

STORT VALLEY ROTARY

NEWSLETTER

March 2023



Stort Valley

**Meeting 7-00pm 14 March
at the Coach & Horses
Our Rotary – What Next?**

President's Preamble



Dear fellow
Rotarians and
friends

This month our
Stort Valley Rotary
Newsletter covers
exclusively our club
activities of the last
year. As well as
continuing with
traditional

activities, it informs of the impressive multiplying gains achieved using modern electronic communication techniques to facilitate collaborative ventures.

The report will set the scene for the meeting of 14 March which will be joined by representatives from Rotary District 1240. It is hoped that from the experiences of both our Club and District, we can explore new ways to advance Rotary in a fast-changing world. Change has been in the air for

IN THIS ISSUE

- SVR Report of 2022/23 - March 2023

several years but the impact of Covid -19 has been an accelerator and wake-up call. To maintain purpose and even relevance, Rotary must wholeheartedly embrace the new and lead in this changing world. The old format is not working.

Members are invited to consider carefully the report prior to the meeting at the Coach and Horses Pub on the 14 March. It will surely be an interesting event which could have profound significance for the future.

Kind regards,
Gordon Morrison, President



SVR REPORT OF 2022/23 - MARCH 2023

Introduction

Our club life is built around our programme of monthly events:

The speaker programme almost exclusively on Zoom.

Dinner at our regular venue for companionship and exploring issues of interest in the lives of members.

Social events and outings for companionship and interest for our members.

From this we involve ourselves in worthy activities. We do this through our traditional outlets but also increase enormously our potential for good through association with others and venturing into modern communications. We also believe that such an approach is vital if we are to continue to be successful or even credible in the future. We believe that other organisations including Rotary itself need to embark on such radical programmes to survive and prosper.

Our recent activities are outlined under a number of headings:

Community

Historic Signage



In March last year four signs were erected as the first phase of the historic signage project in Bishop's Stortford. They were funded by a residual grant available from the European Union. The signs show the history of Bishops

Stortford as far back as Saxon times in words and pictures. This was a collaborative project involving the Town Council, the Bishops Stortford History Society, the Southmill Arts Museum and led by Rotarians Steve Mustill, Derek Crowther.

Aspects



Colin George keeps in touch with Aspects, with whom we had previously worked and funded a pilot for this charitable partnership. They

focus on children's mental health support in local schools, to promote and introduce a whole school culture model "Preventative Behaviours." After the pilot, ASPECTS adopted the project and raised the funds to make PB part of their ongoing service to schools.

Bishop's Stortford Brass Band

The Bishop's Stortford Band is a well-loved local institution which we have sponsored for a number of years. This sponsorship has made possible the engagement of a professional conductor who is bringing on young talent. The band entertained us at our Garden Party last July. June 2022

School Children

Challenges of our Environment

We were extremely privileged and impressed by talks on Challenges of our Environment from three school groups. The projects were subsequently submitted to the Rotary Great

Britain & Ireland Young Environmentalist Competition. We were extremely pleased for them when they won first prize.

Coram -Life Education



Life Education has been supported by District 1240 Clubs for many years. Stort Valley commenced promoting and supporting LE in our area in 2012. Now managed by the Coram Charity, we have two members of the Rotary Support Group of the Essex and East Herts Branch of Coram Life education, representing District 1240, with Peter Dowse as Chair. As a Club, we have raised directly or indirectly over £40K for the Branch. 5,500 children in East Herts benefit each year from CLE programmes. This year, via Helping Herts, over £14,000 has been raised that will fund the recruitment and training of a second Educator based in Herts. This will free up our one Educator Nancy to focus more time on Essex schools.

Helping Herts Helps out



Helping Herts, official charity of Stort Valley Rotary, has raised over £200,000 for twelve children's charities as part of its 2022 campaign. Founders Gordon Morrison and

Jim Tatchell invited the Leader and Chairman of Herts County Council to a ceremony at the end of January to share the amount raised between the charities.



The money was raised through an abundance of charity events including Gordon and Jim's 180 mile walk of the Hertfordshire Way, the Great Big Walk for Herts, a sustainable fashion show, raffle, generous donations and proceeds from sales of a digital activity guide.

Liz Le Coze – Strategic Manager for Home-Start Hertfordshire, one of the charities to benefit from the 2022 campaign said: "We are thrilled to have taken part in the 2022 Helping Herts campaign. These funds will help us support families and prevent them from reaching crisis point, offering their children the best start in life. Thank you so much to the fabulous Helping Herts campaign team for all their hard work and support and to the other charities who all deliver such vital support to children in Hertfordshire."

To keep up with Helping Herts events and activities visit: <https://www.facebook.com/helpingherts/>

Speakers Programme



Our Speaker Network is growing with around 3,000 viewing our talks live or through our

YouTube channel. Interestingly twice as many people view through YouTube than watch live on the evenings. The use of electronic communications has offered us access to quality speakers who, for geographical location or time restrictions, it would otherwise have been impossible. Speakers have addressed us, and we have had attendees, from all corners of the world. Our wide-ranging monthly programme of speakers were all excellent on subjects from:

arctic exploration,
 becoming a successful Olympian,
 farming,
 food processing,
 Diddly Squat Farm,
 Bishop's Stortford expansion in the past and concern for the future,
 Being an MP and whip in parliament
 The business of Hertfordshire County Council,
 Leading our town businesses through difficult times,
 Running and developing a vital charity,
 It is significant that all our speakers did not just talk about their subject, they were leaders and active opinion formers.

Collaborative Projects:

BuildAid



Robert Muir is a member of our club. He founded his charity BuildAid in 2005 in response to the South East Asian Tsunami to provide technical assistance. Through our club and in collaboration with District 1240 and wider Rotary, he has expanded his charity's activities. Projects are generally grass roots infrastructure projects after the catastrophe headlining has died away and the recovery phase begun. Robert achieves remarkable results at very low cost. We are extremely proud and privileged in our association with Robert's work.

Recent projects focussing, but not exclusively, on Kenya include:

Small solar micro-generation systems providing lighting, radio and phone charging to off grid families. This is low cost and high impact.

The conversion of triple desks to individual ones and providing mobile hand washing stands to safeguard the children against Covid infection.

And lastly, Solar Generation which allows a whole hospital to be self-sufficient for power.



Currently with Build Aid we are applying for Rotary support for a Sand Dam project with Stort Valley Club making a substantial commitment.

The poverty and deprivation in parts of the world is difficult for us to comprehend. The impact we have been able to support is impressive.

VolMatch



Aims and objectives of VolMatch are to provide a way for people of all ages to find opportunities to volunteer where, when and at whatever they choose. This is for those seeking ad-hoc opportunities – other routes exist for people to find regular commitments. We are about half way through the build and test phase, in a couple of months we will go live with a soft launch just in Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding villages. This will act as a pilot scheme to learn from before

we expand across the whole of Hertfordshire and West Essex.

Community Fun Fundraising



This has been restricted by Covid but last year we did manage to fit in the Easter raffle. Hostesses in and around Bishop's Stortford are invited to hold a raffle for a large Easter Egg. Derek Crowther leads the project and last year the result was a cheque for £1114 has been sent to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust. Unfortunately we had to postpone our quiz.

This year as well as the raffle we have reinstated the quiz scheduled for Friday 10 March.

Social

In June at the Saffron Hall, the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra entertained club members with a selection of well-known Rogers and Hammerstein music.



In July, we enjoyed a very hot summer picnic and barbecue entertained by the Bishop's Stortford Brass Band. We were delighted to be joined by guests from Harlow Tye, Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford Rotarian and local historian, Steve Mustill led a summer and a winter tour around Bishop's Stortford taking in the excellent Historic Signs that the Club had had erected but also exposing some of the seedier goings on of the past.



At last unencumbered by Covid restrictions, Stort Valley Rotary President's dinner was held at the prestigious Hanbury Manor in Ware. 60 Rotarians, family and friends attended along with special guests, the High Sheriff Sally Burton, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Robert Voss, Lady Verulam, Leader of Hertfordshire County Council Richard Roberts, as well as Stort Valley Rotary Club members and wider supporters. The occasion was chosen to make the presentation to Lyn Moore, winner of the Helping Herts Hero Award.

In summary

Within its area of influence, Stort Valley Rotary, is now delivering on our ambitions.

- Helping Herts is delivering financial support and educating charities to promote themselves and take on board the latest digital tools: £400,000 raised over the last two years with 29 Hertfordshire charities benefiting.
- Our Speaker Network is growing our networks with around 3,000 viewing our talks live or through our YouTube channel. Interestingly twice as many people view through YouTube than watch live on the evening.
- Our partnership with BuildAid is delivering support to disadvantaged families in parts of the world where help is desperately needed.
- Our regular meetings and outings (social events) deliver excellent companionship and interest to members and friends.
- We face the future with confidence.

STORT VALLEY ROTARY FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Tuesday 14 March	Club evening - DG Jed Brooks, DG Elect Dave Willis, DG Nom Anne Moriaty, DG Nom/Nom Mark Williamson and Alan Swash all attending
Tuesday 28 March	Speaker evening - Daksha Trivedi, Professor of Applied Health Research (UH) - Community Engagement & Health inequalities – Providing cancer support in the community at a challenging time
Tuesday 11 April	Club evening
Tuesday 25 April	Speaker Evening – Lord Salisbury The History of Hatfield House
Tuesday 9 May	Club evening
Tuesday 23 May	Speaker Evening – Rebecca O’Connell, Professor of Food, Families & Society (UH) - Children’s experience of Food & Food poverty in low-income families in Britain
Tuesday 13 June	Club Evening
Tuesday 20 June	AGM
Tuesday 27 June	Speaker Evening - Piera Freccero, Director of Programmes, World Child Cancer

www.stortvalleyrotary.com



E: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com

T: 01279 881607