



## DAVID LEADS THE 2024 ROTARY TEAM

Solicitor David Ryder is Whitchurch Rotary's new president for the coming year. He joined the club 25 years ago after moving from London to work in the town. Born a cockney this active environmentalist describes himself as an optimist who loves amateur dramatics, dogs, cricket, Canada, football (and his West Ham season ticket) but hates waste, pollution, cruelty and bad manners.

Outgoing president Graham King now goes to the 'back benches' but will continue as the press and public image officer as well as joining Ian Fawcett as joint secretary. David now heads up the 2024 team with Vice Presidents Brian Acty and Andy Danton. Andy also moves into the 'Community Service' seat with new member Jon Cross as his deputy chair. And David Ryder's vacated Environment role is filled by Tony Burch.



## HONORARY ROTARIAN ANDY HALL

The Mayor of Whitchurch, independent town councillor Andy Hall, has accepted honorary Rotary membership for the coming year - which was offered for his support of Rotary's work in the local community.

Honorary membership is the highest distinction awarded to Rotarians or external supporters who share Rotary ideals. It is conferred only in exceptional cases. Over the years, in and out of civic office, Andy has regularly joined volunteer teams, including the Christmas projects, and supported initiatives such as the prostate testing session.

"I'm a big fan of the amazing work the Rotary club does globally, nationally and particularly locally here in Whitchurch," said Andy.

## KEN TAYLOR ... PART OF OUR HISTORY

In November 1968 Richard Nixon became president of the United States. The Vietnam War was at its height. The Beatles released the *White Album*. And man had not yet set foot on the moon.

It was also the month that Ken Taylor joined Whitchurch Rotary. And his passing, this month, one month short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, leaves behind a huge contribution to our local history.

Ken was the club's oldest member with 56 years of long-service. In that time he had twice been president, served as secretary, volunteered as a hospital visitor and a distributor of annual Christmas meals, taken elderly residents out for day trips and afternoon teas or even just a pub drink, and was honoured with one of Rotary's highest awards - a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Ken became well known and respected in the areas after moving to Malpas and building a retail milk business which also supplied ice cream to local shops and expanded into frozen foods. By the 1970s the business was employing 24 people.



In addition to Rotary, Ken's charity work included 12 years with the then-named '*Age Concern*' and, for five years, he was the Chester and District chairman for a forerunner of the charity '*Sense*'.

*Ken is pictured (above) celebrating his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday with Rotarians Tom Kelly and Maggie Allen.*

## THE POP-UP SHOP THAT REALLY POPPED



This year's 'Pop-Up Shop' didn't have a home until a week or so before opening in the town centre. That was when Mike White stepped forward with a generous offer to use the former 'Sole' shoe shop until his new tenants moved in. And we jumped at the chance.

The result raised a bumper total of more than £2,700 towards the bill for the prostate testing expenses. So it wasn't just our thanks that went to Mike ... it will be thanks from the lives he is helping to save.

Thanks too for the excess of quality 'pre-owned' goodies that was collected within a few days ... and the volunteer staff who worked so hard to sell them. Not only Rotarians like Peter Williams, who came in every morning, and Brian Acty but also non-Rotarian friends like the ever-supportive Barbara Griffiths.



**And, while we're thanking people, some extra credit should go to the sellers and buyers who are, again, making our season of car boot sales such a success. The record income from a single morning now stands at £1,300.**

## A MATCHING GRANT FOR THE GAMBIA

John and Kate Holland teamed up with our neighbouring Ellesmere colleagues to successfully achieve a Rotary 'matching grant' for the Sanyang School in The Gambia.



Local education, there, has been a personal project for the Hollands over the past few years and the current need to tile the concrete floor and paint the walls of a classroom block at the Sanyang School (pictured) was looking way beyond their budget.

So ... with a shared donation from Whitchurch and Ellesmere Rotarians they were then awarded a matching amount from the Rotary Foundation to pay the bill.

## MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER (... WELL, THE CANAL ANYWAY)



So many local groups look forward to our annual week of narrowboat trips along the Llangollen Canal from the Whitchurch Arm to Grindley Brook Locks.

And this year was no exception with eight outings over five days. The morning, afternoon or evening sailings were skippered and crewed by 14 Rotarians, supported by friends and family, who hosted guests from care centres and schools, parties of carers and young people, as well as groups with learning difficulties and special needs.

And many thanks, as always to the Lyneal Trust whose support makes it all possible.