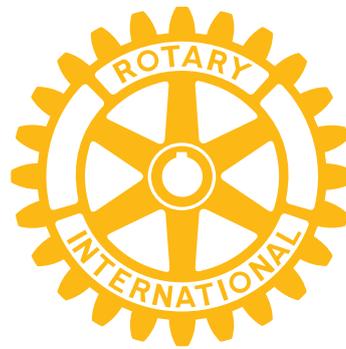


Whickham Rotary



Covering Whickham, Swalwell, Lobley Hill, Dunston, Sunnyside, Marley Hill & Byermoor

Newsletter

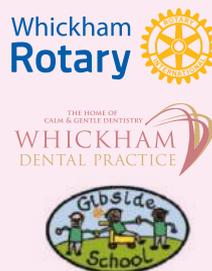
Issue 3 February 2018

Local Defibrillator

So you're fed up with photos of cheque presentations are you? Well look again, have you ever seen this? Whickham Rotary being presented with - not giving - a cheque by members of the team at Whickham Dental Practice; why would they do that? Our local odontologists - dentists to you and me - and their support team have a history of supporting charities with odd things like running marathons, long distance cycle rides and on this occasion an open coffee morning where they extracted funds not teeth.

We can't recall ever having been in a dental surgery eating sugary scones and cakes and drinking black coffee. Don't tell Mr. Davidson or we'll be in trouble even though it was their treat. However, they did it, their cheque to the amount £325 - and rising - now rests in Whickham Rotary's charity account while we work with our community to raise sufficient funding to install a public use defibrillator in Whickham as part of our defibrillator programme.

Some more good news, another first, the very special staff of Gibside School have offered to help us with our fund raising towards this community project. More information will follow about this as plans and funding progress. Working with others in our community on this project is a great privilege and has enabled us to assist with the funding of defibrillators for the following local schools: Fellside Primary, Clover Hill Primary, Front Street Primary, Lobley Hill Primary and we're not finished yet.



Flushed With Success



Whickham Rotary members were flushed with success when they helped out the volunteers at The Whinnies Community Gardens who were in desperate need of a toilet. Not just for the volunteers, but for the many users of this haven of tranquillity in the midst of Sunnyside which is a project for people of all ages with mental and physical disabilities. Its aims are to provide leisure and gardening activities with the opportunity of meeting others who share an interest in gardening and relaxed leisure activities while enjoying a little fun and companionship in their lives.

The most active Whinnies volunteers, Chris, Sandra and Kevin, are delighted that Whickham Rotary has provided, erected and commissioned a fully operational self-contained odourless Eco Composting Toilet on the site. While the Rotarians hope that this "marriage of convenience" will bring much relief to the users of allotments by allowing them to spend more time in these beautiful and productive gardens.

The photograph, taken in the gardens, shows the Rotarians presenting volunteer Chris with the keys and the last essential piece of equipment

Super Santa

The Bay Horse did it again, did what? Following on from 2016's success another "Super Santa Sunday". Seen here is Dionne, the manager of the Bay Horse, with President David inspecting Whickham Rotary's contribution of Christmas presents.

Members were so impressed by the previous success that they agreed to donate £10 each and buy gifts towards the Bay Horse 2017 project to help local children who could be short of seasonal cheer if Santa doesn't make it to their homes this year.

Although none of us will ever know the recipients of the presents we're pleased to be part of this project which involves us with the Bay Horse staff and customers in helping the Salvation Army to ensure that no local child was disappointed at Christmas 2017.



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Whickham Hermitage Butterfly & Ladybird Project

"It's a hole", said David Peacock MBE the founder director of the Whickham Hermitage Community Garden to President David Bollands of Whickham Rotary. "But not for long: thanks to your club's donation and the generosity of other organisations we will soon have a Butterfly and Ladybird Dome right here." It's the intention of the Garden's management to eventually use the dome as an ornamental and educational utility.

The dome is now complete, ready to house a display of British butterflies and ladybirds for pleasure and educational use by visitors and school groups.

The insects will eventually be released into the garden where they should continue to thrive and lay eggs to provide interest for years to come.



Whickham Rotary members are delighted to have a flutter on this project.



Whickham Rotary and Watergate Forest Park

The dirty smelly Watergate Colliery, with its smouldering pit heap which had to be prevented from spreading onto Lobley Hill Road, closed during 1964.

Under the auspices of Gateshead Council reclamation work carried out on the abandoned colliery site during the 1990s led to the opening of the Watergate Forest Park in the year 2000. It has now developed into a beautiful wildlife park with a huge car park. Footpaths meander through the trees and around the lake which form a haven for wild life and water birds such as swans, geese, ducks and moorhens.

The park is popular with walkers, joggers, cyclists and photographers there to enjoy what nature has to offer and an occasional tea or coffee with scones, cake, and sandwiches at the recently opened on site café. As an extra touch the proprietors provide an outside water bowl for thirsty dogs. A member of the "Friends of Watergate Forest Park" group which was formed June 2017 visited Whickham Rotary and talked about what they do and their plans for the future which include working with the Countryside Rangers' Team to help keep the park tidy. They hope to later provide activities for individuals and families to explore the area and learn more about our local flora and fauna.

The members of Whickham Rotary were pleased to help the friends of the park by providing financial assistance from our Community Fund to help the development of their team and its aims.



World Challenge 2019

The members of Whickham Rotary were given a very informative talk by four pupils from Whickham School and Sports Academy about their proposed visit to Swaziland in June 2019. Among other things they will be assisting in an orphanage, marine conservation and helping to provide water supplies to remote villages.

They are raising the funds themselves over the next 2 years and our President, David Bollands, was very happy to make a donation on behalf of Whickham Rotary to help them on their way.

Chase Park

On Saturday 23rd September Whickham Rotary helped celebrate the reopening of Chase Park. The park has been redeveloped to include a refurbished windmill, new play and gym equipment, skateboard park, tennis courts, table tennis and new flowerbeds. On the day there was lots of stalls and entertainment and many children went home happy with a teddy or soft toy from our popular teddy tombola.



Christmas Light Switch On Whickham & Swalwell

Some of the members of Whickham Rotary who marshalled the lighting up of the Christmas tree in Whickham. The club also made an extensive donation towards the cost of the tree and provided a risk assessment of the event for Lighting up Whickham.

The switch on of the Swalwell Christmas Tree took place on Tuesday 5 December. A parade of children and parents followed Santa, Mrs Claus and the Elfs from Swalwell Community Centre to the Christmas Tree at Holy Trinity Church.

The event is organised and funded by the hard efforts of volunteers and was supported by Whickham Rotary. President David Bollands and Rotarian Amelia Ord who is also a Swalwell Community Group volunteer supported and marshalled the parade and switch on.



President David Bollands was delighted to induct Sarah Cook as an honorary member of the club in recognition, as manageress of the Sun Inn Swalwell, in devoting a lot of her time in charitable activities to both the local community in Swalwell and in supporting the club. Well deserved.



The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation

Whickham Rotary members were delighted to support the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and privileged to welcome Lady Elsie Robson with two friends to the Bay Horse Whickham. One of them gave a moving and informative talk on the Foundation launched on 25 March 2008, Lady Robson followed with stories of her life and travels with Sir Bobby.

The Foundation is a British Cancer research charity which raises funds to assist with the early detection of cancer and clinical trials of anti-cancer drugs. It is based in the North East and funds projects within the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that directly benefit cancer patients from across north east England and Cumbria.

Christmas Window Competition 2017

The window displays of this popular competition, sponsored for many years by Whickham Rotary, have grown and improved as more businesses take an interest in their presentations. It's now commonplace to see children holding up their parents as they gaze at the interesting and colourful designs.

This year was no exception with more and more thought having been put into making Whickham an appealing Christmas shopping venue. We were privileged to have the Deputy Mayor of Gateshead, Cllr Jill Green, judge the festive windows.

She took a great interest in the displays presented by proprietors and staff; however, she was eventually faced with the difficult decision to name 1st prize and runner up. **The Winner for 2017 is No5 Hair Design, Fellside Road.** The runner up is St Oswald's, St Mary's Green



One thing the Deputy Mayor and her escorts didn't expect was the good humoured live show in the windows of "The One Eyed Stag" The Square, off Front Street. Some seasonal visitors from Consett showed off their Christmas sweaters, much to the amusement of our Deputy Mayor.

On behalf of Whickham Rotary the Deputy Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Jill Green, presented prizes and certificates to Evonne Hughes from the winners "No5 Hairdressers" Fellside Road and volunteers Mollie Hurst and Lillian Brown who represented the runners-up "St Oswald's Charity Shop" St. Mary's Green. President David then presented the Deputy Mayor with a colourful bunch of flowers and a certificate in appreciation of her having judged the competition and presented the prizes.





ShelterBox

Whickham Rotary's international champion is thinking about taking up a new role as a fortune teller. Recently he reminded us that we should once again be thinking about supporting Rotary's charitable partner "ShelterBox" which provides strong plastic boxes that contain robust family sized tents, solar lights and water filtration units, for families robbed of their homes by natural disasters.

We therefore agreed to organise a fund-raising evening in the Pagoda Restaurant, Whickham, in aid of the ShelterBox charity. Within days we saw the start of the tornados and earthquakes in the Caribbean, southern USA and Mexico which rendered thousands homeless without shelter and safe drinking water.



Clothes Appeal

We are really pleased with our clothes collection bins. 100% of the money raised from the clothes is put back into our community through the Community Fund. The collection bins are located in the Coachman car park and Marley Hill Community Centre car park. Please donate and help us raise as much as we can together.

Remembrance Sunday 2017



Whickham Rotary's poppy duty started early this year when our community service chairman George Craig teamed up with Ian Proud, the Royal British Legion's poppy coordinator for Gateshead, to help distribute wreaths in Whickham. It ended at the 11th hour on Remembrance Sunday in the 11th month with the laying of poppy wreaths by Rotarians at Whickham and Swalwell Cenotaphs. This was not done to glorify war, but to honour those of our area who died during the Great War and subsequent conflicts. The Whickham service is now the largest of its kind in Gateshead. The photograph on the left shows Whickham Rotary's President David Bolland paying his respects to the fallen immediately after having laid the club's wreath. In the background the church is bathed in Sunshine while at the front local school children, well wrapped up against the cold, shiver in the shade of Chase Park's trees.



Have you considered joining Whickham Rotary?

Rotary is a world-wide organisation which on an international scale helps in major projects such as eradicating Polio and sending Shelter boxes to help in natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, and many others such as specialised wheelchairs for disabled children in Africa.

On a local basis in Whickham for example we have provided disabled toilet facilities at the Whinnies gardens, Sunnyside, made donations to local swimming clubs, youth football clubs, youth basketball clubs and many others, and also to individuals via our community charity account.

We fund raise through Christmas supermarket collections and fund raising events such as functions, race nights, Chinese and Italian nights and through clothes banks and collecting bottles in many local businesses and shops.

You may have seen our clothes banks at the Coachman's on the Broadway Whickham and Marley Hill Community Centre so any unwanted clothes please drop them in.

It's not all about fund raising and donations however as we also enjoy ourselves at our weekly meetings at the Bay Horse Front St Whickham on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. We have entertaining speakers, quiz nights, darts and snooker evenings as well as fund raising nights and Indian nights at Chutneys and Chinese nights at the Pagoda. We also take part in various Fayres in the village throughout the year.

As well as other surrounding areas we mainly cover Whickham, Swalwell, Dunston, and Sunnyside.

Is Rotary for you? Well don't just think it's for professional people. It's for young, middle aged and older people, both men and women of any employment (or retired). It's for people who want to put something back into their community, be it locally or worldwide. Give it a try.

Have a look at our Facebook page Whickham Rotary or email info@whickhamrotary.co.uk

Whickham
Rotary



THANK YOU!



The club would like to thank Paul and Lesley McPherson for all their hard work organising a Charity night at the Lancastrian Suite. £2830 was raised on the night and was split between Whickham Rotary and Northumbria Blood Bikes.