

STORT VALLEY ROTARY

NEWSLETTER

June 2021



**Tuesday 29 June
at 7-30pm**



Ed Anthony, Director Health and Wellbeing in Schools – Feedback on Social Prescribing validation programme

PRESIDENT'S PREAMBLE



Fellow Rotarians and Friends,

As we struggle to leave our current partial lockdown, patience will be a key skill and quality. Everyone with a vested interest starts to pop their heads above the parapet with advice and criticism. The media were fiercely critical of our government not moving quickly enough and now, of course they are being too cautious.

Only those with the skill of hindsight know the correct way to turn.

At Stort Valley we have been very focused on raising funds for much needed causes in order to allow them to continue with their tremendous work. In 2021 we are supporting Citizens Advice and Hertfordshire Hospices through our

IN THIS ISSUE

- Helping Herts Project
- Steve Mustill – Signage Project
- Tony Butt – Special Constables
- Jill Goldsmith - Climate Change
- Robert Voss - Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire

#helpingherts campaign. After 6 months of planning and development this campaign is now ready for launch. More details below.

We are all mostly double vaccinated and ready to get together again. The first such event is scheduled as a Garden Picnic Party on August 14th and I look forward to catching up properly with everyone.

Enjoy the summer.

Kind regards,
Gordon Morrison, President

Find us at:
stortvalleyrotary.com

HELPING HERTS - SV ROTARY'S MOST AMBITIOUS PROJECT EVER



Our club was treated to a preview of the Hertfordshire Fundraiser project about to be launched. The presentation was introduced by President Gordon Morrison with contributions from Sarah Clancy, wildlysosialmedia, Catherine Hemming, socialwonderlanddigital, Ben Parker, StockCrowd a Fundraising Platform and Jim Tatchell, SVR member.

The Helping Herts project is by far the most ambitious project to be launched in the history of our club and aims to help plug disastrous funding gaps in some of our most vital community services as we emerge from lockdown. The project, the brainchild of our Club President and designed with his highly professional team, is highly focused and makes ground-breaking use of the latest communication technology.



Our vision:

Helping Herts is to bring together our community to support and raise much-needed funds for some of Hertfordshire's essential charitable organisations - specifically Hertfordshire Hospices and Citizens Advice. Through a coordinated-campaign across Hertfordshire, we will

make a real difference to the work of these charities.

Our ambition:

To raise £500,000 by the end of 2021.

To allow all Hertfordshire's 7 Hospices and 10 Citizens to continue their vital and valuable work.

To bridge the gap left by income drops and rising demand for services.

To raise awareness and celebrate the amazing work they do.

At the same time we want to celebrate our local communities and all the wonderful businesses and things they do.

How can you help?

Spread the Word - Help us to get the word out on social media by sharing, liking and commenting on our posts. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @helpingherts.

Fundraise - Start your own fundraising campaign, we have loads of great ideas on our website - www.helpingherts.com

Email us at:

helpinghertscampaign@gmail.com with any suggestions or queries.

Also attached to the email circulating this newsletter is our "Case for Support" which is a quick, eye-catching explanation of the project and gives more on the chosen charities.



**STORT VALLEY ROTARY HAS THE AMBITION
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY**

AN HISTORIC SIGNAGE PROJECT FOR BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Members are probably already aware of the comprehensive range of fascinating signage



along the three-mile length of the River Stort. This is the result of a co-operative effort between the Canals and Rivers Trust, the Bishops Stortford Town Council (BSTC) and the town's Museum bringing

to life the history, work and nature along the river.

With enthusiastic historian Steve Mustill joining our club last year, our President saw this as an opportunity for our club to deliver the counterpart to these signs to the historic heart of our town. A meeting with the BSTC and other interested parties including the History Society and the Civic Federation supported the idea. Based on the presentation Steve made we were asked to produce a comprehensive proposal, with sign content, siting and general cost implications for the Council. Four sign locations were identified for Phase 1 of the scheme and Steve has been working on these. We are nearly at the point where we can go back to the Council to discuss and get approval.

At a club meeting Steve gave members a preview of his proposed sign content for the Market Place, Windhill and South Mill. He has consulted the same graphic designer who had produced the canal side signs to decide on their optimum size and location. During his talk Steve's enthusiasm and comprehensive knowledge of the town's often colourful history brought specific insights into our past. As a staging post for coaching routes to the north the town had numerous hostleries which brought sustenance and pleasure on stopovers to the likes of Samuel Pepys and

King Charles II. Bishop's Stortford however did not always meet with Charles's approval as the town favoured Cromwell's Commonwealth. Such interest was shown by members that Steve's offered to lead a walk around the town, scheduled for 28 July, to further illuminate our past. No doubt the walk will figure in our summer programme – circumstances permitting!

We are proposing that the signs have their own colour format distinct from those on the river and that they are more robust, with the content being complementary to that which will be available at the Tourist Information Centre. They will include all the logos of the various parties involved. We will suggest that QR codes be included to access more detailed information with the signs providing the initial stimulus.

The scheme was well received by the members and, subject to the production of the graphics and the costings, we will be soon ready to make a further presentation to the Council for its consideration.

Various permissions will be needed to erect any signs and the Council sees itself as best placed to arrange these.



Steve was congratulated on the work done to date, hopefully made more palatable given the enthusiasm he holds for the subject.

**STORT VALLEY ROTARY SEEKS NEW WAYS
TO ENHANCE THE APRECIATION & ENJOYMENT OF OUR TOWN**

TONY BUTT - A “SPECIAL” SPECIAL CONSTABLE



Toby is our East Herts. Special Inspector organising a team of 16 Volunteer Special Constables that support our Police Force in keeping the peace. Having been founded in 1831 the Special

Constabulary predates the regular full-time force and evolved from Beadles in Victorian times. Today volunteers are recruited from a wide variety of backgrounds and some go on to be full time officers. They wear the same uniforms, have the same equipment and power of arrest and are trained to support regular officers in the full range of their responsibilities.



Bishop's Stortford 'Specials' who were recruited during the First World War to augment the police force while many serving officers were in the armed services

Toby's day job is running an Injury Rehabilitation Unit and for over 30 years has taught Martial Arts including to many of his colleagues in the Force. He has been a member of the Specials for 20 years and joined with an appreciation of the value to the community of volunteering through his experience of the help he had been given by the Prince's Trust to set up his own business. As Special Inspector he leads a team of 16 Special Constables and reports to the Chief Inspector of Constabulary from whom he receives his operational instructions. These could include any of the Force's activities that

need additional back up. This might involve investigation, surveillance, arrests, crowd control or patrols. Toby's most dangerous situation happened in a house raid when he faced a knife attack, but he succeeded in overpowering and handcuffing the criminal! Some chases can have their humorous side. Together with a colleague, Toby was making a garden search after thieves had been seen robbing sheds. He heard shouts that his colleague was in trouble but the struggle and possible arrest he anticipated turned out to be his colleague having fallen in the swimming pool!



medal awarded 'For Faithful Service in the Special Constabulary', with a bar to indicate service during 'The Great War 1914 - 18'.

In summing up, Toby countered a question of whether the Special Constables were just a way of reducing the costs of policing by stressing all that the Specials bring to the Force at a time when the population of East Herts is expanding at a rapid rate. Volunteer Specials rooted in the community bring invaluable local knowledge. It is also an invaluable way for mutual evaluation of potential recruits, and Specials enable the Force to flex according to fluctuating demands. Toby himself provides an excellent example of the other advantage, that of accessing special skills in the community.

His warmth and commitment left us with further appreciation of the value of voluntary activity and our police service.

STORT VALLEY ROTARY CELEBRATES THE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

JILL GOLDSMITH, BISHOP'S STORTFORD CLIMATE GROUP

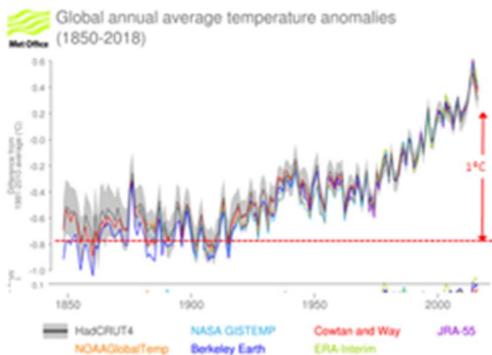


Susan Haddock hosted the evening and invited Jill Goldsmith, pictured left, who is treasurer of the Bishop's Stortford Climate Group to talk to us about climate

change and its impacts locally.

Jill's Climate Group is made up of people from the Sawbridgeworth area as well as Bishop's Stortford and are networked with local organisations, particularly Youth groups and nationally with Friends of the Earth.

Jill used a chart to show the rising global temperatures over the last 200 years indicating a steep rise in recent years. She referred to the growing evidence of adverse effects of this and the prospects for the future of our country: sea level rises of 2 metres, heatwaves and poor air quality. There would be water shortages with lower productivity in agriculture, worsened by loss of pollinators. Biodiversity and habitat loss is already under pressure by the development of open space and poor farming practices.



Local concerns are particularly scary. Water shortages threatening the River Stort due to low rainfall and high and increasing human consumption. By 2025 we can expect 388,000 people in our region with a daily water

shortfall of 43 million litres. Air pollution in Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth is falling but in hotspots exceeds national objectives. Over 10,000 species identified in the last 50 years in Hertfordshire are identified as extinct or under threat of extinction.

The carbon emission rate in the UK is falling and some targets will be helped by the progress being made in electricity generation. However, huge challenges remain in meeting our attempting zero carbon emission by 2050. We have a number of issues to address locally. A lot of buildings are old and inherently heat inefficient. We have a higher-than-average car ownership and are wedded to our SUVs. Switching to more walking, cycling and use of public transport is progressing only slowly. After improving, now waste per household in East Herts is disappointingly rising with poor recycling. High agricultural land use is leading to high emissions, high pollution and threat to wildlife. More land is needed for renewable energy.

We need to do more to own and reduce our carbon footprint by considering our diet, our home heating, travel plans and what we consume. We need to manage our waste better, compost more and save water. We might even consider holding our local representatives to account.

The Climate Group is proposing a new community orchard on five acres of land owned by the Town Council. Therefore, we may each wish to join the community by planting a tree which could remove carbon from the environment for many years to come.

Jill's talk was thought provoking and had quite an impact, as evidenced by the many and varied questions from members.



**STORT VALLEY ROTARY IS INTERESTED IN
THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY & OUR NATION**

LORD LIEUTENANT'S VISION OF WORKING TO BENEFIT ALL



It was a great pleasure to welcome back Robert Voss, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire to speak to us again, following his previous visit 3 years ago.

Amongst the many guests, we were honoured to welcome the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Lionel Wallace, and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Susie Harvey.

Robert reminded us of the history of the post of Lord Lieutenant and some of the actions he has taken during his last three years of office.

The first Lord Lieutenants were appointed by Henry VIII to oversee the work of the High Sheriffs particularly in the vital field of tax collecting. All but one of the originals were Lords of the Realm and in 1586 Queen Elizabeth I allowed deputies to be appointed in each county. Today, Hertfordshire, with 1.2 million residents, has 57 deputies. Over the years, the role of the Lord Lieutenants has evolved. For instance, in 1662 they were given total control over the military which was taken away in 1871. The first lady to be Lord Lieutenant was in 1974 and now 40% of Lord Lieutenants are female. They serve until they are 75.

There is no actual training or induction for the role but there is a 380-page manual. Each Lord Lieutenant is allowed to develop the role in the way he chooses. The principal role of the Lord Lieutenant is to uphold the dignity of the Crown and is the Queen's personal representative in Hertfordshire. He is responsible for royal visits to the county, validates all honours, allocates invitations to the royal garden parties and presents awards for enterprise and voluntary service and all empire medals below MBE. He is head of the military in Hertfordshire and President of the Reserve and Cadet Forces. He has a close relationship with the Magistracy and is Chairman of the Magistrates Advisory Committee.

He is President of the Hertfordshire Scouts with 20,000 members. He started the Hertfordshire Youth United Cadets, which brings together the police, fire and rescue cadets to enable them to share best practice. He presents Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver awards and finds most heart-warming working with the Princes Trust which focuses on children from deprived backgrounds. He also works with fire and rescue services. He spends much of his time working with the community and education sector where his main objective is getting people to work together.

He has divided his deputies into 15 panels to cover 4 areas of the county, and to represent matters such as the inter-faith, social responsibility, honours, health and education. He believes Hertfordshire is the most diverse county in England with its eastern side having many estates and other areas that are some of the most deprived in the UK. However, its diversity gives Hertfordshire its character, feeling and strength. Robert is a Governor of the University of Hertfordshire where, close to his heart as a businessman himself, there is an incubator site for start-up companies now numbering 78. He is patron of 25 organisations. He also looks forward to thanking people for their work with Covid-19. Robert believes that Prince Charles wishes to shrink the number of working royals so the Lord Lieutenants will have to stand in more frequently. He acknowledges that when the Queen dies, the popularity of the monarchy will drop and is aware of the need to educate young people about the monarchy, the Commonwealth, the community and civic society. To this end he has formed Hertfordshire Youth United to talk about governance together.

He concluded by stressing the importance of staying relevant and increasing media presence and having an active web site. His mission is to take the lieutenancy to the people of Hertfordshire. To encourage and appreciate the involvement of the monarchy, the lieutenancy role in it and to encourage co-operation and working together to benefit all.

**STORT VALLEY ROTARY IS INTERESTED IN
THE INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION**

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Tuesday 8 June	Penny Carey – Dean of the School of Law, University of Hertfordshire
Tuesday 22 June	AGM
Tuesday 29 June	Ed Anthony, Director Health and Wellbeing in Schools – Transforming Adolescent Mental Health Support Through Developing Community-Based Interventions
Tuesday 13 July	Club Evening
Tuesday 27 July	Claire Matthews – Sealife of the Moray Firth
Wednesday 28 July	Steve Mustill’s Guided Town Walk 2-30 – 4-30
	NO FORMAL MEETINGS DURING AUGUST
Saturday 14 August	Picnic by invitation at the home of Gordon & Mary Morrison
Tuesday 14 September	Club Evening
Tuesday 28 September	Speaker Evening – Gertjan Kaspers - Paediatric Oncologist – a Global View
Tuesday 12 October	Club Evening
Tuesday 26 October	Speaker Evening – tbc
Tuesday 9 November	Club Evening
Tuesday 23 November	Speaker Evening – Julie Marson MP - tbc

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