



# Braunton Caen Rotary



## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

### POLIO UPDATE

#### BREAKING NEWS...

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

- 12 children paralysed by polio in Afghanistan (compared to 11 this time last year).

- 47 children paralyzed by polio in Pakistan (compared to 23 this time last year).

Worryingly, circulating vaccine-derived polio-virus has increased with 104 cases so far this year, compared to 25 at the same time last year. cVDPV is a rare, circulating virus mutated from the weakened virus which can only emerge in under-immunised populations where there is low immunisation rates, poor sanitation and high population densities.

## Caen Memory Cafe

We are not able currently to hold our Memory Cafe and we are therefore keeping in contact with our members by regular phone calls for a chat.

We have sent to each a Rainbow Card with a personal message from us. Many live alone and others have carers living with them and it is always good to talk to someone you know.

We have also begun a series of newsletters, the first of which honoured VE Day and our second at the end of May has the Village Fair as its theme. From feedback so far this seems to have been well received.

We have distributed a small bag containing activity books, a few luxuries and some useful items and a few jokes which

we hope will provide a bright spot in their day.

We thank Tesco's and CopyCatz for their kind donations contributing to the contents.

We look forward to the day when we can resume the Café and meet face to face again.

The photographs show our Memory Café Team delivering the goodie bags to Memory Café members.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary



This year's Rotary International theme for 2019-20 "Rotary Connects the World" was chosen by RI President Mark Daniel Maloney. He asks Rotarians to strengthen the many ways that Rotary Connects the World, building the connections that allow talented, thoughtful, and generous people to unite and take meaningful action through Rotary service.

## Rotarian Peter Kingdon PHF

We are very sad to report that Braunton Caen Rotary Club has lost one of its most able and experienced members with the sudden death of Peter Kingdon. He was a much loved and respected member of our club who will be missed by all Rotarians and the wider community in Braunton and beyond.

Peter was a Rotarian for nearly 25 years, freely giving his time and energy for the benefit of others. Before joining Rotary he had been involved with the Leonard Cheshire charity and was a national trustee. In Braunton he was able to give valuable help and advice to Westmead House, the local care home for those with disabilities.

He was particularly interested in the international nature of Rotary, helping those less fortunate in other parts of the world as well as locally and nationally.

At club and district level he was deeply involved with the Rotary Foundation, the body within Rotary which makes grants to clubs and districts to carry out projects to fulfil the Rotary mission. In 100 years since its formation it has spent in excess of 4 billion dollars on life changing sustainable projects.

As a member of Braunton Rotary Club, after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004 he contacted Rotarians in Sri Lanka (one of the worst affected nations) to ascertain their urgent needs and offer help. This led to a very successful project funded by a Foundation grant to provide water purification in the devastated region. He visited the area and ensured that the project was successfully completed, in the process working with local Rotarians and making new friends. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his work.

Peter was very sociable and loved meeting people, exemplified by his attendance at the Rotary International conference in Montreal in 2010 where he spent time talking to as many Rotarians from around the world as possible to find out about their clubs and projects. It was a joy to spend time with him; his enthusiasm was infectious and he certainly inspired many other Rotarians to join or lead projects and he was always available to give advice and support when needed.

He embraced the "End Polio Now" campaign and in Nov 2009 travelled to India with a group of other Rotarians to witness and take part in the national immunisation programme. Those who have been on one of these journeys all return to say that it was a unique, life-changing experience. He was amazed and humbled by the massive efforts of the local Rotarians who organise these days right across the country. He was able to travel to very poor areas and give the drops of vaccine to dozens of young children. Like all Rotarians he was overjoyed when India was declared Polio Free.



*Peter immunising a child against polio*



*Peter with Founder President, Alan Cunnington*



*Peter and Sue in India*

Peter became president of Braunton Rotary Club in 2010 after it had been decided to form a new club, Braunton Caen. He was very supportive of this as a means to appeal to a wider membership and expand Rotary in the area. After completing his presidential year he joined Braunton Caen and we were lucky to have him as a member for nearly 10 years.

## Rotarian Peter Kingdon PHF (continued)

His hospitality, generosity and good humour helped to bring people together and he supported all the club's activities. Whenever transport was needed he would be there with his 'trusty truck' to take supplies or equipment wherever it was required. The last project which he championed was to help a charity in Tanzania called Umoja which enables children to attend school and be supported throughout their education to gain qualifications so they can go on to higher education or into work. Our club has sponsored several students during their time at

Umoja and been rewarded by seeing their achievements. We intend to carry on with Peter's vision to sustain and support this work and build on its success.

We will all remember Peter with great affection and our best tribute will be to try and follow his example.

By  
Dr Alan Cunnington,  
Founder President,  
The Rotary Club of Braunton Caen



## Message from President Paul

We hope this newsletter finds you keeping well and cheerful despite the impact of the present somewhat different circumstances in which we find ourselves. This is our first newsletter since we all went into lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, back in March. However we have continued to hold our meetings, on-line in the virtual world, rather than face-to-face. Regrettably, many of our planned events and efforts to raise funds in order to support people both locally and further afield, have had to be cancelled or postponed, notably the annual Car Tour, the Village Fair and Braunton Wheels. But, we are already planning events for after lockdown, whenever that will be.

Sadly, we have also had to stop our

monthly Memory Café for the present, but are keeping in touch with those who have been attending regularly, through telephone calls and a newsletter. We have just delivered to each of them a box of goodies, to help them cope with the present isolation and to let them know we are still thinking of them (please see Memory Café report on page 1).

We are looking at other ways we might support our community and be able to raise more charitable funds during the period of social distancing, a challenge in itself!

Hopefully, we are seeing the peak of the UK outbreak over and the beginning of a recovery with a return



soon to what will inevitable be a new kind of "normal" life. However, until a vaccine is developed with proven protective effect and is made widely available, the more vulnerable of us may well not be able to return to a life similar to that before the epidemic. This Club will however try to carry on supporting the community as near to normally as present conditions allow.

We hope you and your families stay well and stay safe until the situation returns to normal.

# May/June Diary Braunton Caen Rotary Dates



Wednesday 20th May	Open Meeting, all welcome: On-line quiz
Wednesday 27th May	Speaker Meeting: Melanie Regan, Braunton Football Club Ability Team. All Welcome
Wednesday 3rd June	Club Assembly, all welcome
Wednesday 10th June	Speaker Meeting: Brian Gilbert, "The valuable work of voluntary libraries". All welcome
Wednesday 17th June	Open Meeting, all welcome
Wednesday 24th June	Club Handover
SUMMER PROGRAMME (to be confirmed)	

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](mailto:admin@brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk) and we will send you a meeting link.



## Club Contact Information

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### Our Usual Meeting place

The Mariner's Arms in South Street, Braunton.

However, during lockdown we are meeting via Zoom technology; Wednesday Nights at 7.00pm—8.00pm