

# STORT VALLEY ROTARY

## SPECIAL NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2020

### THE SHOW WE ALL NEED TO BLOW AWAY LOCKDOWN BLUES



Our Stort Valley Rotary Virtual Christmas Concert is proving to be a greater success than we anticipated.

Putting on the show was our attempt to blow away lockdown blues with some seasonal festive spirit. We also

hoped those viewing our show would donate to our nominated charities Isabel Hospice, Coram Life Education and BuildAid. Putting on the show has been led by Stort Valley Rotary President Gordon Morrison supported by members of our club and with tremendous help from friends who support our objectives. Already over £9,000 has

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been donated and it would be fantastic should we reach our target of £10,000 by Christmas Day although the show will not be taken down until 6 January 2021. We have had good coverage in local media including Essex Radio and a full-page article in the Stortford Independent. Anyone who has not yet seen this lovely Christmas show should visit <https://stortvalleyrotary.com/donate> In fact anyone who has already seen the show may wish to revisit to see again their favourite act and they may also decide to donate a little more. The collage of participants below illustrates the quality and variety of the show.



Find us at:  
[stortvalleyrotary.com](http://stortvalleyrotary.com)

Rotary  
Club of Stort Valley





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## WHO IS CARING FOR THE CARERS?



Rotary has formed a one-year partnership with the charity Carers UK. The aim is to “Make Caring Visible.” The statistics are staggering, and it is of great concern that there is such low awareness. It is estimated that there are 6.5 million UK carers, 1 in 8 in the population. At present, membership of

Carers UK is 32,000 and the immediate ambition is to increase it to 40,000. With nationwide reach, Rotary is the ideal partner to raise awareness and achieve greater impact.

Carers UK work to make life better for carers. A Helpline offers expert advice on financial and practical matters. The website covers all aspects of caring with up-to-date COVID-19 guidance. Every Rotary Club is recommended to have a member nominated as an ambassador to raise awareness and to channel resource of Carers UK to the local community.

Joan George is our club ambassador. She is asking all members to identify any carer they know and, directly or with Joan’s help, to tell them of Carers UK and the benefits it offers. Sensitivity will be essential when approaching carers but they should be made aware of the organisation and directed to its website.



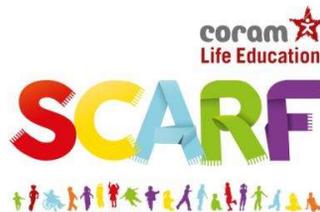
## CORAM LIFE EDUCATION RESILIENT & RESOURCEFUL DURING COVID-19

We are all familiar with the good work being done by Coram Life Education in our local schools. However, we are probably not all aware of all the work going on behind the scenes with the Essex and East Herts Coram Life Education Branch Support Group. Our club make a crucial contribution to this group which promotes CLE in District 1240, raises funds and supports Coram with this ground-breaking work. Below is a review by Colin George following the CLE Group most recent meeting:





“Readers may not be aware that our Coram Life Education Branch has a Support Group consisting of Rotarians from District 1240 that helps to fundraise and promote CLE. It is chaired by Peter Dowse Chair of District Youth and includes Colin George (Secretary), Susan Haddock Stort Valley Rotary Club Secretary, a representative from Inner Wheel and a retired Headmaster who is a National Trustee of CLE. We are joined by Harriet Gill MD of CLE and Nancy Hughes Branch Educator/Manager. Individual Clubs are encouraged to focus on helping to promote and support CLE in their local schools. Stort Valley has needed no encouragement, as we started introducing CLE to our partner schools 7 years ago and East Herts schools now represent half the schools covered by the Branch. It has been highly satisfying to see the



enthusiasm with which local schools have adopted CLE with its emphasis on Life Skills and Emotional Intelligence. Equally satisfying has been the development of CLE’s range of support to schools from one programme

delivered annually in schools, to the present when schools are offered a full on line suite of lessons covering all the none core curriculum areas (PSHE ). CLE call this SCARF ( Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship), and teachers can download class plans, support materials and even videos to teach all that Ofsted requires of them. The core programme delivered to each class by our Educator Nancy, adds memorable added value each year.

The time since Covid shut down our schools, have seen CLE at its creative best. And that has provided the opportunity for us to really make a difference. CLE was unable to deliver its programme in schools and therefore all fee income was cut off. Our Educator Nancy was furloughed and we were in danger of losing the relationships built up with the schools. Our financial support allowed Nancy to be brought back and fully participate in the work to adapt the core programme to virtual delivery and retain relationships when schools returned in September.

The achievements have been impressive. A daily on line “Harold’s Diary” was offered free to help parents with home schooling, a “Back to school with SCARF “package was offered, again free, to all schools to help prepare them for returning. Extensive work was done by a very small team on virtual delivery of the core programme so that schools could be offered continuity of “visits” when they returned but could not have face to face visits. The response of schools has fully justified the work as they have welcomed this alternative method of delivery.

At the same time the team have been running on line teacher training courses for teachers who will now have to deliver statutory sex and relationship courses that they have no previous training for as well as explain the programmes to parents. There is a waiting list!

As well as working with Support Group to extend the coverage of CLE particularly in Essex, our Club will continue our support to ensure that the children of East Herts will always benefit from the programmes of a wonderful charity.”

**POST COVID-19 STORT VALLEY ROTARY WILL HAVE A  
GREATER ROLE TO PLAY IN OUR COMMUNITY**