



Annual General Meeting

28th May 2019

Consolidated Annual Reports for Rotary Year 2018-2019

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The Rotary Club of Canterbury

Club No. 19411

Club Officers 2018-2019

President	: Margaret Griffin
Immediate Past President	: Sharon Jordan
President-Elect	: Neil Fraser
Vice President	: Alan Mepstead
Secretary	: Robert Boyd-Howell
Treasurer	: Lewis Norris
Chairman Community Service Cttee	: David Barton
Chairman International Service Cttee	: Viv Prichard
Chairman Vocational Cttee	: Alan Mepstead
Chairman Membership Cttee	: Robert Yonge
Chairman Awards Cttee	: Alastair Scott
Chairman Centenary Cttee	: Stephen Thompson
Chairman Foundation Cttee	: Alastair Scott
Chairman Fundraising Cttee	: Tony Loughran
Chairman Website & Comms Cttee	: Robert Boyd-Howell

Elected Members of Club Council

David Barton
Tony Loughran
Alan Mepstead
Viv Pritchard
Robert Yonge

President's Report 2018-19

This has been another busy and enjoyable year when although there have been deaths and resignations, there has been much life, new members and both substantial enjoyment and rewards for our activity both locally and overseas.

The annual Duck Race – as ever – was one of the highlights of the year when we magnanimously changed the date to accommodate “Engage”, the District Conference that was held at the University of Kent so that they could participate in the event. It was particularly gratifying to award prizes to those from other Rotary Clubs and especially to present cheques at the Abode Hotel to the local elderly winners who had supported the event for several years.

“Songs for a Summer's Evening”—the dinner that launched the year at the Cathedral Lodge stamped a measure of enjoyment that continued throughout the year. Followed by the “Open Farm Day “ held at Robert Boyd Howell's farm on a lovely day in July which raised over £1000 for one of my 3 charities for the year –The Juba School in South Sudan. My 2 other charities were more local – Canterbury Food Bank and Porchlight.

Another early highlight of the year was the annual Mini Group Study Exchange visit which was held here in Canterbury and organised by Martin Ward. This was another success. It was greatly enjoyed by all and the young people “jelled” into a group very quickly and I understand they are still in touch with each other and greatly appreciative of the opportunity that they had. For some it was life-changing.

The Pentangular contacts continue to be invaluable and the year started off with a visit from the St Quentin Club when we were able to meet and discuss some of the issues that are common to all in Rotary. We spent 2 very happy days with them visiting Chatham Dock Yard and then engaging with smaller groups in discussion. It proved to be a useful preparation for the Presidents' Annual Meeting in Leuven in November when our European Colleagues agreed to further support the School in Juba as we had been let down by not receiving support from Rotary Foundation.

The recent visit to St Quentin underlined the friendships that exist between the Clubs and our high attendance as a group helped us regain the privilege of being awarded “The CLOCK” for this coming year.

RECRUITMENT was also one of my aims for the year and the Guest evenings were used to attract interest and several newcomers attended. A tantalising Quiz Night, a Valentine Event and the hilarious Balloon Debate all added a different dimension to Rotary life and interested the visitors.

Links to the two local Universities was also high on the agenda and several meetings have taken place with Lecturers, Development Officers and students who have all shown interest. Both the Vice Chancellor and the new Dean of Medical School have spoken at our regular

meetings and have also expressed interest in having other meetings with us. Clearly this is ground that we can pursue.

All the Club Committees have been working hard and I have had not only the privilege of attending meetings from time to time but also of being engaged in some of their activities. I have enjoyed mentoring students in two local secondary schools. I have presented prizes at local primary schools for good essay- writing and attended the Public- speaking competition for Secondary schools. The work on the MSF has gained momentum and it is encouraging to see so many young people anxious to help those who are less privileged in the world. Quite a large number of us enjoyed an excellent afternoon at the Cathedral examining their archives – a very varied life.

I would like to thank all who have supported me during this year and particularly those who have stepped in and taken on a heavy role at short notice. Several past presidents have been particularly supportive, and I am very grateful to them for both their actions and helpful advice,

At times it has been quite a challenge but most of the time it has been both a privilege and enjoyable.

Margaret Griffin

Club Service Report: 2018-2019

Attendance at Club meetings has fluctuated between 55 and 67%, with an average of 60%. There has been an increased activity in promoting forthcoming speakers and this has improved attendance.

Our current EMS system for dining is working well, and Martin Ward did a training session during the year which was well received. The hard work of the Dining Secretary (Raj) has been recognised by Club Service, especially as he took over the role during this Rotary year.

The Speakers' programme was filled with the great work by Alan Forrest who has provided a wide range of interesting speakers. Alan handovers to the new speaker secretary, Phil Abbott (deputy Jennifer Brown) with a calendar filled until 27 August 2019. In 2019/2020 Members have been asked to provide speakers to supplement those generated by charities writing in, Millennium Scholarship students etc.

The Club's Archives have been relocated to the K & C and thanks to Alan Forrest for his work on this. Alan is working with Julie Reza on filling the gaps in the Presidential commentaries on their year in office. Julie is also ready to write an article on the first of the two Books of Biographies of Rotarians, and Alan will help her with this.

The Newsletter continues to be of a very high standard and is enjoyed by all Members.

During 2019 there have been a range of discussions on the proposed Presidential events and feedback on proposed changes being considered by the incoming President.

Neil Fraser, Chairman

Community Service Committee Report: 2018-2019

In the 2018/2019 Rotary Year a sum of £8199 has been distributed by the Community Service Committee:

1. Canterbury Foodbank £500 worth of food was delivered
2. Canterbury Street Pastors granted £300 to pay running costs following fraud by a trustee
3. Hersden School boy grant of £200 to pay for school trip
4. MS Therapy Centre £400 to fund hydrotherapy sessions.
5. Rotary Youth Leadership Award £ 350 to sponsor four boys on the Courses
6. Canterbury Recorder grant of £520 to replace recording equipment.
7. £474 to St Nicholas School visits to Margate Theatre and a soft play area.
8. Mustard Seed Singers £250 for expenses of concert in Collyer- Fergusson Hall
9. All4Fun donation of £200 to Querns Community Centre to help fund a trip for children
10. SERV (Blood runners) donation of £250 for containers for Breast Milk
11. Prince of Wales Youth Club £350 to help fund Xmas Community Lunch
12. Porchlight £1250 to refurbish one flat at Craddock House.
13. Wheel Potential grant of £460 for storage equipment for disabled bicycles
14. Tools for Self-Reliance £545 to provide air filtration units in workshop
15. Parkinson UK granted £500 to pay for hydrotherapy sessions
16. Honey Bears Nursery at K&CH grant of £700 for disabled swing
17. P S Breastfeeding donation of £450 for 3 electric breast pumps
18. Harbledown Girl Guides £150 for boots for a trek to Peru
19. Kingswood Training grant of £350 for chainsaw training of ex-addict

The Community Service Committee has confirmed its terms of reference as assisting people with grants of up to £1,000 to individuals, organisations & charities and with a strong local Canterbury connection. Each case will be considered on its merits.

David Barton, Chairman

International Service Committee Report: 2018-2019

At the start of the Rotary year, the committee considered the long-established terms of reference of the committee. It agreed that some changes should be made to reflect the changing priorities of the committee and the club.

The proposed revised Terms of Reference of the International Service Committee are:

- 1. To respond to disasters around the world, especially in the Third World and donate money to the disaster relief organisations such as Shelterbox, Aquabox and WaterAid.*
- 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 Third World 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.*

During the year, donations were made to purchase a total of six Shelterboxes in response to appeals for disaster relief for victims of the floods in Kerala and Cyclone Idai in southern Africa. A large element of the money for Shelterboxes was secured through street collections and individual donations.

A number of other donations were made by the committee to support a variety of smaller charities. Generally, donations of £300-£500 each were made to:

Children on the Edge for Rohingya refugees, Chaaria Hospital, Days for Girls, African Pastor Fellowship, ChildAid to Eastern Europe, Mary's Meals, DESO, New Life Nyambene, Healthcare Ethiopia Partnership, Health for All.

We hope to develop a longer-term relationship with key charities, and I anticipate that we will encourage these organisations to approach us to support new projects and initiatives in the future. We are also seeking to broaden the list of charities to cover new regions.

Throughout the year, the committee has sought to support civilian victims in conflict areas, such as Syria, Yemen and Myanmar. Unfortunately, due to the danger involved, charitable organisations seem unable to operate in these war zones.

The committee increased its total account with Lend with Care to £2,000. A very large number of small loans have been made to small enterprises around the world and, as loans are repaid, the money is directed to support new enterprises. The summary on the Lend with Care website shows that, to date, 100 loans have been awarded, 539 entrepreneurs have been helped, 1874 family members have benefited, and 344 jobs have been created.

At present, the priority of the committee is to ensure the successful completion of the Joint Pentangular Project - Juba Bursaries. In view of the failure to secure global grant for the project, the club was faced with a significant financial challenge to meet its obligations to the students in Juba. The committee agreed to donate £2,000 of its charitable funds to help to meet the shortfall. It is very pleased to report that, following successful fundraising initiatives, personal contributions from members, successful application for district grant and, recently, generous financial support from our pentangular partners, funding has now been secured to complete the 4-year bursaries.

I should like to thank all the members of the committee who have contributed to a successful year, by participating in stimulating discussions and exploring new ideas.

Viv Prichard, Chairman

Vocational Service Committee Report: 2018-2019

Schools and young people

Vocational Services have continued their policy of reaching out to schools and young people in the Canterbury area.

- Our third Children's' writing competition at Christmas time produced nearly 100 entries from six schools covering the primary school years one to six. However, as the schools were invited to only submit their top three in each year, we do know that many more children took part. Presentation of the prizes by the President at three school assemblies was a great success.
- Innovation competition. The sixth year of this is being held in collaboration with Canterbury Christchurch University and is proving very successful thanks to the sterling efforts of Brian Dobinson. Judging is presently taking place with entries from schools across East Kent. This year's format is slightly different with schools limited to their three best submissions. It is worth mentioning that three of our members are now STEM ambassadors for CCU.
- We have also supported the English Speaking Union Schools Public Speaking Competition at the Guildhall, and were very involved at the finals both judging and time-keeping.
- We were pleased to have a presentation from and to make a substantial donation to Queen Elizabeth School at Faversham for their entry into the schools Formula One project. This year they were second in the national finals and will now be competing in the International final in Dubai.
- Brian has been instrumental in getting school's mentoring under way organising Mock Interviews both at the Abbey School and at the Spires Academy, with some 15 Rotarians being involved. With the help of Maxine Blades, we are looking at ways of Coaching, Mentoring and Training as a means of engaging with and helping young people.

Outings and Events

Trips were arranged to the Post Office at Mount Pleasant, The Salvation Army at Denmark Hill, Malling Abbey, Canterbury Fire Station and the Cathedral archives, all of which were successful and enjoyed by the participants. We have a number of trips under consideration for next year.

Next Year

Mary McGeary will be Chairperson next year and I know that all the members of the committee will give her the support that they have given me over the past few years. I would like to thank most sincerely each and every member of the Committee for that support and for their invaluable input to Vocational Services.

Alan Mepstead, Chairman

Find Raising Committee Report: 2018-2019

The Committee's objective is to raise the funds that oil other parts of the Rotary Wheel namely Community Service and International Committees. In addition, we will fundraise for any ad hoc reasons such as natural disasters that Rotary GB and Ireland will support.

For the last few years the focus has been on a number of major fundraisers to raise the target sum of £15000. With the loss of the Top Choir event there remains a need to continue to ensure that the major events we run are successful. The balance remains to not place the complete onus of Rotarians to raise the funds and involve the public and other groups to help with the fundraising.

The Duck race in September continues to grow in popularity and after many years we need to continue to build on what we have so far achieved. That is why the social media is so important to publicise this event. Years gone by when we first started there were not that many attending other than Rotary and their families. Now it is full of families and indeed duck sales on the day make a very important contribution to the overall income. You will have received from Simon and Julie a questionnaire and this is part of the Committee's focus to diversify sponsor income, build local retail support and avoid over reliance on Rotary sales. This all stemmed from a joint meeting with Sandwich RC who run a very successful duck race and with these exchange ideas we hope to sustain the Canterbury race for many years to come. Profit for the 2018 race was £4,318,00. With some renewal and fresh ideas for income generation we should be able to build this back to a £6000 target.

Two other major events were the Boxing in November 2018 which raised £5,283 and cemented the club's relationship with the Prince of Wales Boxing Club. In February 2019 there was a new departure with the Old Bull n Bush evening. The Lindley Players gave us great support and £3,039 was raised.

At Christmas we held collections at Morrison's and The White friars £1265 raised by our hardy members who braved a particularly cold snap to collet over four days.

The wishing well raised £914. Its move to Sainsbury's was not successful and we hope for better times with its new location at Tesco's. Early indications are favourable.

At the start of the year the Hog Roast courtesy of the Boyd-Howells raised a very useful £1086 to help with our on-going commitment to the Juba project.

On behalf of the Committee may I thank you all for your support and commitment during the year.

Tony Loughran, Chairman

Membership Committee Report: 2018-2019

The Rotary year 2018/19 has been a quiet year for the recruitment of new members. This year, two new members joined the Club. It had been the intention earlier in this Rotary year to have a potential new members recruitment meeting as we need to maintain our membership numbers. However, owing to some local difficulties within the Club earlier this year it was felt this meeting should be postponed until a later date. It is the committee's view that all members should actively consider proposing new members as it should not just be left to members of the committee.

The practice which commenced four years ago of rotating new members around the three main committees on a three-monthly basis has been fairly successful in most cases. However there have been occasions when new members have been asked to undertake rather onerous duties or have been made a permanent member of a committee before they have completed the three-committee rotation.

The membership committee strongly believes in Club Council's endorsement that new members should complete the three-committee rotation programme prior to becoming a permanent member of a committee. The rotation programme helps new members to gain a comprehensive knowledge of the workings of the Club and also assists them in becoming better acquainted with Club members. The integration of new members into the fellowship of the Club is very important. It is surprising how often one is asked who is that about new members who have been in the Club for some time.

During the year the committee did discuss the possibility of the Club offering corporate membership. There was a strong view amongst the majority of the committee members that going down this route would not necessarily enhance the Club's activities but could adversely alter the character of the Club. However, it was agreed that a further discussion should take place sometime in the future and that in the meantime it would be helpful to ascertain the experiences of other clubs that have gone down this route.

I am now after a number of years stepping down as chairman of this committee, I would like to thank all members of the committee over this period for their time and commitment.

Robert Yonge, Chairman

Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund Report: 2018-2019

During 2018 the body of Trustees was expanded from the original President Treasurer and Secretary to include the Immediate Past President, the President Elect and three Club members and all appointed in line with the terms of the original Charity deed.

The Charity deed forming the approved Charity Commission Scheme was signed on 11th May 1999. Members raised some £48,000 to provide a capital sum so that income generated would provide grants to young people from Canterbury undertaking charitable work abroad through recognised national charities.

When they met last Autumn the Trustees to this separate charity faced a number of challenges. Income had risen over the years to a modest sum of about £2,800 but Trustees over the years have experienced difficulty in identifying enough suitable candidates. Some £9,000 of unspent accumulated income was invested in 2009 and by autumn 2018 there was a further unspent accumulation of some £10,000. There were only two years in the last ten years where grants made exceeded income and one year when no grants were made at all. With this background a number of decisions were made.

Trustees considered if the scheme should be rewritten with approval from the Charity Commission, but experience has since shown that the original scheme is as relevant today as when it was written.

It was agreed that candidates would qualify if they lived, worked or studied in Canterbury but there is no clear definition of what area Canterbury represents. Trustees consider that it is a general term for the district of Canterbury to include outlying villages.

Grants approval would be made by a minimum of three trustees who would each sign a grant approval form. Cheques would continue to be issued by the Club Treasurer and signed in line with the mandate for all other Club bank accounts.

Traditionally the scheme had been promoted through local schools. It was felt that this needed to be expanded to include religious organisations, youth groups, universities Scouts and Guides. Details of the charity scheme were circulated to thirty-two such organisations asking them to mention the scheme to any suitable candidates, include it in any magazine or publication and post a notice on a public display board.

Trustees consider that this year they have achieved the objective of raising awareness of the scheme and attracting grant applications. To date grants have been made to ten young people from schools, universities and Girl Guiding going on charity work in such places as Costa Rica, Cambodia, Mexico, Zanzibar, Uganda and Honduras. Ten grants have been made totalling £5,200. We are looking forward to hearing about their experiences at later meetings. A commitment has also been made for a grant for 2020.

Clause 1b of the scheme enabled Trustees to seek approval for grants for charitable purposes from Club members at a duly constituted Club meeting. This was tested for the first time earlier this year to assist travel costs for a disadvantaged Spires Academy student and members have recently agreed to support Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School students travelling to Vietnam next summer.

Trustees accept responsibility for all aspects of the Charity. An investment review and reserves policy has been completed and the Trustees' Report and financial statement has been approved in line with Charity Commission directions.

My grateful thanks to the Trustees for the help and support given during this successful year.

Roger Power, Trustee