

# **Rotary Club of Canterbury**

## **AGM 2023 Consolidated Papers**

### **Presidents Report**

Rotary Club of Canterbury AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

#### **Presidents Review 2022-23**

Fellow Members

It has been a honour and privilege to be the 101<sup>st</sup> President of our Rotary Club. Thank you for trusting me with the Chair. I have enjoyed the year very much and am pleased that the work put in a year ago, organising the programme, committees and internal day to day running of our Club has paid dividends. We have had a successful year on many fronts and our actions and work have clearly mirrored Rotary's core values. In particular our service activities in our local community, internationally and the interaction with the Youth of today.

Three avenues of Service are the Community Service, International and Vocational Committees. I would like to thank Richard, Raj and Mary for leading these Committees so well and the diverse works that we have supported.

In local Community, helping those in need with generous donations, Our commitment to local charities in particular, The Rising Sun Domestic Violence Abuse Charity, Thanington Resource Centre, Salvation Army and the Prince of Wales Youth Club. The St Patrick's Night Evening superbly organised by Peter was one of my personal highlights and it was great to support Joey and his team. Joey has been a fantastic supporter of our Club and it was great of him to give his time and immerse himself so deeply in the Young Chef's competition.

On the International Front we have continued our growing relationship with the RC of Dhaka supporting eye operations. A thank you to Julie for all her energy in this project. Ukraine and Turkey has featured strongly with collections, purchasing Shelterboxes and Aqua aid, and knitting 150 + Hats to go those in need in Ukraine.

On the Vocational Front another succesful year. We were fortunate to meet Leigh Saunders who as benefactor to the Club has enabled us to widen our support to schools with practical helps where the schools fall short of funding. As a Club we enjoy a very high profile in the Community through the support we provide, writing competitions, the forthcoming innovation competition finals, and continued support for the F1 team at QEQM school Faversham. My own highlight was the 400 mock interviews we carried out earlier this year. Thank you to all those who took part and in particular to Brian for driving this project through. In addition our social media presence is without doubt one of the best in our District and a big thank you to Julie for always promoting our Club.

I mentioned above the Young Chef Competition above. This was a collaboration with the Canterbury Sunrise Club. At one stage it looked unlikley it would get off the ground but with good teamwork with Sunrise and Joey's help it was great success. Indeed so good we hosted the regional heats earlier this year. It was great to see the efforts that the youngsters made with their cooking. The dedication and flair and the proud parents looking on. I have a particular interest in food and will

always remember the winner making her pasta, good flour and eggs and expertly rolling out the dough. The finished ravioli was 'bellissimo'

At our meetings we have had a good variety of speakers. My thoughts when putting the programme together was to focus on those who support of our local community. The highlights for me were Gerry Ferrett on the work of the Poppy Organisation and more recently the Street Pastors who are a group of unsung heroes working in our City Centre. Good speakers are hard to come by but we have been very fortunate to have our own resident star, Andrew Barchi to entertain on a few occasions. I believe there is still one more talk at least to come!

Some very good outside events took place where we could not be at the Cricket Ground. Betteshanger with Sunrise, American supper courtesy of Richard and Cora, Reculver Walk, Nonington Theatre production courtesy of Phil and another successful Christmas Party. Of course I must not forget the Duck race which underpins our charity giving. The contactless machine made all the difference!!

I was very pleased that after the invitation by St Quentin to visit them in November we were able to enjoy their company and fellowship again. It was an excellent weekend, full of interest and fun with the Presidents address in French giving the best laugh of the weekend. The Pentangular in Leiden takes place later this month and it's a credit to this Club that we have the largest party going.

Finally one of the reasons that I have been able to enjoy myself is the help given by many Rotarians through your support and Club Council to keep our Rotary Club on track. I will mention more on this at the handover in June.

Thank you for supporting me, please continue to support the Club and Rosemary in her coming year.

Very best wishes

Tony

President 22/23

### **Vocational Committee Annual Report**

**This year the Vocational Team has continued working with young people ,providing opportunities for them to develop their skills and to enjoy greater awareness of the world around them.**

**Competitions we have offered this year :**

#### **The Young Chef Competition**

**There is always a first for everything and this year we joined with Sunrise Canterbury Rotary to offer the Young Chef Competition. This competition provides the opportunity for entrants to put their culinary skills to the test and be judged by leading professionals in the hospitality industry. On the day entrants had to plan and cook a three course meal ,develop their food presentation skills and gain experience in working in high pressure situations. The winner Leah from QEGS**

Faversham went on to win 2nd place at the Regional Finals held later in the year . Our thanks are extended to the Headteacher and Home Economics Staff at the Archbishop's School Canterbury for all their support and for hosting the competition on both occasions .

#### **The Primary School Writing Competition**

This competition, now in its 7th year continues to flourish with a total of 131 entries from Canterbury Primary Schools . Prizes of Book Tokens were distributed to the prize winners from Kent Junior College, Blean Primary School, St Thomas Catholic School, St. John's C of E Primary School and Pilgrims Way Primary School Canterbury

#### **The Secondary Schools Writing Competition - 'Dear Future Me '**

Initially started in 2020 at the height of the Covid Pandemic, this competition continues to attract entries from schools in Canterbury and from a wider area. This year's prize winners came from QEGS, DGGs and the Archbishop's School Canterbury .

#### **The Innovation Competition**

The Innovation Competition is now in its 10th year and attracts entries from Canterbury schools and schools within the district - 86 entries this year . Judging is now underway and the final will be on Wednesday 28th of June at Christchurch University when the finalists will present their innovative ideas to the judges and a wider audience in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Canterbury . Thanks are extended to James Bennet ( STEM) and Christchurch University for all their support.

#### **Upskilling/Mock Interviews**

In November 2022 and March 2023 at the invitation of Canterbury College , we were able to assist over a period of several days with the interviewing of 500 hundred students . Sincere thanks are extended to our fellow Rotarians and their friends who assisted us .

#### **STEM**

In March those members of the team who are STEM ambassadors were invited to act as ' graders ' for the Primary Engineering Competition at Christchurch University .

#### **Junior F1 in Schools**

I am especially pleased to report that Team Eclipse from QEGS from Faversham reached the International Final of the Junior F1 for schools and will now be competing against the best teams

throughout the world . By means of generous donations and the young people's own fundraising efforts the team will be on their way to Singapore in September .

Each member of the team has their own management role and is responsible for a section of the project being delivered. The competition provides the opportunity for the young people to work together on a collaborative activity to improve their communication skills

For our support and encouragement over the years, the Canterbury Rotary logo will feature on the car .

We wish them a safe journey and every success in September .

### **Fostering links with Schools**

It is the work of the Vocational Team to try to foster strong links with local schools, this takes time and effort and it is especially rewarding when members of Canterbury Rotary are considered friends and are welcomed into schools. This year we have been privileged to strengthen these links with the Archbishop's School Canterbury On two weekends the schools hosted the Young Chef Competition when staff gave their time and expertise to make this competition such a success . The school is in the process of setting up a new library and I'm pleased to report that by means of a generous donation of books from an Educational Establishment and small monetary donation we have been able to make a welcome contribution towards the library .

### **Visits/ Outings**

On June 13th we will visit Hadleigh Farm and Rare Breeds Centre at Benfleet in Essex. For over one hundred years Hadleigh Farm, run by the Salvation Army has been a place where people come to receive training and the development of skills to help them succeed in their chosen path. The Rare Breeds Centre was opened in 2004 to promote conservation and education in Rare Breeds . A visit to the farm provides an excellent opportunity to learn about, get close to a range of rare breed farm animals in an area of outstanding natural beauty .

Planning is in progress for a visit later in the year to the Royal Courts of Justice in London. The Royal Courts also known as the Law Courts is a Grade 1 listed building designed by George Edmund Street in the Victorian Revival Style . It is one of the largest Courts in Europe .

I would sincerely like to thank all members of the team for the advice and support they have given to me as Chairperson of the Committee over the last four years. It has been a pleasure working with you all - thank you .

**Mary McGeary**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

Last year, the International Services Committee continued to support various charities overseas as we have in the past. I think that this is the most rewarding part of Rotary.

The Club has established effective partnership with international clubs particularly in Bangladesh. Such partnership can attract significant additional funding through Rotary grant. We hope to build on this.

We have donated to the Rotary Club in Dhaka for the eye operation project (£244.50) and the desalination plant (£1325). We have investigated the possibility of funding for Octagreen houses, which is a simple house to be built by women for women as a sustainable project.

We donated £338.20 to Aqua box. The former chairman tried to organise a fund raising walk for Aqua box but due to lack of support, the idea was dropped.

We are also investigating the possibility of funding Cleft Palate treatment in Mauritius.

Due to flooding in Pakistan last year, a large donation was made to the Disasters Emergency Committee which included individual donations. Further donations were made to the Ukrainian charity efforts and two shelter box purchased for the Turkey/Syria appeal.

We continue to support micro-financing with Lend with Care. This is a success story. We will continue to give out small loans to help new enterprises in developing countries through Lend with Care. As the loans are repaid, we are able to help with new initiatives. So far, Robin Vickers has reported that a total of £2000 has been invested in the microfinance project by Rotary International Services Committee over the years and a total of 261 loans were made with a total value of £7696.81 being loaned out.

We will continue to support and monitor joint Pentangular projects, making the Club understands the commitments and the benefits of the Rotary Foundation and continue to support Polioplus.

I look forward to a challenging year and I am sure that the committee will get behind Rosemary to make it a successful year.

As a final note, I must re-iterate to importance of attending the committee meetings and make contributions for the good of all the members of Rotary Club of Canterbury

R Dasan – Chairman of ISC

Rotary Club of Canterbury

Community Service Committee Chairman's review of Rotary year 22/23

The Rotary Club of Canterbury has always responded to the main problems arising in our community: last year it was dealing with issues arising from both the pandemic and to a lesser extent the refugee crisis. This year it has been dealing with problems of deprivation arising from the pandemic, the financial crisis, the war in Europe, etc., all driving up the cost of living and food in particular.

We look to existing partners who cover much of the areas of deprivation: the Prince of Wales Youth Club, the Rising Sun Domestic Abuse Service and the Salvation Army to update your Community Service Committee on their needs. As well as domestic abuse issues we concentrated on the most vulnerable in our society - where it hits first and hardest: the Early Years, Child Infant Health and support for the well-being of mothers.

To the Prince of Wales Youth Club, we gave £400 for their children's Christmas party. We watched with interest their work with Ukrainian refugees' children in having activity days to keep their culture alive.

To the Rising Sun we gave £500 to support the home visiting during Christmas holidays.

The Salvation Army was setting up a Mother and Toddler group in their Canterbury HQ with a cloths swap shop and we gave £500 that will ease the pressure on the mothers' spending allow them to join a supportive group.

As regards our new partner, the Thanington Resource Centre, we were impressed with the leadership of Paula Spencer and many of you will remember we finally got her to come and speak to us one lunchtime.

I had hopes last year to arrange for fresh fruit and vegetables, perhaps gleaned from famers' fields but this was not possible. However, they reported pressure coming from their local community for the Centre to do more than provide a modest Food Bank. There were people in the community going hungry: what could be done?

Your Committee gave them £500 of funding for tables, chairs and a large microwave so they could cook hot meals to feed people. In fact, David Lewis reported in April that the Centre was starting minor alterations to extend this new dining area, so they were continuing what we had started!

We also supported their work in setting up a My Birth support group to concentrate on perinatal health but really to give the local mothers a chance to concentrate on their well-being with the support of specialist staff. We paid £300 for the room rental.

Most recently we have given £200 to the Community Larder at All Saints Church to help with the provision of dental care (tooth brushes and tooth paste) for youngsters whose families access the Larder.

We did not forget our traditional areas of interest involving young people, but it seemed they were taking some time to recover from the Covid restrictions.

Although we had reserved £400 to pay for the RYLA course it was not to function in our year, but we gather that there will be an opportunity in September and we already have two fine candidates. The same with St Nicholas school and the popular Days Out program we are awaiting further updates on this.

We also gave funds to support for 3 months to a local child who has severe hearing difficulties to help with specialist equipment.

Richard Kemball-Cook PHF  
Chair

## Rotary Club of Canterbury

### Membership Report: 2022-2023

There has been an encouraging level of interest from potential new members this Rotary year. But maintaining traction, as we move from initial contact to introducing them to the club - and what it and Rotary stands for – before ultimately inducting them as new members, is more of a challenge.

In all there have been six expressions of interest this year, with three likely to make it to full membership. Whilst six would have been better, a potential three is not to be dismissed particularly when the universal Rotary experience at present is a declining membership.

The timing and style of our meetings is still a barrier to some pursuing their interest in joining. Cost is another. Both issues are high up the agenda of the club's Regeneration Group under the guidance of PP Peter Hermitage.

But the Rotary Club of Canterbury isn't alone facing these challenges. As I said in last year's Membership Report, 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 today<sup>1</sup>. Losses of this size are unsustainable.

So, as we approach the end one Rotary year and begin to look forward to the next, the membership plans for our club can be summarised thus:

- Via the Regeneration group we will continue to explore ways to make our club both accessible and affordable.
- We remain in contact with the other two clubs in the city to promote 'Rotary in Canterbury'.
- Conversations continue with Christ Church University exploring the possibilities of Corporate Membership.

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<sup>1</sup> Rotary in Great Britain & Ireland

- I am recruiting a small number of members to act as 'welcomers' for potential new members to act as point of contact. It's not onerous, merely someone to book them into meetings and generally encourage early involvement. If you are interested let me know.

In conclusion, three overarching challenges remain.

1. How do we open ourselves up to those who want to serve their local community but are constrained by work, family, or other commitments?
2. How do we keep Rotary sufficiently fresh and challenging to retain existing members.
3. How do we show the outside world that Rotary is fun?

**Martin Ward, Chair of Membership Committee**

**May 2022**



# ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Proposed 03  
May 2023

CLUB FUND BUDGET  
2023/20242022/2023

<u>2023/2024</u> <u>Proposed Budget</u>	
£	£
	(50)
50	
50	
80	
-	
60	
150	
32	
25	
260	
468	
	1,175
600	
(400)	
(200)	
-	
	£0
	£375
-	
-	
60	
60	
360	
225	
250	
70	
-	
(400)	
	£625
-	
	-
	£2,125

This cost is in support of the Dining social activity of the Club. It is to be met out of Dining account surpluses.

Actual

Period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024£

## 1. General Fund

Stationary	100	Estimated balance at 1 July - Overdrawn / (in funds)	(947)
Postage	140		
Directories	130		
Meeting Room Hire - Included in Dining charges	-		

Kent & Canterbury Club Storage	55 Honours Board & Badges	150
Remembrance Wreath	30	
Small Society Licence	20 Xmas Gifts to Widows	150
Misc.	222	
<b>Suggested Budget</b>	<b>997</b>	

**2. 100 Club** Estimated Income - 50 numbers 750

(Graham Bough) Less Prizes - 4 x £100 (400) Less Pentangular Gift (350)

Less Transfer to MGSE (see below) 0

**Balance available £0**

**3. Website & EMS** Estimated balance at 1 July - Overdrawn / (in funds) £0

(IT Manager - Martin Ward)

McAfee Antivirus & Microsoft 365 - Not to continue 155

Laptop Virus Protect (not required 2023/24) 95

Microsoft Office subscription

Extra Digital RCC Domain Renewals 55

Extra Digital Rotary Website Hosting & CMS licence fees 355

Extra Digital for '123-Reg' re 'Top Choir Kent' domain

registration (3 yrs) payable August 2023 20 ZOHO Corporation Ltd re Zoho Mail 10gb, 16 users 0

Mailman Lists subscription 0

Zoom Subscription for 12 months - Not to be continued 200

Website Sponsorship 2 x £200 (400)

**Suggested Budget £480**

**4. Dining** Extra Digital for 'Event Manager System' (EMS) support

**£600**

Subtotal carried forward £1,130

## ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

### CLUB FUND BUDGET 2023/2024

**Period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024**

Subtotal brought forward

**5. Pentangular**

Balance at 1 April 2023 - £5,998

For Pentangular 2027

Pentangular Website fee

November Presidents Meeting Fee

November Presidents Meeting Expenses

**Suggested Budget**

**6. Mini Group Study**

(See Below)

(Martin Ward)

Balance at 1 July 2022

Members Contributions for 2022/23

Costs re St Quentin 2022

**Balance at 31 March 2023**

Leuven

Ludenscheid

Less Forecast transfer from 100 Club above

**Estimated balance after 2023 MGSE Total**

**Required in 2022/2023 sub:**

**Required balance at start 2023/2024**

<u>2023/2024</u>	
<u>Proposed Budget</u>	
£	£
	£2,125
3,000	
50	
70	
-	
	£3,120
764	
(1,200)	
-	
(£436)	
£500	
	£

Subject to the approval of the proposal by the Millennium Trust charity trustees, this cost is met out of the Millennium Trust funds.			
Total Budget Cost			£5,245
<b>Proposed 2023/24 Subscriptions</b>		<b>% increase</b>	
Divided by 50 members		0%	
<u>District Subscriptions</u>			
<u>RIBI Subscriptions</u>		29%	
			£105
<u>Foundation Subscription</u> OPTIONAL - Estimated at		11%	£18
			£78
		6%	£201
			£15
		0%	
		6%	£216