



# DIDCOT ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN



*'City of Truro'*



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### VERSE SPEAKING GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH!

Well done to all the finalists in our Year 5 Verse Speaking Competition, held at Didcot Civic Hall on 6th March.

The competition attracted entries from Primary Schools throughout the Didcot area, and 12 pupils made it to the Grand Final. The judges were Club President Elect Pam Siggers and Fiona Brennan-Scott, a professional voice and speech tutor. Club Treasurer Jenny Beckley was in charge of recording the votes.

The overall winner was Lily, from Willowcroft School. Every finalist received a personalised certificate and a voucher.



*Lily is congratulated by Fiona Brennan-Scott.*



*The finalists, with Paula Tayler, Chair of Youth Committee, originator and coordinator of the event, and judges Fiona Brennan-Scott and Pam Siggers (photos with parental permission).*

## HOSPICE AT HOME

Michael Ruiz visited us on 14<sup>th</sup> March to update us on the work of Sue Ryder, especially developments at the Sue Ryder Home in Nettlebed. We were delighted that Rtn Frank Quinn, District Governor Elect, visited us to hear Michael's talk.

The Home at Nettlebed has now been renamed Sue Ryder South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub and has been piloting a Hospice at Home programme since April 2018. This programme reflects the general move to deliver personalised care to people in their own homes, rather than in a hospital or residential setting.

There are 14 inpatient beds remaining at Nettlebed – other services include a telephone advice line and day services for outpatients.

The South Oxfordshire service costs around £3.48m per annum; there is a small contribution from the NHS, but around £2.4m still must be raised annually. There are plans to hold a Charity Fashion Show at Shillingford Bridge Hotel in September, and regular fundraising activities include a Legacy Service (with free Will Writing service), volunteer activities and the famous monthly sales at Nettlebed. If you've never been to one of their amazing monthly sales, which raise thousands

of pounds, you've missed a real experience - pack a flask and sandwiches, sharpen your elbows and give it a go!

The longer-term aim is to sell the Nettlebed Home, which is grade 1 Listed, and not fit for purpose, and move to a more appropriate building, preferably purpose built.



*Michael Ruiz*



## **IT MUST BE MAGIC!**

A party of thirteen Club members and friends enjoyed a meal and magic show at The Mill at Sonning on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

*We saw three very different magicians. All brilliant. The last was Lance Corporal Richard Jones who won "Britain's Got Talent" a few years ago. At one point Alan was asked on to the stage to help.*

*Sue Silcock*



## GRANTS AND DONATIONS AGREED THIS MONTH

Donation of £500 to Katie Longhurst project for orphans in Kenya.

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## WELL DONE, PAT!



Here's Ace Fundraiser Pat Smith, wife of former Club member John (now RC Hythe). Pat and John raised tons of money for charity when they lived in our area – and Pat hasn't stopped since she and John relocated to Kent.

Here she is, wearing a stunning costume to raise money for Marie Curie - it takes real guts to wear this elegant outfit!

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## NEW WINDOWS AT LAST

Rtn Tim (Faringdon RC) and Linda Cowling have returned to Kabwata School, Lusaka, having raised the money to fulfil their promise to install new windows throughout the school.

The school has also been working hard on their own improvements – there are four new water stations for the children to wash safely and drink clean water, funded by the local PTA.

Our Club contributed to the windows appeal, and Jenny collected two sewing machines – one from her and one from Marion Eldon – to donate, plus hundreds of brand new pencils for the schoolchildren.



## **STUDENT OF THE TERM AWARDS**

Our Students of the Term were:

- Ryan Brakspear, accompanied by his mother;
  - Sean Ethelston, accompanied by his mother;
  - Ella Hale, accompanied by her father;
  - Olivia Szymczak, accompanied by her mother.
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### **Ryan Brakspear (St Birinus)**

Ryan was seriously ill before Christmas and spent time in the ICU. He is still on the road to recovery and has shown tremendous perseverance. He is a true embodiment of the St Birinus student.

Ryan enjoys playing computer games, especially Xbox.



### **Sean Ethelston (UTC)**



Sean is described as keen and hardworking student who has made phenomenal progress in Maths, due to great determination. He helps others, and is described by staff and peers as 'resilient', 'a real gentleman' 'courteous and 'always, always on time'.

Sean takes GCSEs this year and is keen on a career in engineering. He moved to the UTC from King Alfred Academy and lived in France for a while when younger.

## Ella Hale (Didcot Girls School)

Ella is a year 8 student and is a member of our Interact Club. She raised £577 for WaterAid by swimming 30 km.

Ella spoke about her fundraising for WaterAid and her passionate belief that clean drinking water is a basic human right.



## Olivia Szymczak (Aureus)



Olivia is flourishing at Aureus, which is a specialist STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) School. She has made consistently high efforts and her work is always well presented. She is on the School Council and is a kind and compassionate student. Olivia enjoys dance and has achieved the Hot Choc Friday Award (having hot chocolate with the Heatdteacher), part of the school's awards scheme.



*Sean, Ryan, Olivia and Ella with Club President Kevin*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>APRIL 2019</b>	
Thurs 4th	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 11th	SPEAKER: RTN JOHN STONE - 'THE HISTORY OF FOOD'
Fri 12th	CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT, STEVENTON VILLAGE HALL
Thurs 18th	BUSINESS
Thurs 25th	SPEAKER: RTN TONY SEMMENS - 'THIS IS ME'
<b>MAY 2019</b>	
Thurs 2nd	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 9th	SPEAKER: RTN PHIL GODFREY, APS UK (ANTIIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME)
Thurs 16th	SPEAKER: JANE WOODLEY, OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Thurs 23rd	BUSINESS
Thurs 30th	5th THURSDAY EVENT - VISIT TO TOAD DISTILLERY
<b>JUNE 2019</b>	
Thurs 6th	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 13th	SPEAKERS: ROTARY SCHOLARS - CAMILA VOGT & JESSICA SIMMS
Thurs 20th	BUSINESS
Thurs 27th	SPEAKER TBA
Friday 28th	PRESIDENT'S NIGHT AT LA FONTANA RESTAURANT, EAST HANNEY.

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**BULLETIN PRODUCTION: SHELAGH GARVEY**  
**CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER: SUE SILCOCK**  
**PROGRAMME SECRETARY: BRIAN KEY**

[www.didcotrotary-ribi.org.uk](http://www.didcotrotary-ribi.org.uk)



Rotary Club of Didcot