

Rotary Matters

Maidenhead
Rotary
Club



The digital newspaper for Maidenhead Rotary Club - no.6, Summer 2022



**Triumphant return of the
Quadrilateral See p14-15**

Club celebrates a summer of success



**Open Gardens
See p6-7**



Bikeathon See p10-11

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Help needed with river trip for elderly

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with our rescheduled River Trip for older people which now takes place on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 13.

Long delayed by Covid, an original date for the boat trip in July also had to be postponed.

Now the boat is booked with French Bros from 1pm until 5pm which includes time taken getting everyone aboard, taking the circular river trip and getting everyone off again afterwards.

Organiser Pat Lattimer requires help in the following areas:

- Drivers to collect some of our guests, take them to the boat and return them home
- Volunteers to help with embarkation and disembarkation
- Helpers on board to serve the afternoon tea
- Helpers providing the tea of easily -managed finger foods such as sandwiches, small cakes and cups of tea of course.

If you are able to help in any way at all please let Pat know.

She said: "Of course if you are available to take on more than one task you will be welcomed with open arms!"

Volunteers are asked to please contact Pat directly on her mobile number 07887997910.

WELCOME to the latest edition of Rotary Matters, the digital newspaper (though you are welcome to print it out) of Maidenhead Rotary Club.

Firstly, apologies for the long gap since the last newsletter. There has been so much going on in the club that I thought it best to wait for a relatively quiet period so I could get everything in.

The result is a packed 'summer' edition that will bring you bang up to date with everything that's been going on since the spring.

The last three months have been the club's busiest. May saw the triumphant return of the Quadrilateral after a two-year hiatus due to Covid.

In June we had the second and enormously successful Open Gardens weekend.

And July saw the annual Bikeathon attract a record entry as it goes from strength to strength every year.

Each event saw a great turn-out from the club providing fantastic opportunities for volunteering and fellowship.

All three events are celebrated with two-page spreads in this edition.

Also we have calls to support the Charity Open Golf Day at the end of this month and for volunteers to help run the Boundary Walk on Sunday, October 2.

In addition there's lots of news about other club activities, speaker reports and, sadly, an obituary for our Rotary colleague Klaus Shulte.

There are also topics for discussion such as events for our social calendar.

As we still struggle to shake off the effects of lockdown lethargy, this latest edition of Rotary Matters is a timely reminder that our club is still thriving, is great fun to be in and makes a enormous difference in our community and beyond.

Martin Trepte
Editor

President's message

Year ahead will be full of challenges

I AM honoured to be appointed as your President for 2022-23. I welcome John Hudson as your President-Elect, and John and I will work together to keep our Club active and full of fellowship, friendship and fun.

We start the new Rotary year with the country facing a high rise in the cost of living and a continuing war in Europe. These factors need to be taken on board as we plan the year ahead.

Our club is facing a challenge regarding the number of meetings we have per month, as attendances fluctuate. Is it time to cut the number down to three meetings — one business, one speaker/fellowship and one evening meeting?

There are many excellent events being organised that also give us the opportunity for fellowship.

The fall in membership is another challenge. Is the increase in the use of social media replacing the networking that was the province of Rotary in the past?

Janet Perry has set out an excellent paper containing a proposal for what we need to address. Her suggestion of creating a "Friends of Maidenhead Rotary



Club" may help increase our membership. Getting volunteers for our major events has been difficult but calling on family and friends to help has allowed the events to go ahead, enabling us to fund projects at home and abroad.

Please read Janet's paper when it is released in the next few weeks so that we can make a decision having considered the benefits and risks.

As we start our Rotary year, I wish all Rotarians health and happiness.

Many Spinks CBE
President

- **Handover meeting report: P4**

Valuable interview sessions continue

THE club has continued its valuable schools liaison work with two mock interview days held for sixth-formers in July.

The first was held for about 60 students at Desborough College on July 6, followed a week later by another session for 40 students at Claires Court Sixth Form.

The days are designed to give students experience of being interviewed in advance of applying for jobs, apprenticeships or university places.

Each session began with a talk on interview tips and advice by Malcolm Falconer, a former HR director, followed by individual interviews for each student with a Rotary volunteer.

The session were well received and described as very valuable by both schools.

As spokeswoman for Claires Court said: "I would like to say a huge thank you all the wonderful interviewers for spending such enormously valuable time with our Year 12 students this morning.

"It is hugely appreciated by us, and indeed all of our students."

She continued: "There was such a buzz of conversation and sharing of interview experiences as I was moving around the school - it was great to witness."

Can you support club's charity open golf day?

Teams and volunteers need to help with return of fundraising event



PLAYERS and volunteers are needed for a fantastic day of golf in aid of good causes on Wednesday, August 31 when the club hosts its Rotary Open Charity Golf Day.

Held at Maidenhead Golf Club in Shoppenhangers Road, it's a four-ball men's, ladies' or mixed team tournament with a two-tee 'shotgun' start from 12.30pm.

Organiser Eddie Clarke said: "Our event is a wonderful opportunity to tee off with friends, colleagues or clients for a fantastic round of golf.

"It's terrific fun in the lovely setting of Maidenhead Golf Course which is in great condition, followed by a relaxing evening of excellent food.

"And it's all in aid of a good cause. All the money raised will help support our many vital projects here in Maidenhead and overseas.

"Spaces are filling up fast so please sign up soon to make sure you don't miss out."

The event includes a bacon roll or Danish pastry with coffee on arrival followed by 18 holes of golf.

There is also a putting competition and other opportunities to win prizes.

Afterwards competitors will tuck into a two-course dinner at the golf club followed by cheese and coffee, and a prize-giving. There will also be a charity auction with some great prizes.

The cost is £80 per person or £320 per team and additional non-golfing guests can attend the evening meal for £30 per person.

Volunteers are needed to help on the day and there is still space in any members want to enter a team.

Our usual evening meeting has also been moved to coincide with the after-event meal so it promises to be a busy and fun-filled evening, so please come if you can.

For more details and an entry form please email eileenclarkel@live.co.uk



Outgoing president Martin Trepte with his successor Mary Spinks who is returning for a second term post-pandemic.

Mary is back at the helm

President during lockdown hopes for more normal year post-coronavirus pandemic

THE annual presidential handover at the end of June saw Mary Spinks return to the helm of Maidenhead Rotary Club.

Mary was president in 2019-20, the year of the first Covid lockdowns, which saw the club's activities severely restricted. Members unanimously supported her appointment for a second time - hopefully for a normal year of Rotary activities. She took over from outgoing president Martin Trepte at the club's evening 'family' meeting at Maidenhead Golf Club.

Martin thanked members for their support and hard work during his year before presenting his successor with her chain of office.

New president elect John Hudson, who will lead the club after Mary, was also presented with his chain.

"It is a great privilege to become president for the second time and I am delighted to welcome John Hudson as president elect,"

said President Mary.

She saw a challenging year ahead with uncertain times at home and abroad, from the reappearance of polio and the cost of living crisis in the UK to the war in Ukraine and an earthquake in Afghanistan.

All these issues would put demands on the club, she said.

A review of its activities and why it did them was also needed to make sure the most was being made of time and resources.

She added the whole club would need to be involved in helping to shape its future direction and asked committee chairmen to review the impact of all their projects.

"Is what we do needed in today's world or are we doing it because we always have done so? Are we stretching our resources too far? Do we channel our energies into what can make a difference and how do we raise funds to do so?" she asked.



New president elect John Hudson receives his chain from President Mary.

Boundary Walk needs an army of volunteers

Rotarians sought to help set up, register walkers at base camp and marshal route



The Boundary Walk is a huge event that requires a full turn-out from both Rotary Clubs.

SAVE the date: the whole club will be needed to step up to support this year's Maidenhead Boundary Walk on Sunday, October 2.

The annual event sees hundreds of walkers raising thousands of pounds for their chosen charities as they re-trace the route of the old Maidenhead Borough.

Organised by Maidenhead Rotary Club in partnership with Maidenhead Bridge, the event requires a small army of volunteers to help mark the route, register participants at the base camp, marshal the route and man several check-points.

Now in its 41st year, the Boundary Walk is a ready-made fundraiser. All participants have to do is register, raise sponsorship for their favourite cause, and complete

the walk. The traditional route is 13.1 miles but a new 2.5-mile 'family route' has been introduced this year to ensure the event is open to everyone.

Eddie Piekut from the organising team said: "We want to make this year's Maidenhead Boundary Walk the best year ever with a record-breaking number of walkers, so will need to mobilise

volunteers from both Rotary Clubs."

The Boundary Walk celebrates the centuries-old tradition of 'beating the bounds' which marks the creation of the original Borough of Maidenhead in 1582.

Every year the Mayor would get beaters to drive square-headed nails into posts and walls along the boundary route, each bearing his ini-

tials. By 1934 the boundary was marked by stones – many of which can still be seen to-day – and during the walk the mayor would tap each one with the ceremonial mace to 'reinforce' the boundary. The last official 'beating the bounds' was in 1973 but the tradition was resurrected as the Boundary Walk in 1982 to mark the 400th anniversary of the borough and became an annual fundraising event.

There is a registration fee to take part, which covers the costs of running the event, but participants keep 100 per cent of the sponsorship they raise. Everyone who completes the walk gets a certificate.

Please put the date in your diaries and watch out for more details from committee members Peter Graham and Martin Trepte.



Volunteers registering walkers at the event base.



Maidenhead MP, past club president Martin Trepte and Open Gardens organiser Janet Perry.

Another blooming success

Club's second Open Gardens weekend raises an incredible £7,700 for good causes

HUNDREDS of people took the opportunity to discover some of Maidenhead's secret gardens over the last weekend in June, raising thousands of pounds for charity as they did so.

Organised by Maidenhead Rotary Club, the Open Gardens event saw 22 gardens of all types and sizes across the area open their gates to more than 500 people.

The weekend raised an estimated £7,700 for a number of good causes including Maidenhead Foodshare, Thames Hospice and Maidenhead Mencap.

Many gardens sold refreshments and plants in aid of individual charities while others hosted live music or showcased the work of local artists.

Now in its second year, the event is a celebration of the great British love affair with gardening and the perfect way to get inspiration and exchange ideas with like-minded gardeners.

BBC Berkshire's resident gardening expert Colin Evans was on hand to offer advice to visitors to one garden, while volunteers from Wild Maidenhead were also available to give tips on making gardens more environmentally friendly.

On the Sunday Maidenhead MP Theresa May visited a group of gardens around

Langworthy End, Holyport, which encompassed high and low maintenance gardens, one that was still under construction and another at a property built in 1600.

The former Prime Minister chatted with owners about their gardens and the inspiration behind them.

She said: "It's been a real eye-opener this year seeing

some amazing gardens with real history but also a huge variety of different gardens. Hopefully it gives people lots of ideas for what to do with their own gardens and it's all in support of good causes."

Open Gardens organiser Rotarian Janet Perry said: "We have been so lucky with the weather again and to see so many people open up their gardens has been wonderful.

"Everyone has enjoyed themselves talking about their own gardening experiences and borrowing ideas from the gardens they have been visiting. We have already had a number of new garden owners volunteering to open their gardens next time."

Maidenhead Rotary Club's then president, Martin Trepte, said: "Open Gardens has again proved to be a fantastic success bringing so many people together in their shared love of gardening.

"All the gardens were incredibly busy and the atmosphere was amazing."



John Medley in his garden in Laggan Road.

Rotary Matters: Open Gardens



Gardens saw a steady flow of visitors all weekend.



Theresa May chats to garden owner Jenny Falconer.



Banjovi Revival performed for visitors to the Wytch House in Bray.



Some gardens sold plants in aid of charity.



The wide variety of gardens taking part included a tropical-themed garden in Ray Park Avenue.



Volunteers in the Fisheries opened their gardens and sold refreshments in aid of Thames Hospice.



Garden features provided lots of inspiration.

Charity helping families in extreme need

VOLUNTEERS from a local charity that supports new mums and families living in extreme need were the guest speakers of Maidenhead Rotary Club.

Rebecca Mistry, a co-founder of The Baby Bank, and her colleague Lauren Hall outlined the vital work the charity does to prevent families in hardship 'falling between the cracks' in our community.

The Baby Bank provides packages of essentials such as nappies, clothes, baby baskets, buggies, toys and toiletries to struggling families. Founded in Windsor in 2015, the charity quickly expanded to cover the whole Royal Borough and beyond, and evolved from supporting just babies to families with children aged up to 16.

"Our mission is to support children and families living in hardship by providing essentials in a caring, compassionate and sustainable way. We believe that early intervention can reduce the long-term effects of poverty," said Rebecca.

Most of the items it distributes are donated and the charity works with referral partners such as midwives, health visitors, schools, social workers, churches and foodbanks to target those most in need.

It is often called upon in emergencies and Rebecca and Lauren gave the recent example of helping an expectant



Past president Martin Trepte presents a cheque to Rebecca Mistry (centre) and Lauren Hall from The Baby Bank.

mum who was living in hotel accommodation.

"She had literally nothing and we were able to provide her with everything she needed at short notice. You could hear the relief in her health worker's voice when we said we could help," said Rebecca.

The Baby Bank is now an essential part of the local support eco-system. Last year it helped 3,251 individuals. To date this year it has already helped 1,284 people and Rebecca calculates it has supported more than 17,000 people since it began.

Demand for its services increased 100 per cent during the first year of the

pandemic and, even though Covid restrictions have eased, is still growing due to the cost of living crisis.

Donated items like buggies often make their way back to the charity once recipients have outgrown them so they can be used again. Donations to the charity need to be newer than 10 years old and clean.

"Through the re-gifting of clean clothes, a working buggy or an outgrown cot we are reducing CO2 emissions, cutting down on landfill and saving people money," said Rebecca.

The exceptions are mattresses and child car seats which must be provided new, funded by donations from businesses and other supporters including a National Lottery grant.

Rotarians were shocked to hear about the problem of 'bed poverty' identified by the charity – where children do not have a proper bed to sleep in or have to share one.

"Bed poverty forms a huge part of what we do. Last year we provided 631 different beds from cots to bunk beds," said Rebecca, explaining the charity also provides bedding bundles made up of sheets, blankets and duvet covers and, where requested, quilts as well.

Lauren added: "We are like an emergency service and there are so many families relying on us, now more than ever before."

Small organisation makes big difference in rural Africa

A SMALL organisation making a big impact on rural communities in the Global South was the subject of a speaker to visit Maidenhead Rotary Club.

Natasha Wilson (pictured) is a development engineer for the Smart Villages Research Group (SVRG), an organisation that believes people in remote villages in the developing world deserve the same opportunities as everyone else.

With a focus on clean energy, it works with rural communities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Lesotho to develop and install innovative and sustainable solutions that address specific problems or priorities, such as providing solar power to allow the cold storage of crops after harvest.

Its projects, which in-

clude mini power grids to isolated villages, also aim to have an ongoing positive and social impact on the communities it works with by encouraging the growth of local businesses, education and empowering women.

Born and bred in Maidenhead, Natasha went to Newlands School and in 2013 she was chosen to go to Paris for a week as part of that year's Maidenhead Rotary Club Youth Adventure Programme.

She studied engineering at Cambridge University and, before her current role, worked for the Cambridge Design Partnership, developing sustainable alternatives to everyday items such as plastic bottles.

Natasha found her passion for international development through working in

Tanzania with the student-led Cambridge Development Initiative after graduating from University.

She said: "I decided it was time to do the job I wanted to be doing – working on community development projects."

One of the major strengths of SVRG projects, she said, is that they are community-led.

"The first stage is to sit down with the community to find out what challenges it faces and understand their problems. It's grounded in understanding what the community needs."

Each community is involved at every stage as the projects develop, including training on how to manage and maintain the technology – such as solar panels – to en-



sure long-term sustainability.

Over time communities pay back the costs of the projects from the profits they generate, allowing the money to be reinvested in new projects by the SVRG to help even more people.

Thanking Natasha for her inspiring talk, then club president Martin Trepte said the aims of the SVRG matched many of Rotary's core areas of focus.



A journalist and editor, Amel also worked for Oxfam appearing on TV as a spokeswoman and advocating for social improvements.

Spellbound by talk on Yemen

PAST president's lady Amel Alariqi kept her audience spellbound with a very personal talk about her native Yemen when she was guest speaker at an evening meeting.

With the help of a fascinating selection of photographs, Amel's talk ranged from the history, geography, culture and politics of Yemen to her own experiences working as a journalist and later as a communications officer for Oxfam, before becoming a refugee because of the country's bitter civil war.

Perhaps best known because of the former British protectorate, the port city of Aden, Yemen sits at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula bordering Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Amel explained that due to its location on major trade routes, over the centuries it has been influenced by Greek, Roman, Indian, Ottoman, Turkish and Ethiopian cultures which have all left their mark on Yemen and its cuisine.

The north and south of the country were divided until Yemen unified in May 1990 and Amel, who was born and grew up in the capital Sana'a in the north, vividly recalled travelling to Aden in the south for the first time and experiencing its less conservative culture than the tribal dominated north.

After Yemen's government failed to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 its Gulf neighbours, particularly Saudi Arabia, expelled millions of Yemeni workers. Not only did this damage the Yemeni economy but they also brought back with them the more conservative form of Islam practised in

their host countries.

"Quickly society became much more conservative. Women had to wear black when they went out, and even small girls were required to be covered up. All my friends started covering their faces," said Amel.

In 1994 a short-lived civil war broke out in a failed bid by the South for independence from the North.

Amel recalled: "It only lasted about four weeks but I remember the food shortages and hiding in the basement. The most painful memory was visiting Aden after the war and seeing the devastation and the look on the faces of the people there."

After finishing university, Amel became a journalist working as a reporter and later managing editor of the Yemen Times, an English language newspaper in Sana'a.

She covered many important issues from child marriage and the plight of children in prisons to the impact of climate change. She also came to the UK to study journalism at Oxford University on a Reuters fellowship.

Amel said she decided she wanted to do more to help Yemen so she became a communications officer for Oxfam, travelling all over the country to advocate for improvements in local communities and to campaign on issues from food insecurity to women's rights.

She often appeared on Arabic TV across the region as a spokeswoman for Oxfam.

In 2011 came the so called Arab Spring, a series of popular uprisings

across the Middle East and North Africa. The new wave of optimism it brought was short-lived, however.

"The situation was not getting better," said Amel. "Poverty was increasing and security was collapsing as militia and armed groups such as Al Qaeda took over parts of the South and a tribal group called the Houthis started making their presence felt in the North."

The current civil war broke out in March 2015 and Amel, who was in the UK at the time, has been unable to return home since.

She sought asylum and is now a British citizen.

Already one of the poorest countries in the region, Yemen has suffered much in the intervening years.

Protracted armed conflict, widespread economic collapse, and a breakdown in infrastructure has left 80 per cent of the 29 million population, including 11.3 million children under threat of massive food insecurity and famine.

Now far from the headlines Yemen, remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Even before the war in Ukraine, one of the largest producers of food, the World Food Programme was already being forced to cut the rations it was providing for Yemenis on the brink of starvation.

In the past year Maidenhead Rotary Club has provided nearly £4,000 for the UNICEF Yemen Crisis Appeal and helped provide another £1,000 for the activities of Rotary charity Shelterbox in Yemen.

Fantastic Bikeathon raises £2,000 for good causes

More than 260 cyclists of all abilities completed one of the event's three routes



A group of cyclists (above) celebrate completing the 100km route and (below) riders on the 15-mile family route.

GLORIOUS sunshine on Sunday, July 10, saw cyclists of all ages and abilities get on their bikes for the annual Maidenhead Bikeathon.

More than 260 riders set off from Maidenhead Office Park in Littlewick Green on one of the event's three circular routes – a 15-mile family route, a 35-mile medium route and a 62 mile (100km) long route for more serious club cyclists looking for a challenge.

The event, organised and run by the Rotary Club of Maidenhead, raised an estimated £2,000, with the main beneficiary being local charity Alzheimers Dementia Support.

A team of Rotary volunteers oversaw the registration of cyclists taking part, issuing them with race numbers, while others marshalled the family route and manned refreshment stations positioned half-way along all three routes.

Members of the Maidenhead Cycle Hub charity were also on hand at the race base to check over participants' bikes and help with any last minute maintenance.



All cyclists were checked in when they returned and presented with a medal by Rotary Club president Mary Spinks.

Bikeathon organiser Sean Egan said: "It was a fantastic success and we were really blessed with the weather. The feedback from cyclists on all the routes was incredibly positive and everyone had a brilliant time."

"We saw more entrants than ever this year and look forward to the Bikeathon continuing to grow as word spreads about what a lovely event it is."

"It's not a race and has something for every kind of cyclist, no matter how old or inexperienced."

President Mary added: "It was a wonderful event and I'd like to thank all those who took part and Sean and his hard-working team of Rotary volunteers for making it all possible."

Rotary Matters: Bikeathon



Bikeathon organiser Sean Egan with a participant.



Cooling off after finishing the long route.



The Bikeathon is for cyclists of all ages and abilities and as a result sees many families signing up for the different routes.



Volunteers were kept busy registering participants at the race base camp in Littewick Green.



President Mary Spinks with one of the many family groups which took part in this year's Bikeathon.

Klaus Shulte *May 28, 1940 - April 26, 2022*

THE funeral of Klaus Schulte, a member of the club since 1992 and a former chair of the international committee took place on Wednesday, June 29, attended by friends and fellow Rotarians.

Klaus, who died in April aged 81, was born in 1940 in Duisburg, a large city in the Ruhr area of Germany. His father was called up in the Second World War and did not return from a prisoner of war camp until 1948, so in his early years Klaus was raised by his mother, grandparents, and a childless aunt who he remembered very fondly for the rest of his life.

Following school he went to business college and through a connection of his father found a mentor who gave him practical experience.

During these years Klaus started to play tennis and with his long legs he became rather good. He amassed several junior and adult club titles, becoming champion of Duisburg and of the county of Westfalen. But most importantly during this time he met his future wife, Brigitte.

When an opportunity came to work in Sweden at the age of 22, the pair moved there, took Swedish lessons, and married there.

In 1967 Klaus and Brigitte moved to England. Working for Rehau Plastics, he was in charge of marketing and distribution and ultimately managing director.

Always a hard worker, the firm expanded under his direction with offices in Manchester and Birmingham and production plants in Wales and Ireland, which forced him to travel constantly.

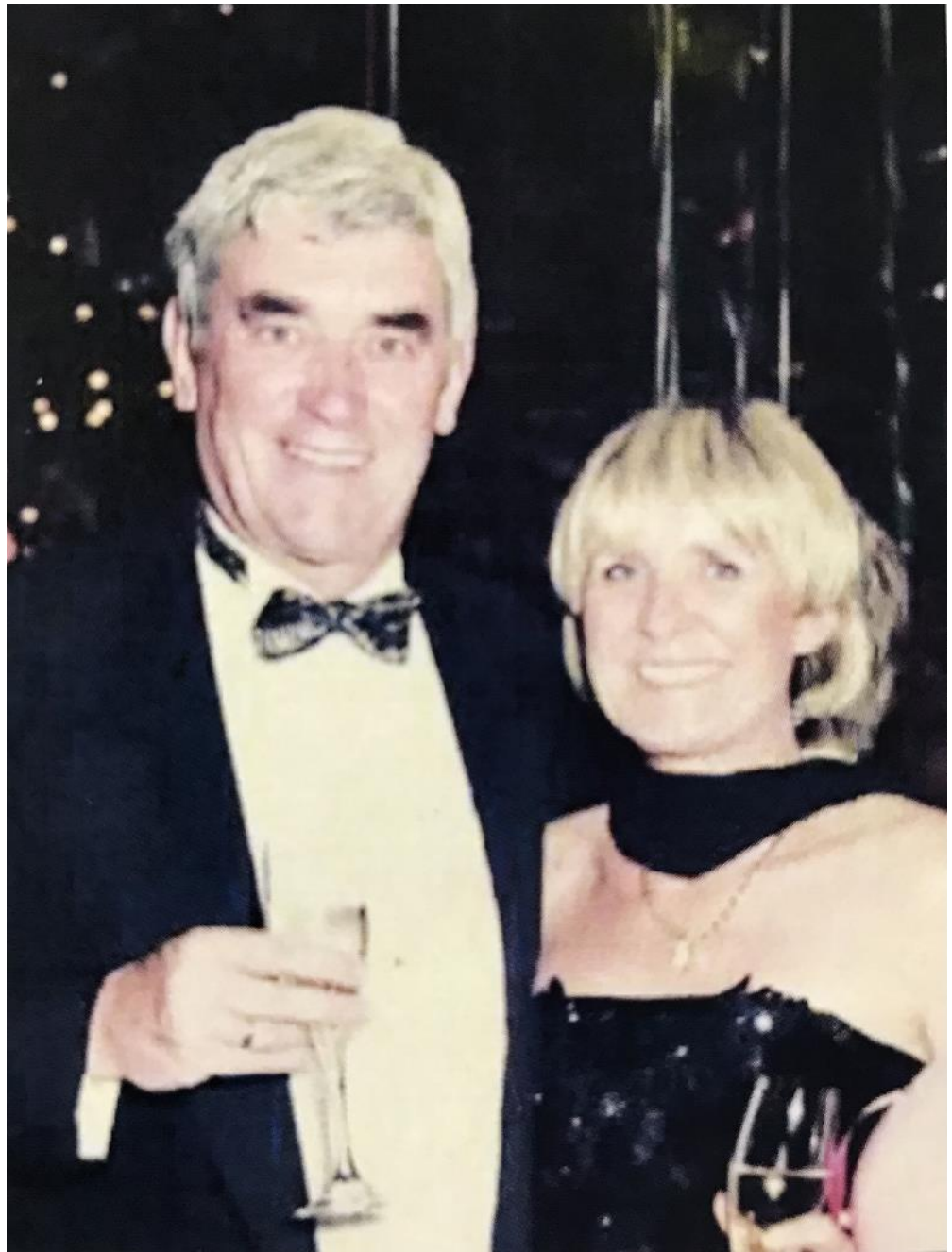
Also, companies in the USA required frequent visits and he was often accompanied by Brigitte on these trips.

While Brigitte set up home in Maidenhead and concentrated on learning another foreign language, Klaus joined the local tennis club and soon built a reputation as a fighter wearing his partner out by keeping the ball in play as long as possible.

They made many friends and also took up golf together, joining Maidenhead Golf Club. Both became very competent players and enjoyed the social scene of the club.

In early 1992, Klaus was proposed for Rotary by the late Dr Lloyd Williams, and seconded by Colin Daniels, and was inducted by then President Howard McBrien, who had first met him professionally in his role as a solicitor providing legal services for Rehau.

Giving a tribute during the funeral service at Slough Crematorium, Howard



Klaus Shulte and his wife Brigitte, whose loss he never really recovered from.

said: "I was then a newly-qualified assistant solicitor with Ellis Bickersteth: however thanks to the near-daily contact with Klaus and his secretary and the constant stream of work, I gained enough legal experience that within a year or so Ellis Bickersteth offered me a partnership. My business relationship and subsequent friendship with Klaus lasted for over 30 years and I am forever grateful that I knew him."

Klaus served on the Rotary Club's international committee, of which he was chairman for one year, and enjoyed

the Quadrilateral meetings with our twin clubs.

After retiring from Rehau, Klaus was actively involved with consultancies in countries such as the US, China, Ireland and Uzbekistan. He was a senior partner in the Anglo-German Industrial Development Company and travelled to many Eastern countries.

He retired from full-time work when Brigitte became ill and he devoted his time to looking after her. Her death was a great shock to him from which he never really recovered.



Members from all of Maidenhead's Rotary clubs teamed up with Sea Cadets from TS Iron Duke for the river clean-up.

Team effort to clean riverside

Town's three Rotary clubs join forces with sea cadet unit for Thames litter pick

THE section of the River Thames running through Maidenhead was given a spring clean in May by all of the town's Rotary Clubs assisted by its sea cadet unit.

Members drawn from the Rotary Clubs of Maidenhead, Maidenhead Bridge, Maidenhead Thames and Maidenhead Rotaract scoured the river bank for litter between Boulton's Lock and the M4 at Bray, while sea cadets from TS Iron Duke in Mill Lane took to the water in launches to clear rubbish from the river itself.

In parallel to the clean-up, Claire Booth and Sushi Gow from Maidenhead Bridge Rotary Club ran a stall in the High Street giving information to members of the public about how to reduce their carbon footprint and live more sustainably.

The initiative was part of a Thames Valley-wide Rotary project which saw all clubs whose areas include the Thames turning out to clean up their stretches of the River. The day was also used to highlight an international Rotary campaign called End Plastic Soup, which aims to stop single-use plastics being dumped into our waterways and oceans by 2050. The Maidenhead clean-up was organised by a team from all four Rotary clubs led

by Rotarian Gurdial Singh from our club.

He said: "It was a fantastic day and shows what can be achieved when Rotary Clubs join forces with each other and work with community groups. Rotary would like to say a huge thank-you to Maidenhead Sea Cadets for coming on board with the project and providing such invaluable help.

"While we picked up a respectable amount of litter from the river banks, many areas were actually reasonably clean so well done to the people of Maidenhead for being environmentally aware and taking their litter home with them.

"Thank you to everyone for their support on the day."



Sushi Gow and Claire Booth from Maidenhead Bridge Rotary Club ran a stall in the High Street giving tips on how to cut your carbon footprint.

Quadrilateral makes a triumphant return

Four packed days of fun and fellowship puts event back on the map after pandemic



Enjoying the Thames on the Georgian river boat (above) and (right) Eddie and Eileen Clarke ready to embark in their boaters.

FOUR packed days of fun and friendship saw Maidenhead Rotary Club entertaining fellow Rotarians from across Europe in the triumphant return of its unique Quadrilateral weekend.

About 40 Rotarians from twinned clubs in Tivoli in Italy, Bonn in Germany and St Cloud in France came to Maidenhead for the annual gathering, which dates back to the 1950s.

Each club hosts the event in rotation but due to the coronavirus pandemic the last two Quadrilaterals - in Germany and France - both had to be cancelled.

"It was wonderful to be able to get back together at last," said chair of the organising committee Rotarian Eddie Clarke.

"Planning began more than a year ago and always in the back of our minds was the fear we might have to cancel again.

"Thankfully we didn't and the result was a wonderful weekend of renewing old friendships and making lasting new ones."

The weekend was set against the historic and picturesque backdrop of the River Thames, with most of the visitors staying at the Compleat Angler Hotel in Marlow, which hosted a gala dinner on the Thursday night.

On Friday there was a regat-

ta-themed river cruise complete with straw boaters and a jazz band, followed by a relaxing evening of food and music at Marlow Rowing Club overlooking the Thames.

Saturday saw the visitors presented with the choice of a

tour of Henley or a visit to the gardens at Cliveden. That evening featured another great Quadrilateral tradition as the visitors enjoyed dinner parties in the homes of their Rotarian hosts.

On Sunday, the last day of the event, a farewell brunch was held in historic Bisham Abbey at which Maidenhead MP and former Prime Minister Theresa May was the guest of honour.

In a parallel event, members of Maidenhead Rotaract, a separate club for younger Rotarians, played host to a nine-strong group of Rotaractors from Bonn.

They followed their own programme of sightseeing, activities and eating out.

Eddie said: "It was a fantastic weekend. We really put the Quadrilateral back on the map. We had some brilliant weather and we really struck the right balance for a relaxing weekend of Rotary fellowship with our twin clubs which is more important now than ever."



The home-hosted dinner parties once again proved to be a firm Quadrilateral favourite.

Rotary Matters: Quadrilateral in pictures



Enjoying the evening at Marlow Rowing Club.



All smiles on the riverboat.



Maidenhead MP Theresa May was guest of honour at the farewell brunch.



The Rotaractors enjoyed their own weekend of events.



Tony Hill sports his boater.



Rotarians mingling at Bisham Abbey.



Visitors take in the views at Cliveden.

Your say on social calendar

Members are being asked their views about what events they would like included

CLUB social chairman Tony Lodge is working hard to get our programme of social events back up and running — but he needs input from everyone.

After the great success of the meal out at the King's Arms in Cookham, the President's Lunch at Stirrups hotel, and the triumph of the Quadrilateral, the club is anxious to get back to holding some purely social events to encourage the Rotary fellowship that we all value so much.

To help, Tony has drawn up a proposed programme of social events for the rest of this year and up until the end of 2023.

The aim is to find out the things most people want to attend to allow him to organise events he can be confident will attract a decent turn out.

The proposed schedule is reproduced on the right for those who have not yet filled one in.

Please print out the page, write your name at the top and tick which events you would probably attend.

Then either give the completed form to Tony at the next available weekly meeting or post it to him at: Rosebank, Boulsters Lane, Maidenhead, SL6 8TJ.

The more people who respond the better tailored to members' needs the social programme will be.

Social Events - Maidenhead Rotary Club 2022/23

Your name:					
Event number	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Golf Day	Brewery visit	Wine Tasting - Rugby Club	Restaurant meal	Xmas Club Evening meeting
Proposed Date (where known)	31st Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	12th Dec
I will probably participate					
Event number	6	7	8	9	10
Description	Rotary in Maidenhead - Joint Meeting	Skittles Evening	Theatre Trip	Hughenden Manor visit	Pub Walk
Proposed Date (where known)	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	Apr 23
I will probably participate					
Event number	11	12	13	14	15
Description	Weekend Away	Quad in Tivoli	Watercress Line Historic Railway visit + Lunch	Pub Walk	President's Lunch - Stirrups Hotel
Proposed Date (where known)	5-7 May 23	18/21 May	Jun 23	Jun/July 23	Jul 23
I will probably participate					
Event number	16	17	18	19	20
Description	Pub Walk	Petanque Evening	Hampton Court visit	Wine Tasting - Rugby Club	Restaurant Meal
Proposed Date (where known)	Aug 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23
I will probably participate					

Club programme August/Sept

Day	Date	Time	Details
Monday	August 15	12.45pm	Fellowship meeting
Wednesday	August 31	7pm	Evening meeting/golf dinner
Monday	September 5	12.45pm	Business meeting
Monday	September 12	12.45pm	Speaker meeting
Monday	September 19	12.45pm	Speaker meeting
Monday	September 26	7pm	Evening meeting
Monday	October 3	12.45pm	Business meeting

Vote on meetings

MEMBERS are asked to remember to vote in a club-wide poll about the number of meetings we hold each month.

A proposal has been put forward to reduce the number of meetings to three a month — a business, speaker and evening meeting.

Full details and how to vote are in an email sent out to all members by secretary Frank.



Martin's total mileage for the year spelled out in litter collected on the final run of his challenge.

President's Yemen run challenge raises £3,879

Rotarian clocks up 1,308 miles and collects about 2,000L of rubbish over the year

THE club's past president has revealed the result of the year-long fundraising challenge he set himself when he took office in July 2021.

Martin Trepte aimed to run 1,000 miles in his presidential year in aid of the UNICEF Yemen Crisis Appeal and set a fundraising target of £3,000.

When he completed the challenge on the last day of June this year he had run 1,308 miles and — after some final donations came in — the grand total raised (with gift aid) now stands at £3,878.89.

Though not often in the headlines, Yemen is the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Protracted armed conflict, widespread economic collapse, and a breakdown in national systems and services has left 80 per cent of the total population, under threat from the dangers of war, disease and hunger and lacking access to clean water, sanitation and basic healthcare.

The situation has only got worse since devastating impact of

the war in Ukraine on global food supplies.

The cause was important to Martin as his wife, Amel, is from Yemen and her family all live there. He said: "I am immensely grateful to everyone who sponsored my efforts and the huge support and encouragement I received from the club. Thank you all so much."

Martin also donated his £500 president's honorarium to the Shelterbox Yemen Appeal, which was fund-matched meaning the club was responsible for almost £5,000 going to help the people of Yemen.

He also picked up rubbish while he ran to raise awareness of Rotary's End Plastic Soup initiative, filling a recycling box of litter every week—an estimated 2,000 litres of rubbish over the year.

Martin said: "Only by picking up litter on the same routes regularly do you realise the scale of the problem."

- The next two pages show the amount of litter collected.



Martin pictured during his challenge.

Rotary Matters: The litter collected by Martin on his runs



Rotary Matters: The litter collected by Martin on his runs



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