



Braunton Caen Rotary



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

POLIO UPDATE

BREAKING NEWS...

At the time of going to print, the latest polio figures are as follows:

- 1 child paralysed by polio in Afghanistan and 1 child in Pakistan (while the total number of 2020 cases remain 140).

On 29.03.21 the 2nd national polio immunisation campaign of 2021 was launched in Afghanistan, with the aim of targeting approx 9.9 million children under the age of 5 against polio during the 5-day campaign across the country. A supplementary dose of vitamin A will also be administered to children aged 6 to 59 months during this campaign.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary



This year's Rotary International theme for 2020-21 "Rotary Opens Opportunities" was chosen by RI President Holger Knaack. "Rotary is not just a club that you join. It is an invitation to endless opportunities. It opens opportunities to serve in a project as big and historic as End Polio Now and also in a small community project, where you just plant a tree. It opens opportunities for you to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

Anonymous Donation During Lockdown

With the opportunities for the Club to organise its usual fundraising events seriously curtailed due to the Covid pandemic, we like others, have found that our ability to support local charities similarly restricted. However, as a result of the publicity around locating unwanted laptops and tablets to support distance learning for pupils of local schools during the recent lockdown, the Rotary Club was contacted by a former resident of Braunton, now living abroad, who most generously wished to support our work.

We were greatly surprised (and extremely grateful) when the donor decided to send us £2,000 to help support those local charities which were themselves supporting the most deprived or vulnerable people during this very difficult and stressful time.

After discussion within the Club and with the donor, we decided to support four charities, giving each of them £500. The chosen charities were the South Street Braunton Food Bank (currently supporting 100 people), the Ilfracombe Foodbank, Encompass South West (which supports homeless people, especially those in more rural areas locally) and North Devon Against Domestic Abuse.



NDADA said: "We are dealing with increased demand for support which is much more complex in nature than previously. We have not closed or reduced any of our support services but have found additional ways of delivering these thereby keeping women, children and families safe. The refuge has remained open with staff attending on a rota basis in order to comply with Covid-19 restrictions. Group work has continued using various

forms of media and this has been so successful that we have decided to retain this type of support alongside face to face work once the restrictions have lifted. In this way we are able to support higher numbers especially those who are more rurally located and without transport. This donation will be put towards the additional costs of delivering these services and will have a direct beneficial effect on the lives on those individuals in our community who are affected by domestic abuse."

All the funds were given to the charities very promptly, as their needs were (and still are) urgent.

Braunton Caen Rotary would like to express its sincere gratitude to the donor for helping to support this community in these difficult times, and to Rotarian Paul Cockcroft for leading on this initiative.





Memory Café News

The memory café has been busy this month. We have been keeping in touch via our phone calls. During one such call we ascertained that one of our member's TV had not been working for some time. The team were offered a TV which could be recycled, and this was delivered and set

up for our member as a stop gap until he is able to get out and buy a new one. He was so

appreciative of what we had done for him.



We would like to thank local businesses, Nick of Braunton TV and Ross Wensley, local electrician, as well as Val and Mark Cann for their assistance in this matter.

From our phone calls we have ascertained that sadly we will be losing three members, as two will be moving to new homes out of the area and the other has had to move into a care home.

The Residents at Mariners Close have come to a bit of a stand still in respect of moving into their new homes, and it looks as though nothing is going to happen quickly. We have asked them to inform us when they get notified of a move, so we can remain in contact and so they will be able to come along when we start up again.

Everyone has been notified that we hope to restart our meetings at the end of June (last Wednesday of the month). We will

then be moving our monthly sessions to the Vivian Moon Centre. All have indicated that they are looking forward to this happening.

Rotarian Serena and George have again written a newsletter which emphasised the beginning of Spring. To accompany the newsletter we gave everyone a Easter Egg. We have received many thank you's for the gifts, and everyone is appreciative of the support throughout lockdown.



Virtual Balloon Race



Braunton Caen Rotary are very proud to be leading a fundraising initiative with Northern Devon Rotary Clubs, to raise money for the North Devon Hospice in the form of an online balloon race.

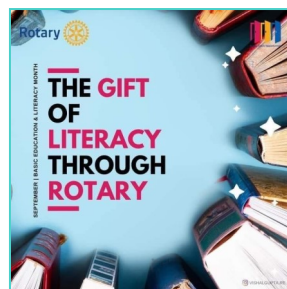
We sold over 800 balloons in the weeks leading up to the race, which was launched 'virtually' on Easter Sunday from Istanbul. It is hoped that an update on total monies raised will be available for the next edition.

The race uses real weather conditions to determine the progress of each balloon and those who purchased balloons have had great fun this week tracking them.

A fun way of entertaining families over the Easter period whilst raising money for such a worthwhile cause.



Youth



It is

hoped that our literacy programme will recommence at Southmead Primary School after Easter for the Summer Term.

We are extremely grateful to Mrs McIntosh, our literacy teacher, for her commitment to the programme.

To date, 32 children have taken part in the programme at Southmead School so far, 16 girls and 16 boys, all of whom were reading significantly below their chronological age at the start of the programme, and all of whom made significant improvements in their levels of comprehension.

Rotary

Youth Competitions

Young Artist and Young Photographer

In October half term Braunton Caen Rotary launched a number of Youth Competitions.

We have had great success with entrants to these competitions; Louis Young won the Young Artist District Final in the Junior section and Rowan Heap won the Intermediate section of Young Photographer with her beautiful photo of a spiders web. Both have gone forward to the National Final.

We hope that certificates will be produced for a presentation (Covid restrictions permitting) for the winners and runners up to take part in.



TAKE ACTION: rotarygbi.org

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Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland

Covid Response

Braunton Academy - Covid Rapid Testing



We are delighted to have been able to support our local Braunton Academy with Covid Rapid Testing to enable the students to return to school. Each student was tested three times over a period of three weeks, which was a massive logistical exercise with 700 students ie 2,100 tests. The aim was to test the students quickly and efficiently with minimal disruption to their education. All volunteers completed a series of on-line training modules and visited the test centre in advance so they could see how it functioned, before starting the series of sessions over a 3 week period. Our roles were as Test Assistants, encouraging and reassuring the students as they take their own swabs, and Test Processors. We would like to express our thanks to Val & Mark Cann, and to Jan Rolfe of Braunton Inner Wheel, for working with us.



All volunteers were delighted to receive an invitation to lunch at the Academy with members of the school testing team later this month.

Vaccine Stewarding

Braunton Caen has been very proud to help the local community during these challenging times. Since January, we have been helping other voluntary organisations with marshalling at the Leisure Centre in Barnstaple to offer support and be on hand for people attending.



Braunton Academy

We were delighted to be able to support Mickey Fry in his fundraising efforts to help fund the purchase of a new Concept2 Rowing Machine for the Sports Department at Braunton Academy, by donating £100. Mickey undertook an indoor rowing challenge during March to raise £900 for one machine, by rowing 10,000 metres a day for the duration of March.

Mickey said: "Thank you so much for all your kind support, it has given me the determination to keep going to the bitter end." Mickey is a keen veteran rower and the challenge was a big personal achievement. Well done from all of us.



The Rotary Foundation

Since March 2020 Rotary's own charity, The Rotary Foundation, has awarded \$32million in relief grants for Covid 19 related projects, worldwide. In total last year 1,359 grants were made totalling over \$95 million. This is double the amount of six years ago when the present global system was started.

Work on the refurbishment of the accommodation facilities at North Devon Hospice which is to commence in May, is an example of how Foundation monies are put to good use in local communities. The project was enabled by a District grant initiative led by Holsworthy club, to which we were very happy to contribute.

A 7th area of focus has recently been added i.e. Supporting the Environment. The other 6 areas are: Peacebuilding and conflict prevention; Disease prevention and treatment; Water, sanitation, and hygiene; Maternal and child health; Basic education and literacy; and community economic development.



The Braunton Caen Rotary Flower Planter

Our planter in the village outside Slee's Home Hardware is planted and maintained by our club to brighten up the centre of the village.

Rotarian Geoff Triggs, has produced a fabulous Spring display this year, and we thank him for his hard work.



April / May Diary Dates

Braunton Caen
Rotary



Wednesday 7th April	Social Evening with Barnstaple Link & Ilfracombe Rotary Clubs, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 14th April	Speaker Meeting: Melanie Riley re Brain Tumour Research, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 16th April	Village Fair Committee Meeting, 19:00 by Zoom
Saturday 17th April	District Assembly Meeting, 09:30 by Zoom
Tuesday 20th April	Club Council, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 21st April	Speaker Meeting: "Apartheid in South Africa" by Rotarian Doug Brodie, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 28th April	Our Club Matters Meeting, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 5th May	Speaker Meeting: Rotary Shoebox Appeal by Nigel Danby, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 12th May	Club Annual General Meeting, a look back at the past Rotary year, 19:00 by Zoom
Wednesday 19th May	Mission Spring Clean, a service/activity in the local community, 18:30
Wednesday 26th May	Our Club Matters Meeting, 19:00 by Zoom

Although we're not able to meet face to face at the moment, we have embraced modern technology and are currently meeting weekly via Zoom on line video conferencing.

We would be delighted to welcome visitors to any of our meetings from the comfort of your homes!

If you would like to join us, please contact as at admin@brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk and we will send you a meeting link.

Club Contact Information

Website: www.brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk

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Meeting place

The Mariner's Arms in South Street, Braunton.

Wednesday Nights at 7.00pm—8.00pm