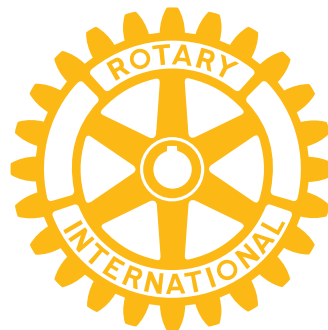


Whickham Rotary

Charity No. 1143476



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

Newsletter

Issue 4 February/March 2019

Life Saving Equipment for our Community



Over the past two years Whickham Rotary has developed a Defibrillator project which involved them working with local charity "North East Hearts with Goals" to help provide defibrillators to local schools to be used to assist pupils, staff or members of the public who might suffer a sudden heart problem. However, these are not widely available out of school hours, thus creating a huge void in the project's potential life-saving properties.

Therefore, we decided to widen the scope of the project and seek to provide an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) of the type accessible for use at all times by members of the public. Funds were raised, the AED was purchased and placed on the wall of Whickham library facing St. Mary's Green.

The photo above shows Rotary members and representatives from donor organisations outside Whickham Library at the launch of their first public defibrillator which is intended to be used in an emergency situation by members of the public to assist anyone unfortunate enough to suffer heart problems while nearby. The defibrillator, which has instructions for use on the front, is now operational. Whickham Rotary would like to thank into Metrocentre; Whickham Dental Practice; Rotary District Grant; Fellside Women's Institute; Spoor Methodist Church; Gibside School staff and local residents who also donated. Also the volunteers of Whickham Library for carrying out the essential weekly checks. None of this would have been possible without their support.

The Mayor of Gateshead Councillor Jill Green, seen here with President David Auton, stopped to examine the first public defibrillator in Whickham on her recent trip along the Front Street.



Past President David Bollands of Whickham Rotary presenting Mrs Johanna James the Head Teacher of Lobley Hill Primary School with their Defibrillator; working together the Rotary Club and School have raised sufficient funds to purchase a portable defibrillator.



Whickham Rotary continued their Defibrillator project by donating to Swalwell Primary Schools fund, to aid in the purchase of their very own school defibrillator.

President David Auton with Rotary member George Craig, local Police Officer Emma Bowman and Ryan Murphy of Gateshead School Sport Partnership, were delighted to attend Swalwell school and meet the staff and pupils.

A great team working together to provide funding and training for the staff and pupils of our local schools.





Chase Park Toilets Now Open!

It's inconvenient for visitors to Whickham's Chase Park that owing to the lack of funding no one was available to open the newly refurbished public conveniences in the morning and secure them in the evening. This is especially so for the parents of young excited children who need to go when they need to go!

The "Friends of Chase Park" who now care for the park cannot be there all day every day. Therefore, a team of local volunteers, led by Whickham Rotary's Ron Hart, have undertaken to open up and later at the end of the day secure the building.

End Polio Now

The purple crocus is a symbol of Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate polio, with its colour representing the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child to indicate they have received their life saving polio vaccine. Since 1985 Rotary International and their partners have reduced the number of Polio cases by 99.9%

The Rotary Clubs of Gateshead, Whickham, Birtley and Blaydon, Ryton & Whickham had the Gateshead Millennium Bridge lit up in purple on Wednesday 24 October 2018 for World Polio Day. The lights also shone nicely against the Tyne Bridge.



Members of Whickham Rotary, Planting up Whickham and Gateshead Council came together to plant 5000 purple crocuses on Broom Lane.

We are looking forward to seeing the crocuses next spring and hoping to plant more corms later in the year.

During 2018 The Rotary Clubs within the borough of Gateshead collectively planted 20,000 crocus corms as part of End Polio Now.
rotarycrocus.com

Watergate Forest Park

Following the closure of Watergate Colliery in 1964 Gateshead Council developed the abandoned site into a beautiful, safe area which eventually led to the opening in the year 2000 of what is now known as Watergate Forest Park. The main access is signposted from the A692 Whickham Highway into a huge free car-park which allows direct entry into the forest area with other pedestrian entrances situated at various positions around the park.



The park's many signed footpaths and cycleways are safe havens for walkers, joggers and cyclists who are free to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. The 1.4 mile footpath circumvents the large lake which is frequented by swans, geese, and a multitude of other birds and animals which use the water and woods. Nature's life cycles reveal the constantly changing backdrop of undergrowth and large deciduous trees frequented by wild birds and small animals. As spring evolves the water fowl will soon be seen escorting their cygnets and ducklings on the lake. Once the feathers of the young swans have begun to turn from brown to white you could be lucky and witness their first attempts to take off and fly. Finish off your trip with a tea or coffee with scones, cakes and sandwiches in the on site café.

The Friends of Watergate Forest Park organise regular events that are suitable for all ages. It's unfortunate that some visitors choose to leave their rubbish in situ rather than place it in the bins. Also, the wind and animals can disturb and distribute debris and rubbish around the park, therefore the Friends of the park invite members of the public to assist with cleaning up the park for a few hours and finish off with a free tea or coffee in the site's café. Whickham Rotary members are to try out their skills as litter pickers on Saturday 30th March. It's thought that they might be more adept as coffee drinkers, but you're all invited to join us for a bit of fun and community work if you are free.

Dunston Parent & Toddler Group



Dunston Activity Centre Parent and Toddler Group members were grateful when Whickham Rotary were able to assist them by helping to finance the group's insurance bill. Another small gesture by the Rotary Club to help lighten the workload for the parents and organisers who run this useful and friendly toddlers' group.

Assistance such as this is possible because of residents' generous donations to our two clothes banks which are situated in Coachman car park and the Marley Hill Community Centre car park. We also have collecting bottles in some local shops which all helps to finance our dedicated Community Fund.

Our sincere thanks to all our supporters in our communities.



We had great fun running the Pumpkin carving event at The Hermitage Garden in October. It was lovely to see so many families taking part and there were some very impressively carved pumpkins! We look forward to doing it again this year.

North East Autism Society

Recently Katherine Holden of the North East Autism Society attended one of our meetings to talk about their work. This encompasses everything from school support and holiday clubs, to bespoke support for children, young people and adults.

Their aim is to offer assistance specifically tailored to the needs of individuals and their families. Our members were very grateful to Katherine for providing such an insightful talk and were delighted to be able to provide financial assistance to help the society with their service across the North East.



Whickham Christmas Window Competition 2018

We were once again delighted to welcome the Worshipful Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Jill Green to judge the annual Christmas Window Competition. It was apparent from the offset, that shops and businesses had put a huge effort into their displays for the lead up to Christmas 2018 and this would not be an easy decision for the Mayor. However, supported by members of Whickham Rotary, the Mayor was soon enjoying meeting the staff of our business premises and members of the public.

After two cold hours on the Front Street, with diversions into the Hermitage Garden to meet Santa and the Spoor Methodist Church to visit their Christmas Tree competition, we retired to the warmth of the Gibside Hotel for the Mayor to make her final decision. The winner was St. Oswald's Charity Shop. However, the Mayor was undecided as to a clear second place and eventually settled on the One-Eyed Stag Bar and Barnardo's Charity Shop as joint second.



Gateshead Mayor, councillor Jill Green was delighted to present a certificate and prize money to the winners of Whickham Rotary club's Christmas Window Competition. (Pictured Trish Johnson, manager of Barnardos in Whickham).



Christmas Light Switch On Whickham & Swalwell

Some of the members of Whickham Rotary supported the Lighting Up Whickham group by marshalling the lighting up of the Christmas tree in Whickham. The club also made a donation towards the cost of the tree and provided a risk assessment of the event.

The switch on of the Swalwell Christmas Tree took place on Tuesday 4th December. A parade of children and parents followed Santa and his Elves from Swalwell Community Centre to the Christmas Tree at Holy Trinity Church.

The event is organised and funded by the hard efforts of volunteers.



Whickham Rotary members provided the Lighting Up Sunnyside group with two banners to help publicise their efforts to raise funds towards their goal to provide a large Christmas tree for their community.

This group of Sunnyside residents meet frequently to discuss methods of fund raising to provide a Christmas tree on the green verge outside Sunhill where it will be in full view of residents and passers by using Gateshead Road.

Super Santa Sunday At The Bay Horse Pub

Our first Christmas 2018 donation was to the Bay Horse Super Santa Sunday Christmas appeal.

For the past three years each member of Whickham Rotary has made a made a donation to fund presents for the Super Santa Sunday.

These presents are then left around the tree for The Salvation Army to gather and use to make Christmas a merry one for children within local families that are struggling with the financial demands associated with a modern Christmas.

Those who assisted will never know the children that benefitted as a result of the contribution from the scheme, but it's surely a wonderful gesture by the staff and customers of the Bay Horse.





Following the recent earthquakes and tsunami in Indonesia, the club made a further donation to Shelterbox, which is based in Truro, Cornwall. Hundreds of Shelterboxes are stored in a huge hangar in readiness for disasters anywhere in the world, so that they can be sent immediately to the disaster areas. They contain all the necessary things for survival in one large box such as tents for shelter, cooking utensils, tools and many other items. When stocks run down, the boxes need to be topped up in readiness for the next disaster. Check out the Shelterbox website for more information on what it is and how to donate. www.shelterbox.org



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 Club's 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.

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100th Anniversary Remembrance Sunday 2018

Whickham Rotary members were pleased to be able to assist the Armistice Day Parade organiser, Cllr Peter Craig, by being part of his committee and helping at the Whickham Cenotaph by laying a poppy wreath and acting as parade marshals.



The 100th anniversary parade 2018 was attended by people showing their respect and gratitude to those service personnel who lost their lives during what was at the time referred to as the Great War and is now known as World War One or WW1 and later conflicts.



The crowd that gathered is believed to be the largest in living memory at the Whickham Cenotaph. Veterans of the armed forces, Police, RAF Air Cadets, youth groups, schools, local men, women and children took part in the service of remembrance which was conducted by St. Mary's Church Rector, the Reverend Barry J Abbott.



Another great year for Whickham Rotary

Yet another successful year for Whickham Rotary Club. The main project being the provision of a 24 hour external defibrillator located outside Whickham library. Apart from the clubs own contribution, additional funding came from local businesses and private donations. We are now fundraising in order to place a second defibrillator outside the Travellers Rest in Sunnyside. The Travellers Rest have offered to run the first fundraising event in the form of a Race Night on Saturday 18th May.

Part of our annual fundraising took place in December in the form of bag packing at ASDA and Morrison's with the help of Whickham school and Whickham Air Training Corps. We have also raised funds via clothes banks at the Coachmans and Marley Hill so if you have unwanted clothing please donate at the bins.



Among many other donations to local groups and individuals these are just a few of our community activities, but it's not all work and no play as we also enjoy ourselves at snooker and darts nights, Indian, Italian and Chinese nights at local restaurants, occasional quiz nights and host a variety of speakers at our weekly meetings.

It's amazing what we manage to do with relatively small numbers of members and we are always more than happy to welcome anyone to the club to get a taster of who we are and what we do. We meet most Wednesdays at 7pm at the Bay Horse Front Street, Whickham.

Have a look at our Facebook page, Whickham Rotary Club or visit our website www.whickhamrotary.co.uk

www.whickhamrotary.co.uk
email: news@whickhamrotary.co.uk