun.

Without a doubt, the story of Rotary is being rewritten. Again.

Martin Ward, Chair of Membership Committee

April 2022

¹ Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Community Service Committee: Chairman's review of Rotary year 2021/22

The Rotary Club of Canterbury has always responded to the main problems arising in our community. This year It's been dealing with issues arising from both the pandemic and to a lesser extent, the refugee crisis. This Club's Community Service Committee is **in the community, of the community and above all it's with the community.**

Apart from the funding requests the Committee discussed childhood trauma, male suicide in a number of age groups, Men's Groups along the N Kent Coast, the City's problem with NEETS and CCC's initiative via PoWYC and how to persuade local stores to contribute to refugee set up packs.

As well as a grant of £50 to the Salvation Army and £299 to the Orchard School's Buster's Book literacy programme we gave major support to areas that were coming under intense pressure:-

Rising Sun Domestic Abuse Service

We responded to the huge rise in family breakdown and domestic violence. We have worked closely with the Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service over several years. As the staff there changed from work with the children in groups towards more one-to-one help with work packs given, at times, on the doorstep, we gave an award of £200 plus a member's donation of £130 for their new workbook materials

The Rising Sun major aim always is to Break the Cycle of domestic abuse, i.e., doing what they can to prevent this abuse being passed down from generation to generation in a family. A major project of theirs has been to set up a home for six pregnant mothers taken out of abusive relationships. These are cases where the abusive partner, the perpetrator has sought to consolidate their hold over the victim in this way. In this small well-supported community, they can overcome the trauma and grow towards taking up a normal life again. Early in the year this committee organised the funding of a security gates of £900 from another Rotary Club and this year we gave £500 for the refurbishment of some showers.

So, to the Rising Sun we gave £830 ourselves plus arranged other funding of £900

Prince of Wales Youth Club

As in previous years the Committee has continued to support the award-winning Prince of Wales Youth Club as it came out of the pandemic and switched to normal operations. We gave support for their school meals work as well as their boxing training evenings.

We gave £650 from what our Club had raised and another £320 from our own fundraising event, at total of £970 to the PoWYC

Pilgrims Way School: support for refugee children

We were delighted to £500 to Pilgrims School to fund a visit to the pantomime. The school have many refugees' children and such a visit was organised as an introduction to British humour.

St Nicholas School

At last, we were able to re-commence our custom of many years standing of financing an outing to Reindeer Land for the children of a local special needs school. £200

RYLA

We were going to send two candidates for the April course, but they had to cancel due to exam timetable difficulties. The £400 will be carried forward and further candidates sought for the Autumn.

Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre

The Committee did some work to source fresh vegetables from local farmers for the Centre's food boxes and this is ongoing. We have provided £300 for gifts at a children's Jubilee Party at the Centre.

MS Treatment Centre

We were able to give a grant of £300 towards oxygen supplied to their hyperbaric chamber.

Summary

The Committee dispensed Club funds of £3319 and arranged a donation of £130 plus funding by another Club of £900, making a total of £4349 to local communities.

My thanks to the close support during the year of the members of the Community Services Committee.

Richard Kemball-Cook PHF
Community Services Committee
30 April 2022

The Rotary Club of Canterbury Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund

Trustees Annual Report 2022

During the Rotary year to 30th June 2021 cheques were returned and trips cancelled following worldwide travel restrictions and no grants were made.

In December 2021 travel restrictions continued and the Trustees to the Charity met and took the view that in the short term the situation gave no encouragement that young people would want to travel abroad. It was agreed that subject to approval from members under clause 1b of the Charity scheme some of the 2021 income should be used in support of local community needs. Trustees approved grants of £500 each to Salvation Army, Food Bank and Catching lives and this was approved by Club members at the December meeting enabling cheques to be distributed before Christmas. Trustees and Club members also agreed a grant of £250 to Raise and Give society for the Meningitis Research Foundation for a UKC student Kirsten Anstey who was raising £3900 undertaking a trek up Mount Kilimanjaro.

In February of this year Trustees met and with a relaxation in restrictions a promotion programme was started. Details of the scheme were circulated to 36 schools religious organisations places of higher education and youth organisations. Julie Reza also kindly included an item in the Canterbury Community magazine and updated the web page.

Since then, Trustees have approved a grant of £570 for Simon Langton Girls Grammar student Alice O'Neill who was successfully selected and is travelling to SaeManGeum in Korea in the summer of 2023 to the 25th World Scout Jamboree. Total cost is £3800 covered by regular stage payments.

In February Trustees agreed a grant of £500 in support of Jemma Smith attending a PGL trip in the summer with St Anselm's School.

Following the promotion of the scheme The Rev. Stephen Carter of St Mary Bredin made enquiries about grants for a team of young people travelling in the summer to Mbale Uganda in association with a charity Jenga Uganda. The team of 9 travelling is largely made of Christchurch University students. Trustees agreed a block grant of £1800 to be applied equally between the 9 travelling against a cost of £1500 each.

A further enquiry has been received from a Simon Langton Boys Grammar School student looking to visit African Impact Foundation Kenya in September and Trustees will be meeting him shortly to consider his application.

Total grants this year to date £4,620.

I am grateful to Margaret Griffin, Graham Bough, Maxine Blades and Stephen Thompson for their continued help and support in the work that we do for this Rotary Charity.

Roger Power

Vice-President's Report to Club AGM

Fundraising

Dee Mepstead has worked on fundraising to organise our first Duck Race for two years, and it was a great success. Dee is now working with a number of other members to produce a Taste of the East evening, with displays of oriental skills as well as an Indian-flavoured buffet.

100 Club

Graham Bough reports that the 100 Club now has 39 members, taking 63 numbers, with two more prospective members from 1st July, taking 3 numbers. Its next draw, for £100, will take place at the June business meeting.

Dining Accounts

Roger Power has diligently reconciled the money received from members via Standing Orders and issued rebates and requests for more money where necessary. He will shortly be emailing members concerning the level of contributions for the coming year to try to ensure a steadier flow of income.

Attendance

There has been no report received from John Hill for this.

Dining

Raj has highlighted particularly the difficulties stewards experience in taking money for guests, and feels that employing the card-reading machine to pay for guests would ensure more accurate takings than asking for cash. There is also a problem with members informing him that they will not be attending after the food order has been placed, leading to waste.

Book Club

Brian Dobinson has organized a number of meetings of the book club, until recently at Jennifer McKone's house. The club has read a

wide range of books from factual to novels, classic and modern. Books are discussed extensively, particularly relating to questions sent out by Brian in advance of the meeting to encourage debate. Members also talk about recent visits to cultural events, giving recommendations to others.

Vice-President

I am very grateful to all members of this group for their hard work and diligence in managing various essential functions which enable the Club to raise money, and increase Fellowship among members.

Now that the worst of the pandemic is past I think it would be preferable to have meetings of this group in person, perhaps 3 or 4 times a year, to discuss progress and matters of concern.

Rosemary Doyle

Vice-President