



Conference P4



Bikeathon is back P7



Open Gardens P11



River clean-up P18

Rotary Matters

Maidenhead
Rotary
Club



The newspaper for Maidenhead Rotary Club No.5, April 2022

A group of seven people, four women and three men, are posing for a photo. They are all smiling and pointing their fingers directly at the camera. The background features a large Union Jack flag. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal clothing. One man in the front left is wearing a Union Jack hard hat. A woman in the front right is wearing a straw hat. The text 'YOUR QUAD NEEDS YOU' is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom of the photo. Below the text, it says 'Sign up for a great weekend of fun and fellowship — p3'.

YOUR QUAD NEEDS YOU

Sign up for a great weekend of fun and fellowship — p3

In this issue

District 1090 Conference	p4
Presidents' Lunch	p5
Bikeathon	p6-7
Young Environmentalists	p8
Youth Programme	p9
Open Gardens	p10-11
Speaker report	p12
Tree planting	p13
Spotlight on Makindu	P14-15
Projects Round-up	p16
Club Structure Review	p17
Dates for your diary	p18



Words and design: Martin Trepte
Photography: Maria Scavetta
Contact: martintrepte23@gmail.com

Club support for Ukraine medics



ALONGSIDE personal donations from individual members, the club has sent a donation of £500 to the District 1090 appeal in support of the International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals.

The money will be sent to Rotary clubs in Ukraine and Poland with whom the fellowship has built up good working relationships and will be used to buy medical supplies and other humanitarian aid.

The fellowship has established safe channels to transfer funds to Rotary in Ukraine and Poland.

Every penny will go to frontline Rotarians whose primary focus will be on providing safe and essential medical care.

But as the conditions on the frontline are changing rapidly, so they will use the funds for emergency care as needed.

A word from the President:

IT WAS wonderful to see so many members and their partners at the Presidents' (not a typo) Lunch recently – a very special thank-you to Tony Lodge whose tenacity made it happen.

Rotary fellowship sits at the very heart of our club and I hope the great turnout represents a turning point in our activities getting back to normal after two years of Covid-related disruption.

That's why I was delighted to share the occasion with immediate past president Mary Spinks, who was denied a president's lunch of her own due to lockdown.

She led us with great strength, humour and resilience through what must have been the most difficult year in the club's history – so it was only fair she got to share the Presidents' Lunch. And I'm delighted she's agreed to lead us again next year, when hopefully she will have a much more normal year.

While Covid is still with us and things may never return to exactly how they used to be, we now need to look forward to how we can shake off the lockdown lethargy and re-energise our club to both serve others as Rotarians and foster the fellowship that is so important to us.

To this end we are looking again at the structure of the club. Full details are on p17 but in summary, after listening to a lot of feedback from members, we are keeping what has worked well and tweaking what hasn't.

One of the biggest changes will be bringing together membership, recruitment, the club programme and social activities under one committee.

Ensuring the club is giving its members what they want from Rotary – creating a club you don't want to **NOT** be a part of – is absolutely fundamental. Get that right and everything else should follow.

Re-energising the club is so important because there is so much going on that the club needs your help with.

Plans are already well advanced for Open Gardens, Youth Camp, the Bikeathon and River Thames clean-up.

And of course there is the Quadrilateral next month.

Eddie Clarke's organising committee – the Quad Squad – has come up with a fantastic weekend of activities in May to re-launch the Quadrilateral after a two-year absence.

It is a wonderful opportunity to renew both friendships within our own club and those with our fellow Rotarians from Bonn, St Cloud and Tivoli – and to forge lasting new friendships.

The Quadrilateral is unique and one of the defining features of our club – but for it to be a success we really do need support from as many of you as possible.

Let's hope we can duplicate the turnout from the Presidents' Lunch at the various Quad events – full details opposite.

Covid has had a terrible effect on all of us and we will always count the cost – especially the loss of our dear friend and Rotary colleague Harry Patel.

But I am always inspired by something Harry said to me in our very last conversation, when I was writing a story about him providing half-term meals for children missing out in their school dinners.

Harry said: 'Rotary amplifies the good you can do'. That is an absolute truth.

There's no way my run could have raised £3,000 for UNICEF without the support of the club. And likewise all the good that comes from all of our activities – be it fundraising or fellowship – is amplified by it being done under the auspices of Rotary.

So, as we reset our focus for the future, I look forward to working with all of you to amplify the good we can do as individual Rotarians and as a Rotary club in our own community, in our environment, and in the rest of the world.

President Martin

Rotary promoting the power of vaccines

ROTARY will be promoting the power of vaccines during World Immunization Week from 24-30 April.

Vaccines are one of the greatest advances of modern medicine. They are safe, effective, and save millions of lives each year. Our progress in the fight to end polio is proof that vaccines work.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative estimates the polio vaccine has saved more than 20 million children from paralysis.

We need to continue vaccinating children against polio, because as long as the poliovirus circulates anywhere, it is a threat everywhere.



Quad Squad's call to arms

Total club commitment needed to ensure return of Quadrilateral is a great success

IT IS only a few short weeks until the club plays host to the 2022 Quadrilateral.

Three years have passed since the last Quadrilateral was held in Tivoli. Due to the pandemic, the next two, in Bonn and St Cloud, were cancelled.

After more than a year of preparation the final touches to the arrangements are being made for the weekend of May 26-28.

Numbers from our twin clubs are healthy — if a little down on previous years — and the packed programme promises a relaxed and fun weekend to allow the renewal of friendships and the sharing Rotary fellowship.

But for all of the hard work and planning to pay off requires maximum support from our own club.

For those who may not know, the Quadrilateral is an annual gathering of the four twinned Rotary clubs of Maidenhead, Bonn, Tivoli and St Cloud, hosted by each club in rotation in the UK, Germany, Italy and France. The tradition has been an annual fixture of our Rotary calendar since the 1950s.

The theme for this year is the rich heritage of the River Thames which runs through our area.

The weekend, based at the Compleat Angler next to the Thames in Marlow, begins on Thursday, May 26, with registration followed by reception drinks and a gala



The Quad Squad wants you...

dinner — minus the black ties, of course.

Activities the next day, Friday, May 27, start with a regatta-themed river cruise direct from the hotel aboard the MV Georgian with lunch served on board and music provided by the Geoff Hiscott jazz band.

The evening entertainment takes place just across the road from the hotel at Marlow Rowing Club which will provide the venue for supper and fellowship, with

entertainment supplied by solo artist Jan Robinson.

Saturday, May 28, sees three options for free time: a bus trip to London and tours of Henley or Cliveden. The evening features one of the most popular and enduring Quadrilateral activities — dinner parties hosted at Rotarians' homes.

The final day of the weekend, Sunday, May 29, sees a farewell brunch a short bus ride from the hotel at Bisham Abbey, providing a

picturesque closing venue. Chaired by Eddie Clarke, the Quadrilateral committee of Mary Spinks, Maria Scavetta, Tony Lodge, Janet Perry, Julia Foulds, Peter Graham and Lyndsey Allen, has worked tirelessly to come up with a fantastic programme.

Now they need everyone in the club to get behind them and take part in as much of the weekend as possible.

A registration sheet with a full list of all the events and prices has been sent to every member of the club.

Please return them as soon as you can to help the planning with final numbers.

Eddie Clarke said: "The committee has worked really hard to put together a great programme for a fun and relaxed return of the Quadrilateral in some fantastic venues.

"Our four clubs have been meeting since the mid-50s and sharing international friendships but Covid-19 has meant that by May we will have been unable to meet for three years.

"All the activities are local so we will have even more opportunities to renew our friendships and make new ones."

He added: "But for the Quadrilateral to be a great success we need total club commitment. So I ask everyone to get behind the committee's efforts to help make its long-awaited return the best it can possibly be."



Not a dull moment at the District 1090 conference

More than 400 Rotarians enjoyed a programme packed with inspiring speakers



The delegates from Maidenhead at the gala dinner.



Eddie and Eileen Clarke with Rotary scholar Maria Gargiulo

A 10-STRONG delegation from the club enjoyed an inspiring weekend in Oxford at the Rotary District Conference in March.

They joined more than 400 Rotarians from across District 1090 for the three-day event based around the King's Centre in the city.

The packed programme featured keynote speakers including Hannah Ingram-Moore, the daughter of national hero Captain Tom; Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert, co-creator of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine; Chris Lubbe, Nel-

son Mandela's bodyguard, and Gert-Jan Van Dommelen, one of the founders of the Rotary End Plastic Soup initiative.

There was also a schools' technology tournament and a 'village' showcasing the work of many charities associated with or supported by Rotary.

A host of other inspiring speakers highlighted the work of Rotary at home and abroad, including the response to the crisis in Ukraine.

In the evenings delegates enjoyed a dinner theatre — with the menu from surplus, seasonal and local ingredients

cooked by Oxford charity the Climated Kitchen — and a gala dinner in the grand setting of the great hall at Keble College, where the party from Maidenhead was also staying. They were joined for the dinner by our Rotary Scholar Maria Gargiulo.

Club president Martin Trepte said: "It was an excellent and very well organised conference. District Governor Karen Eveleigh and her team delivered a great mix of inspiring, entertaining and informative sessions. It's not a cliché to say there wasn't a dull moment."



Speakers included Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert, Chris Lubbe, District Governor Karen Eveleigh and Hannah Ingram-Moore.



Friends reunited for lunch

Leisurely afternoon of fun, food and fellowship as club turns its eyes to the future

A WONDERFUL afternoon of food, fun and fellowship was enjoyed by Maidenhead Rotary Club on Sunday, April 10, at its annual Presidents' Lunch.

Nearly 50 members and their partners attended the event, at Stirrups Hotel in Warfield. Usually held for the new president much earlier in the Rotary year, the lunch had been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Current club president Martin Treppe also shared the occasion with his immediate predecessor, Mary Spinks, who had been denied her own lunch in 2020 due to the lockdown.

Martin said: "I am delighted to share today with Mary. It's only fair.



President Martin thanks Tony Lodge.

She led us with great strength, humour and resilience through what must have been the most difficult year in the club's history – with most activities halted and

all meetings consigned to zoom."

Martin spoke of how being in Rotary amplifies the good that members can do in society and said that while Covid meant things may never return to exactly how they used to be, the club needed to look forward.

The club has a busy few months ahead with large events being planned including a River Thames clean-up, its Open Gardens weekend, annual Bikeathon, an International Youth project and a 'Quadrilateral' weekend when it will host fellow Rotarians from its twin clubs in France, Italy and Germany.

Special thanks were paid to Rotarian Tony Lodge for organising the lunch.





Maidenhead
Rotary
Club

MAIDENHEAD BIKEATHON

SUN 10 JULY 2022 FROM 8.00 AM

Maidenhead Office Park, Westacott Way, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead SL6 3QN

3 ROUTES

24

— km —

15 MILES

Family Route

50

— km —

35 MILES

Mid Route

100

— km —

62 MILES

Long Route



Ample car parking for
cyclists & supporters



Commemorative
medal for all finishers



Raise money for your
own charitable causes

Register now: maidenheadbikeathon.co.uk

Bikeathon 2022 is go!

Registration is open and a huge publicity drive aims to get more entries than ever



Help will be needed at the Bikeathon base camp at Littlewick Green and also marshalling along the family route.

REGISTRATION is now open for this year's Maidenhead Rotary Bikeathon, which offers three different routes catering for cyclists of every age and ability from families to serious club riders.

Rapidly becoming one of the club's main events of the year, the Bikeathon is growing in popularity with the organising team hoping for a record turn-out this year.

A huge publicity drive has started to attract entrants and the whole club will be needed to help at the base camp and marshal checkpoints on the day.

Taking place on Sunday, July 10, the Bikeathon has a choice of three different routes — 15, 35 and 62 miles (24, 50 and 100km) — which all start and finish at Maidenhead Office Park in Littlewick Green.

Proceeds will be donated to Prostate Cancer Awareness and participants are also welcome to raise sponsorship for their own good cause, if they wish.

Organiser Rotarian Sean Egan said: "The Bikeathon is going from strength to strength and online registration is now open for this year. "It's not a race



and the three different routes cater for all ages and abilities. So whether you are looking for a fun family event, are a regular cyclist or part of a club looking for your next challenge, we have a route for you."

The short 'family' route — which is mostly flat — and the medium route follow quiet country roads around the Walthams, Shurlock Row, Binfield and

Winkfield Row. The long route heads over to Henley, Christmas Common, then back to Maidenhead via Sonning and Winkfield.

While roads will not be closed for the event, all routes will be clearly marked and there will be marshals along the short route.

Refreshment stations are located approximately half-way along each route. Medals will be awarded to all cyclists who complete the event.

Registration costs £15 for adults (aged 18 and over), £10 for 12-17-year-olds, and is free for children under 12.

Road, hybrid or mountain bikes are all suitable. Electric bikes, child seats and tag-alongs are all permitted. Please ensure bikes are roadworthy and all participants must wear a helmet.

The whole event, including registration, takes place outdoors and any necessary Covid-19 precautions will be observed.

For more details and to register please see the Bikeathon website at www.maidenheadbikeathon.co.uk and to volunteer on the day contact Sean Egan.





Overall winners Jessica Jones, Sophie Carter, Grace Johnson and Yasmin Paton who came up with the idea of a fashion swap-shop.

Winning ideas to tackle climate crisis

Claires Court sixth-formers sweep board in environmental contest

SIXTH-FORMERS at Claires Court School have swept the board in the Maidenhead Rotary Club Young Environmentalist Competition.

The students entered the group senior category in the local round of the competition, which is being run nationwide by Rotary to encourage young people to engage with environmental issues.

The teams had to research and undertake an environmental sustainability project on the theme of climate change or carbon reduction that raised awareness of a particular problem and inspired action to respond to it.

The winning entry was 'The Effects of Fashion on Our Cli-

mate' submitted by Jessica Jones, Sophie Carter, Grace Johnson and Yasmin Paton, who came up with the idea of a swap-shop to reuse unwanted clothes. They shared the first prize of £100 and each student was given a certificate. Their entry now goes forward into the district round of the competition.

The two runner-up entries were a carbon footprint rating sticker by Jess Holmes and Erin Kenton, and a climate change reminder app from Luke Lyons and Aaron Mussel. Both pairs shared prizes of £50 and received certificates.

Club president Martin Treppe, club environmental lead

Gurdial Singh and schools liaison lead Malcolm Falconer presented the prizes to the winners and runners-up in a sixth-form assembly.

Martin told the pupils: "It's so important young people engage with these issues as you are inheriting the world from the last generation and, to be honest, we haven't done a very good job of looking after it for you. It's great Claires Court has risen to the challenge, embraced the issues and produced such fantastic entries in the competition."

The club would like to thank Thames Water for the cash prizes for the winners and runners-up.

Interview and CV sessions at schools

VITAL interview and CV writing experience was provided to sixth-formers at Altwood School by members of the club.

The team led by Altwood school liaison Eddie Clarke was made up of Janet Perry, Pat Lattimer, Mary Spinks, and Tony Hill.

Between them they carried out mock interviews for 26 students to help prepare them for applying for university, jobs or apprenticeships.

The interviews followed a previous session on CV writing and interview techniques by Rotarian Malcolm Falconer, a former HR director and expert in recruitment.

Eddie said "I thought it was very successful and went very well. The important thing was to not just given them interview experience but also feedback on the interviews themselves as their CVs.

"You only get one chance to make an impression and stand out from the crowd on paper, so these are vital skills to help the sixth-formers with."

Volunteers are also needed for a mock interview session for Claires Court students on July, 13. Contact Malcolm if you can help.



Jess Holmes and Erin Kenton devised a carbon footprint rating sticker.



Luke Lyons and Aaron Mussel developed a climate change app.



Participants on previous programmes have made lasting friendships with young people from different European countries.

Daring youngsters wanted

The search is on for two adventurous teens to take part in this year's youth project

TWO teenagers with a spirit of adventure are being sought to take part in an expenses-paid international youth project run by the Rotary Club of Maidenhead.

The two successful applicants will take part in a trip to Snowdonia for a week of activities designed to build self-confidence and develop life skills, such as teamwork and leadership.

They will be part of a group of young people from several European countries, so have the chance to make lasting international friendships.

This year's project runs from Saturday, July 8 to Sunday, July 17, and will be based at the Ros-y-Gwalia outdoor education centre, near Bala.

On the programme will be a mix of challenging activities such as canoeing, sailing, rock-climbing, map-reading and an overnight 'wild' camping expedition into the Welsh mountains.

Organiser Eddie Clarke said: "Candidates will join youngsters sent by our twin Rotary clubs in Germany, France and Italy. Every year the project rotates between the clubs and this year returns to the UK.

"One of Rotary's main aims is the

development of young people and the programme is designed to help them build key life skills. Meeting their peers from other European countries adds an extra dimension to the project and helps foster a wider understanding between young people."

Two teenagers are needed to represent Maidenhead. They must be aged 16

to 18 and be able to swim. Participants must also be double vaccinated against Covid-19.

"We are not looking for athletes or experienced 'outdoor' types but young people who would benefit most from the experiences and the opportunity to develop self-confidence during the week. Primarily we are looking for determination and a willingness to 'give it a go'," added Eddie.

"Candidates must be ready for a degree of physical discomfort – it can be wet and cold – but I guarantee they will have loads of fun.

"We have had the immense pleasure in previous years of seeing young people develop in confidence from the project and the feedback from participants has been amazing — with many describing it as the experience of a lifetime."

All costs of the programme, including travel, are met by Rotary. Participants will be accompanied on all the activities by Rotarians and expert instructors from Ros-Y-Gwalia.

For more information and an application form call Eddie Clarke on 01628 671108 or email him at eddieclarke@outlook.com



Exciting activities include exploring an old slate mine.

Rotary Club of Maidenhead

OPEN GARDENS

25-26 June 2022



GARDENS WANTED

Maidenhead Rotary Club is delighted to announce the return of Maidenhead Open Gardens in June 2022.

We are again looking for gardens large and small, traditional and modern, established or still works in progress to bring friends, neighbours and communities together for a weekend of gardens, tea, cakes and much more!

Will you join us?

For more details about how to open your garden please email: contact@maidenheadopengardens.org





More gardens are being sought to make this year's Open Gardens weekend even bigger and better.

How does your garden grow?

The whole club will need to get behind the event to ensure the weekend is a success

THE SEARCH is continuing for interesting gardens of all shapes and sizes to take part in this year's Maidenhead Rotary Club Open Gardens Weekend on June 25-26.

Held for the first time last year with 24 gardens taking part, the event was a sell-out success that saw more than £6,400 raised for charities including Dementia Research, Thames Hospice and Maidenhead Blind Club.

Some gardens also hosted extra attractions as plant stalls, refreshments, arts and crafts and even live music.

So far 20 gardens are confirmed for this year. The organising team led by Janet Perry want to build on last year's success and are looking for additional gardens to take part this year to help raise even more money for good causes.

They want to hear from the owners of gardens in the Maidenhead area prepared to open their gates for a weekend celebration of the nation's love of gardening. Gardens can be large or small, new or well-established, and the hope is that some more unseen corners of Maidenhead can be revealed.

Last year's event was limited to just 600 tickets, which all sold out. With



more gardens taking part, the plan is to increase the number of tickets to make the event available to even more people.

Janet said: "We were delighted by the fantastic success of last year's Open

Gardens Weekend as a new event for Maidenhead. The fact all the tickets sold out in advance shows there is an appetite for an even bigger event this year.

"Garden owners loved sharing their enthusiasm and visitors enjoyed exchanging ideas and discovering some of the treasures hidden away behind garden walls and fences.

"It is a lovely opportunity to bring people together."

Janet added: "At this stage we are asking owners who are interested in opening their gardens to contact us to discuss how they would like to be involved."

Tickets will go on sale from May 1 both online and at Braywick Heath Nursery, which has once again agreed to be involved.

Open Gardens will need the whole club to get behind it to ensure it is a success. As well as some members opening their own gardens, lots of volunteers will be needed to assist at other gardens over the weekend. Please put the dates — Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27 — in your diaries.

For more details about taking part and to volunteer please email janet_perry@btinternet.com



Think Britain is wet? Time to think again

Guest speaker gives a fascinating insight into the story of the water in our taps

‘THE UK is not a wet country’ was perhaps the most surprising revelation from a recent guest speaker at Maidenhead Rotary Club, Richard Aylard, the Sustainability Director for Thames Water.

“By international standards the UK is quite dry,” said Richard, going on to explain that as the UK does not have a rainy season, any rain that falls in the summer is effectively lost as it quickly evaporates.

“You never have enough water... until there’s too much. And the thing about droughts is that you never know when they are going to end,” he said,

In a fascinating insight into the story of the water from our taps, Richard explained how the company provides its 15 million customers with 2.6 billion litres of drinking water a day.

He outlined the water cycle, from abstraction from rivers and aquifers to the treatment of wastewater at sewage works, revealing along the way some mindboggling statistics – the company has 100,000km of sewers with 1.2million manhole covers.

He set out the future challenges faced by water companies from climate change to population growth, explaining more infrastructure is needed to improve resilience.



Richard Aylard

For example, the number of people living in the area served by Thames Water is expected to increase by two million by 2040 and a large new reservoir

near Abingdon is being planned to help meet the extra demand.

Richard tackled head-on the controversial issues of leaky pipes and the discharge of sewage into rivers.

He said leakage was too high but the company aimed to cut losses by 20 percent by 2025 and 50 percent longer term thanks to steps including infrastructure improvements, water meters and acoustic monitors which helped pinpoint leaks. Turning to why untreated sewage was discharged into rivers, Richard explained the problem was driven by rainfall which increased the amount of water in sewers by up to six times compared to dry days.

When there is more dirty water than can be treated, it is kept in storage tanks and it is when these are full and the sewage would back up into homes that the discharges are made.

He said it was happening too often and sewage works were being expanded with a £1.2bn investment but the problem was made worse by house-building and concreting which caused more surface water to run off into drains.

Richard stressed investment by Thames Water was not declining and explained the company’s owners had not issued a dividend for several years.

Volunteers and players needed for return of golf day

AFTER a gap of two years the Rotary Open Charity Golf Day returns on August 31 at Maidenhead Golf Club.

It has always been a major fundraiser for the club, so please make a note of the date as volunteers will be needed on the day.

Non-golfers are also invited to join the evening meal and it is hoped lots of members will come along.

A main sponsor for the event is also being sought to boost its fundraising potential.

The competition will be a four-ball men’s, ladies’ or mixed team event with a two-tee start from 12.30pm. To enter

costs £80 per person or £320 per team. The price includes a bacon roll or Danish pastry with coffee on arrival, 18-holes of golf, a putting competition and opportunities to earn extra points and prizes.

In the evening will be a two-course dinner followed by cheese, coffee, an auction and the prize-giving. The cost for non-playing guests for the evening meal is £30 per person.

For more details of the day and an entry form for the competition please email eileenclarkel@live.co.uk

To offer to help on the day please contact Rotarian Eddie Clarke.



Team plants a dozen saplings from traditional tree varieties to mark the jubilee



Mighty oaks for the future

Mary Spinks, Martin Trepte, Graham Brunsden and Pat Moore helped plant the trees along a footpath near BCA.

MEMBERS of the club recently planted a dozen traditional English tree saplings to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee.

The five-strong team planted the saplings, six oaks and six hornbeams, along a footpath near BCA in Burchetts Green where in time they will grow to shelter a small wildflower meadow.

The planting was organised by Rotarian Graham Brunsden and facilitated

by ground staff at BCA. Helping him were Mary Spinks, Pat Moore, Amel Alariqi and club president Martin Trepte.

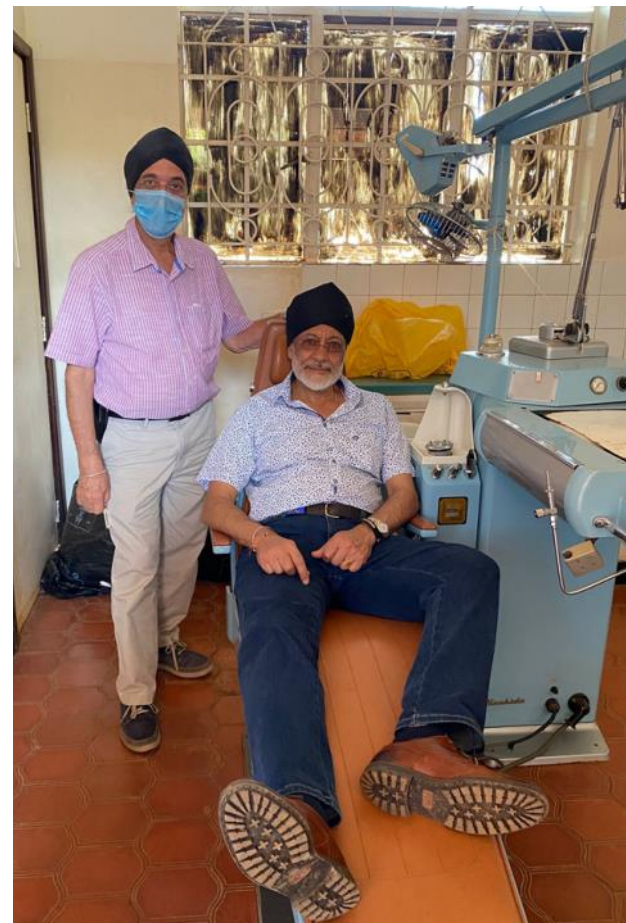
Last year Rotary added protecting the environment as its seventh area of focus alongside its existing priorities of promoting peace; fighting disease; providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; saving mothers and children;

supporting education; and growing local economies.

President Martin said: "With Rotary's new focus on the environment, planting traditional English trees was the perfect way to mark the platinum jubilee year. And planting saplings to benefit future generations is a perfect illustration of the Rotary ethos of service above self."



It was hard work digging the holes to plant the saplings in the rocky soil but thankfully Graham brought his trusty pick-axe.



A happy patient after treatment (above) and (right) Gurdip tries out a new dental chair during his latest visit in December.

All smiles at Makindu

UNLIKE the UK where there is one dentist for every 1,500 people, in Kenya the figure is one dentist for every 40,000, most of them practising in major towns.

The Makindu Dental Clinic, which provides free treatment to people living in a remote area of Kenya, has been supported by the club for many years.

Rotarian Gurdip Bahra and his son Jasdeep, a dentist who has volunteered at the project, were guest speakers at a recent evening meeting.

Their family is the driving force behind the initiative which is located in an area where the pair have very strong family connections.

Based at the Makindu Sikh temple, dental clinics are now held every fortnight offering a wide range of treatment together with education in oral health and hygiene.

The project began in 2005

The story of the Makindu Dental Project, one of the most successful initiatives supported by the club, has been brought right up to date by two of its supporters

when a hospital block was added to the temple and started offering free dental clinics provided by Gurdip's brother-in-law, Dr Parvin Jandu, a dentist

in the capital, Nairobi, and another dentist, Dr Joseph Nduati.

The initiative was supported by Maidenhead Rotary Club and, after visiting, Gurdip was

determined to provide extra help.

In the summer of 2007 two dental camps were held. About 450 patients were treated but limited facilities continued to mean treatment was kept mostly to extractions.

However, the initiative was adopted as a Quadrilateral project by the Rotary club which meant funding could be provided for two new dental units which were officially opened by Gurdip and fellow Rotarian Frank Knowles in 2009.

That year also saw a four-day dental camp with 525 patients treated by a team of dentists from Gurdip's family in the UK and others from Kenya.

Since then two new dental units have been added to the project, which now treats about 1,600 patients a year. Free food and accommodation is provided by the Sikh temple to the dentists **(story continues over the page)**



Patients await their treatment.

Rotary Matters: Spotlight on Makindu Dental Clinic



Gurdip (centre) with Dr Jandu (left) and Dr Nduati and their Paul Harris Fellowships. Above: The clinic is in the Sikh temple.

The project offers incredible value for money, costing just £1.84 per patient

(continued from previous page) who travel great distances for each fortnightly clinic.

Strong links have also been forged with the University of Nairobi Dental Hospital, which uses the clinics for training undergraduates.

Despite being forced to close temporarily due to Covid-19, the clinics are once again running fully.

Dr Jandu was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship Award by the club when he visited the UK several years ago. And during a trip to Makindu in December, Gurdip was able to also present the award to Dr Nduati, who has never missed a clinic since the project began.

While the Rotary club continues to provide some financial support, most of the funding for the clinic is raised by

Gurdip's family through events such as Maidenhead Boundary Walk.

The project offers incredible value for money – running costs are £2,953 a year which works out at £1.84 per patient.

Thanking Gurdip and Jasdeep for their inspiring talk, club president Martin Trepte said: "This is an amazing initiative that is at the very heart of Rotary and has grown into a project that makes an enormous and often life-changing difference to people who would otherwise have no help.

"While the club is proud to be a supporter, the driving force behind it is the Bahra family.

"It is an enormous achievement and a testament to your vision and dedication to public service that it has thrived and grown into the success it is today."



Clinic staff and their equipment.



Dr Nduati, who has never missed a clinic, treats a patient.



Rotarians Frank and Gurdip at the opening of the new units in 2009.



The team at the Makindu Dental Clinic.

Updates on international projects supported by the club:

Aarti Home, Kapada

THE Aarti Home, which the club has helped since 2012, continues its vital work supporting women, children, and the wider community in Southern India despite additional problems caused by the pandemic and, most recently, severe flooding.

Aarti has supported 505 children with food rations and helped 572 children continue education while schools were closed during lockdown. It funded 163 oxygen concentrators and two oxygen plants plus much-needed medical consumables in the Covid emergency.

The pandemic left 470 women widowed with no income and 1,236 children orphaned with no support. All the women have received counselling and short-term support and 63 women have been given long-term support. Aarti has supported 196 children and 551 children are now in family-based care.

On top of the pandemic 18 local villages were hit by floods, leaving 145 people dead or missing while 800 families lost everything. Aarti has provided flood relief to 3,125 families affected by the disaster.

Work is continuing on the memorial project to Harry Patel funded by donations following his death from Covid last year. The project includes Harry's Kitchen, a school at a new centre in Kapada to teach culinary skills, and Harry's Farm, which will grow produce for the school.

Building work for Harry's Kitchen is due to be finished next month. They are now looking at interior plans and seeking quotes for equipment for the kitchen and training courses.

Meanwhile, two Aarti students have been enrolled in professional chef training in Chennai. It is hoped they may later join the project as trainers and help run the café there.

The first crop has started to come through at Harry's Farm despite having to be replanted after the heavy rains in January. The farm has been extended to cover most of the open land at the Aarti village.

In January Aarti built a prototype low-cost solar dryer to prevent surplus vegetables from being wasted during the peak season.

It will process tomatoes, spinach, and other vegetables into powders which can be stored or sold for cooking.

Aarti is now developing a long-term idea to create an economic ecosystem where Aarti and other small farmers will be able to provide solar-processed vegetable powders.

Women at Aarti's wellness centre will receive culinary, nutritional and hygiene training. They will learn to cook,

both with the powders and fresh produce from the farm, and sell the produce as well as run a café using them.

Chachoki Eye Camp, Punjab

A MINI eye Camp was held in November which provided 30 patients with free cataract operations and after care.

Total funds donated in 2021 were £1,500 made up of £1,000 from Club Charity Account and £500 from funds raised by Rotarian Gurdip Bahra and his family and friends.

Saurpani School, Nepal (Quadrilateral project)

THE project to rebuild the primary school in a remote region of Nepal devastated by an earthquake in 2015 is split into components supported by various Rotary clubs.

The first part, supported by Faringdon Rotary Club and a London club, which included compound fencing, ground pavement, and water and sanitation works, has now been finished. The element supported by Maidenhead Rotary Club is due to be completed by the end of April.

It includes educational visits and teacher training, computers, IT training, library books and furniture. A total of £4,225 has been sent to the Rotary Club of Kopundol.

Our member Gurdip Bahra receives regular progress reports from Rotarian Bhakta Maheswor, the project co-ordinator.

Zimbabwe projects

THE club supports a number of grassroots projects in Zimbabwe through partnership with the charity Creating Better Futures.



Orthopaedic shoes for George

THE club has paid \$300 to cover a new pair of special orthopaedic shoes for a little boy called George whose feet were badly burned when he was a baby.

The donation includes an allowance for petrol costs to travel twice to the clinic, and \$50 for school fees for George and his brother Vincent.

George's father is in very poor health and is unable to work so the family has very little income. The club has been paying for his special shoes for several years now — this is the third pair it has funded.

Pig breeding project, Chatakaira Primary School

One of the sows recently gave birth to eight piglets, of which five survived, and appear to be thriving and growing fast.

Broiler Chickens Project, Dombashawe area

A project to raise Sasso chickens was started at three schools but due to the high cost of this breed and their feed, all started raising more profitable broiler chickens instead.

The Covid lockdown forced two of the schools to stop running the project but Chinamhora School was able to continue as most of its teachers live on site.

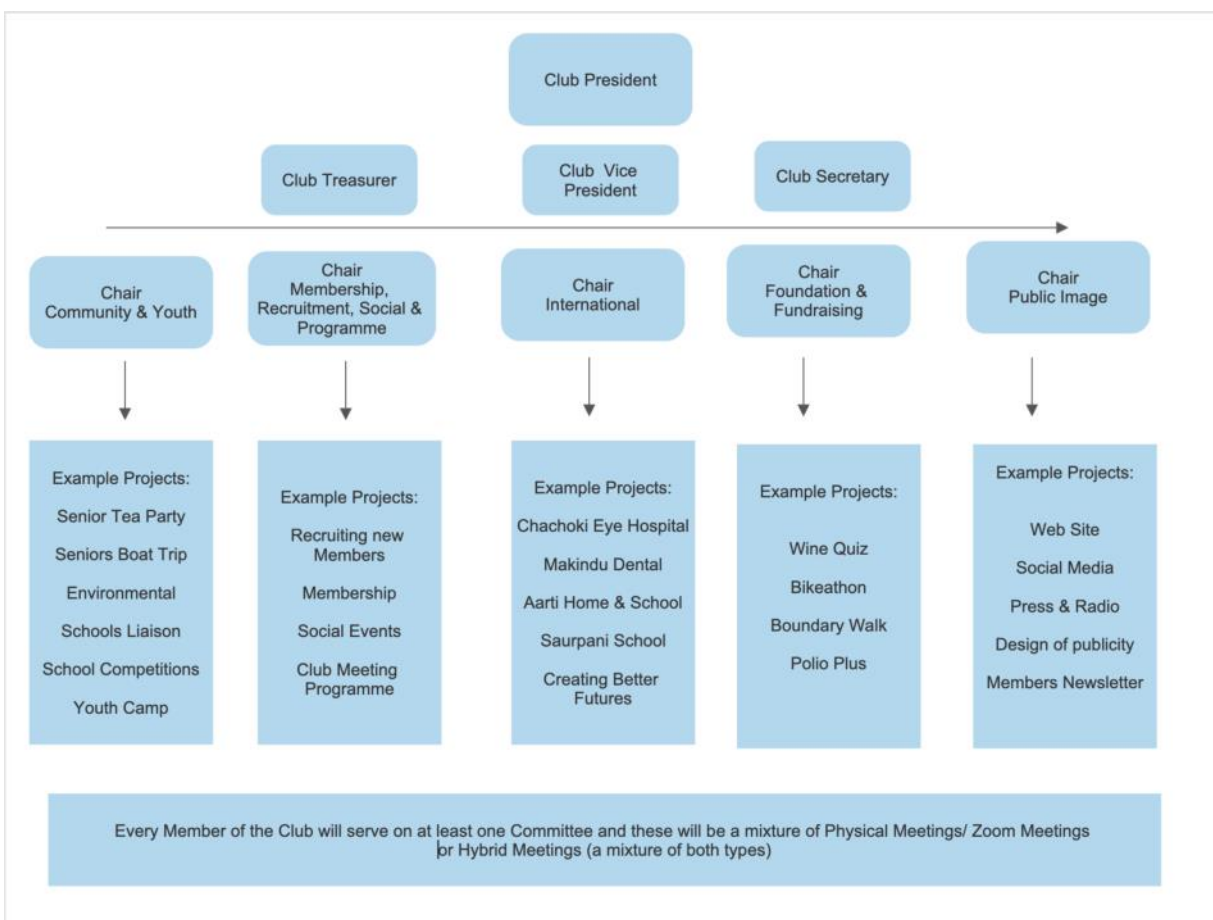
The situation has been further complicated by a teachers' strike due to non-payment of their salaries by the government.

Schools were scheduled to re-open this week, so hopefully the broiler chickens project will re-start in two of the schools.



George being fitted with and then standing in his latest pair of special shoes.

Club structure review



How the new club structure could look. Please have your say on the proposals.

It HAS been the best part of a year since we changed the committee structure with the aim of eliminating duplication and encouraging more engagement with the club.

We reduced the number of committees and reformed them into panels overseeing the work to 'project groups'.

While the work of the project groups is a great success, some members have felt they are less engaged by not having committees to serve on.

It's only right that we review what we've done, learn from it, build on what works and change what doesn't.

To that end, after listening to the views expressed recently at meetings, a small working group of President Martin, President elect Mary and Secretary Frank, has come up with a draft new structure to try to answer most of the concerns raised.

From the organisational chart above you will see the main changes being proposed are:

1) Splitting the projects pan-

el back into separate Youth & Community and International committees. The projects panel is basically seen as too unwieldy with too big an oversight brief.

2) Setting up a new membership, recruitment, programme and social committee – this is seen as integral to re-energising the club.

We need to make sure the club offers members exactly what they want in terms of meeting content, speakers and social events.

This is fundamental to recruiting and keeping new members and creating a club that people don't want to **NOT** be a part of.

All the project groups would remain as they are and every member of the club would serve on at least one committee as well as on any project groups they wish.

While PI would continue to support the whole club, early feedback from members is that it should also be part of the new committee as its marketing role is also essential to recruitment

and internal communication within the club.

Club Council would be made up of the committee chairs plus the treasurer, secretary, vice president and president. As we are looking at more committees it will be up to the club to decide if we still want two ordinary members on the council. It may be the new structure allays the concerns over transparency and accountability that led to them being included.

This structure should address the issues members have raised and provide the right focus for the future of the club, particularly the core function of ensuring it is offering members exactly what they want from Rotary.

The chart is for illustrative purposes, so not all projects are on it and some may cross over committees, for example social and fundraising. The structure will be discussed at future meetings with a view to being introduced for the new Rotary year but in the meantime please email secretary Frank with your thoughts and feedback.

Boat trip returns

AFTER a Covid-enforced absence, the old people's riverboat trip along the Thames is back.

Organised by Pat Lattimer, it will take place on Thursday, July 21, and volunteer drivers will be needed to help ferry the guests to and from the boat.

If you can help please put the date in your diary and contact Pat for more details.

Boost for Yemen

THE club has sent £500 to the Shelterbox Yemen Appeal.

The money is from President Martin's donated honorarium. And will be used to provide emergency relief in the country where millions of people face famine and food insecurity due to seven years of civil war.

The amount was fund-matched by another Shelterbox donor so is the equivalent of £1,000.

Trained in first aid

THREE club members have passed their Emergency First Aid at Work L3 (VTQ) course following a training day organised by Rotary.

Pat Lattimer, Graham Brunsden and Martin Trepte are now qualified first-aiders, which be very helpful for the club at events.

Focus on a cleaner Thames

Clubs set to work together for river clean-up and to promote a plastic-free lifestyle

ROTARIANS from all the clubs in Maidenhead are planning a joint River Thames clean-up on Saturday, May 7.

The town's three Rotary clubs — Maidenhead, Maidenhead Bridge and Maidenhead Thames — and Maidenhead Rotaract will be joining forces as part of a District-wide clean-up along the river.

A joint organising committee with representatives from all the clubs and chaired by Gurdial Singh is busy planning the event.

The focus will be on clearing litter from the footpaths of both sides of the river between Boulter's Lock and the M4 and there will also be a stand in the town centre promoting the Rotary End Plastic Soup initiative, highlighting the dangers of single-use plastics, and explaining more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

Volunteers will be needed on the day so please contact Gurdial if you can help.



Members of all the town's Rotary clubs will be taking part in the river clean-up.

Club programme

Day	Date	Event & Time	Details
Wednesday	April 27	7.30pm	Evening meeting with speaker
Monday	May 9	12.30pm	Lunchtime business meeting
Monday	May 16	12.30pm	Lunchtime speaker meeting
Monday	May 23	12.30pm	Lunchtime fellowship meeting
Monday	May 30	12.30pm	Lunchtime speaker meeting
Monday	June 6	12.30pm	AGM part 2 and business meeting

Rotary club dates for your diary

May:

Saturday 7 — River Thames Clean-up, Maidenhead: volunteers needed
Long weekend of 26-29 — Quadrilateral, Marlow

June:

Weekend of 25-26 — Open Gardens Weekend: volunteers needed

July:

Week of 8-17 — Youth Camp
Sunday 10 — Maidenhead Bikeathon: volunteers needed
Thursday 21 — OAP Riverboat Trip: volunteers needed

August:

Wednesday 31 — Open Charity Golf Day: teams and volunteers needed

October:

Sunday 2 — Maidenhead Boundary Walk: volunteers needed

Club news in brief

Boundary Walk

MAIDENHEAD Bridge Club has taken over the chair for this year's Boundary Walk. Peter Graham has joined President Martin representing our club on the organising committee.

Planning is well under way for the event which will take place on Sunday, October 2. Please put the date in your diaries as a large turnout of volunteers will be needed.

More social events

SUNDAY Walks are expected to start again in May. These will be a great outdoor and Covid-safe activity, hopefully ending with a pub lunch.

A boules night in June is also being considered as a club social event. Please support Tony Lodge with any suggestions for events you would like to have.

Wine Quiz dates

DATES are being explored for this popular social and fundraising event to be held in September or October.

Rotary
Club of Maidenhead



Open Charity Golf Day

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

at Maidenhead Golf Club, Shoppenhangers Road, SL6 2PZ

4-ball men's, ladies' or mixed team event

2-tee start from 12.30pm

£80 per person, or £320 per team



THE DAY INCLUDES:

- Bacon roll/Danish pastry/coffee on arrival
- 18 holes of golf
- Putting competition
- Opportunities to earn extra points/prizes
- Two-course dinner, cheese, coffee and prize-giving
- Auction

Additional non-playing guests for evening meal £30 per person

For an entry form please email eileenclarke1@live.co.uk