



Braunton Caen Rotary



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

POLIO UPDATE

BREAKING NEWS...

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

- 37 children paralysed by polio in Afghanistan (compared to 17 this time last year).

- 65 children paralysed by polio in Pakistan (compared to 67 this time last year).

A total of 102 cases; which is very disturbing when compared to the total for 2019 of 176; and 33 in 2018.

Polio vaccination campaigns have resumed worldwide to tackle an immunity gap that has widened during the coronavirus pandemic.

ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL



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.

Braunton Caen Rotary - People of Action

A look back over the summer

Braunton Caen is very proud to have continued supporting the local community and those in need in troubled communities elsewhere in the world during the difficult months this year. Despite Covid, we have still continued to meet virtually by Zoom, and kept in touch with those unable to attend.

In the early days, several members answered Braunton Community Network's call for help and signed up as street co-ordinators as part of the local neighbourhood project providing a co-ordinated support system for the vulnerable and isolated.

Our Memory Café team have been keeping in contact with its members by regular phone calls for a chat and they sent each a Rainbow Card with a personal message. They also began a series of newsletters and gifts which have been distributed personally each month, which hopefully has provided comfort and entertainment to their days, many of whom have had no social contact for a long time.

As a result of this, several new members have joined the café and are now receiving regular contact. Thank you letters from clients and so much

appreciation are being received regularly.

We are cognisant that many charities have been struggling financially with their main fundraising streams and events curtailed. We have therefore been delighted to donate money to NDADA (North Devon Against Domestic Abuse), the Calvert Trust, ChemoHero, South Street Foodbank and most recently the Topic of Cancer and the North Devon Branch of the Veterans Charity.

We are delighted to have been able to sponsor the Braunton FC Ability Team with a supply of personalised rain-jackets for the whole team and coaches.

As well as supporting the local community, we have also not forgotten those struggling in developing countries and have donating to Shelterbox, Marys Meals, Aquabox and Umoja, Tanzania. We also held a bucket collection at Braunton Tesco for those affected by the Beirut explosion.

One of our members wrote a delightful book of Limericks during lockdown

which so far has raised £950 for the Hospital's Over & Above Charity.

We provided entertainment during the summer holidays by running a virtual Braunton Wheels event; and also ran a Mad Monster Competition inviting photos of monsters made from household plastic rubbish and recycling.

We have also recognised the VJ Day anniversary by laying a wreath at the Burma Star Memorial to remember all the fallen of the conflict during WWII.

On a practical basis, members have enjoyed tending the rosebeds at the Memorial Gardens over the summer, maintaining the garden at Score Bridge, and weeding the streets in Braunton, which have formed part of our big village clean community project and has supported the Parish Council's gardening team.

We enjoyed a beach clean and litter pick at Croyde on a beautiful summer's evening.

Despite the restrictions of Covid, we have had great fun and enjoyed fellowship & friendship during this period. If anyone would like to join in the fun, please get in touch!

Memory Café News

Although we are not able to hold monthly memory cafés at the moment, we are supporting members by delivering a goody bag and regular phone calls.

Six members of Braunton Caen Rotary gathered together on a wet evening to hand-deliver this month's goody bag which contained a CD

from local jazz musician Steve Tucker, biscuits from Fine Foods and a newsletter all about music in Braunton.

They were received with lots of happy faces and appreciation. We wish to express our gratitude to Steve Tucker for allowing us to copy his CD.

Since the pandemic started four new members have joined the group, which is so encouraging.

Further information on Caen Memory café can be found at

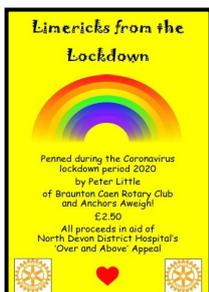
<https://brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk/memory-cafe>



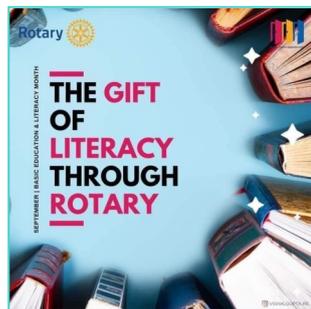
Limericks from Lockdown

Rotarian Peter Little was very creative during Lockdown and wrote a delightful book of Limericks. The latest figures show that over £950 has been raised from the sales of the booklet. He is now so close to meeting his target of £1,000 for the Hospital's Over & Above Charity. If you would like to purchase a copy at just £2.50, Peter can be contacted by email at Peterlittle48@outlook.com, or by emailing admin@brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk.

Julie Whitton, Senior Hospital Fundraiser, said: "This is absolutely FANTASTIC - you have been phenomenally supportive to us. I've loved reading the book. Truly amazing!"



Youth Update



We were delighted to hear that the literacy programme recommenced in Southmead School at the end of September.

Our literacy teacher, Elaine McIntosh is so pleased to be back in school. Four pupils (two girls and two boys) have been selected by the school for the Autumn term, and will receive daily sessions over the eight week period. As well as shared reading, the children enjoy various word games.

To date, 28 children have taken part in the programme at Southmead School, 14

boys and 14 girls, 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.

Teacher's feedback is that general behaviour has improved, with a marked improvement in their concentration levels and self confidence.

At half term we hope to launch a number of Rotary Youth competitions which do not need school or teacher input or face-to-face contact with other pupils. Keep a look out on the Braunton Community Facebook pages for information on Young Artist, Young Writer, Young Photographer, Young Film Maker and Young Environmentalist with full details and application forms.

International Update

Umoja Tanzania

A productive meeting was held this month between Umoja's Director, Caroline Goody, Roger and Paula Byrom from Braunton Caen Rotary Club and David Winter from Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Rotary in Melbourne, Australia. We discussed the renovation proposal for the new site and the next steps needed in fundraising to make it happen. An appeal has been launched to raise \$100,000 AUD to move the school to the new site, a dream that needs to come true for all the vulnerable youth in Arusha Tanzania! Further information can be found at <https://www.umojatanzania.org/who-we-are/umoja-centre>.



Club Donations

The Veterans Charity (North Devon Branch)

Casting our minds back to last year, a club member saw this charity in Tesco Braunton collecting and whilst giving a donation also asked for their contact details



for the club. After months following lockdown we had an enlightening Zoom talk with impressive photos from Dave Viner & Danny Greeno. They help Service veterans with emergency aid as a "first port of call", they give support and hopefully forward them to people who can provide longer term assistance. We had no idea that this nationwide charity's Head Office was on Seven Brethren, Barnstaple and wanted to assist such a helpful cause. President Paula Byrom is shown here handing our cheque to Dave Viner at their Head Office, who was obviously extremely grateful.



Topic of Cancer

Sue & Ivan Godfrey of Tiverton Rotary Club gave our club an interesting Zoom presentation about their trip from Lands End to John O'groats by bike (quite an achievement) with photos of incidents(!), places of interest and views en route. They concluded by telling us about the beneficiary of money through sponsorship or given whilst they travelled, to The Topic of Cancer. We were so impressed by their efforts and determination plus the charity they had chosen, we decided we'd like to offer support by giving a small donation in September. We've since received communications of thanks from both the charity and Ivan Godfrey for our generosity.

Caring for the Environment

Beach Clean

During the month of September, we focused on environmental awareness. Following the successful Mad Monster Competition, we were delighted to welcome Claire Moody of Plastic Free North Devon, and Andy Bell of North Devon Biosphere to a club meeting, where we



learned more about their valuable work in the local community.

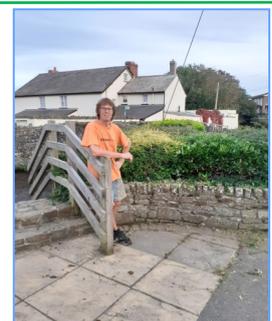


Then on a beautiful mid-September evening, some of our members met in two discrete areas (in order to adhere to the latest government guidelines of up to six in a group), one group was on Downend Beach and the other at Baggy Point to take part in a beach clean and litter pick. We were collecting plastic and general waste which has huge effects on our local environment and wildlife. Such an enjoyable event and an opportunity to enjoy an activity with friends.



Gardening

Head gardener Karl and his green fingered helpers have been out and about maintaining the garden at Score Bridge, which is maintained by members of Braunton Caen. This formed part of our big village clean community project.



October Diary Braunton Caen Dates Rotary



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| Wednesday 7th October | Speaker Meeting: Dr Alan Cunnington regarding his trip to India to administer polio drops to |
| Wednesday 14th October | Activities such as planting crocus corms and gardening in the village, 18:00 |
| Tuesday 20th October | Club Council, 19:00 by Zoom |
| Wednesday 21st October | Speaker Meeting: Rotarians Mike & Bernice Yates, organisers of international volunteers to India to provide hands on support to local Rotarians and healthcare workers with administering polio drops to children, 19:00 by Zoom |
| Saturday 24th October | World Polio Day Celebration Event: Speakers Rotarian Sanjay Khanna of Bhiwaid Rotary in India, who co-ordinated the first ever visit of international Rotarians to help immunise children against polio; and Rotarian GB&I Polio Champion Jannine Birtwhistle, 10:00 by Zoom |
| Wednesday 28th October | Our Club Matters Meeting, 19:00 by Zoom |

Hold the Date - Rotary Charity Car Tour

Good News :

The 2021 Rotary Charity Car Tour WILL take place on Sunday 18th April 2021. This will be the 10th Anniversary of the event. The venue has been booked and all entrants for the 2020 event can have their entries carried over to 2021. If you would like further information, or to put your name down now for 2021, please email Jan, j.lewis175@btinternet.com. Hopefully see even more cars drivers and navigators then.



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

Facebook: The Rotary Club of Braunton Caen

Club President: Paula Byrom 07772 770850 paulabyrom@rpbfunerals.co.uk

Club Secretary: Jan Lewis 07967 896192 j.lewis175@btinternet.com

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Facebook

Have you looked at our Facebook page?

Why not like and share our items

Meeting place

The Mariner's Arms in South Street, Braunton.
Wednesday Nights at 7.00pm—8.00pm