



WELCOME TO MIKE WILDI ...

Membership continues to look healthy with six new members, so far, this year.

We still need even more new faces, though, to ensure that Rotary continues to make the same contribution in this coming century as it did in the last one.

The latest newcomer is Mike Wildi who has lived in Whitchurch for the past three years since moving from Carmarthen in south west Wales, and winding down his career in cargo handling and securing systems. Mike lists hobbies that include family, home, dog, friends, reading, walking, driving, fast cars, gardening, pubs, cooking, good food, wine and beer, politics, Sunday Times, some TV ... and, lately, Rotary.

Mike is pictured with club president David Ryder.



... AND DAVID GRIGGS

Educationalist David Griggs (left) was, however, was no newcomer to Rotary when he transferred to our club last month.

After qualifying and teaching in Manchester, David was appointed a headmaster at Welshpool and was seconded to the Welsh government to inspect IT provision and teacher training throughout Wales.

It was at Welshpool that he joined Rotary before transferring to Oswestry, where he was president for two years as well as being Foundation and International chair. His sporting interests include being a qualified football referee, managing a second division football team in northern Finland, where he spent eight years after retiring from teaching, and he has also been assistant coach for the Shropshire under 18 Rugby team.



A FIFTH OF PEOPLE TESTED HAD HEALTH RISKS

Twenty per cent of people were considered 'at risk' after their blood pressures were tested at our public health awareness event in Whitchurch. And five per cent were advised to consult their GP urgently.

Whitchurch Rotary and healthcare professionals were giving free blood pressure tests at an annual health awareness event in the town centre. The checks aim to detect early warning signs of hypertension and hyperglycaemia which are major causes of premature deaths from strokes and heart attacks.

A total of 96 people had their blood pressure tested in the three-hour session. Nineteen were advised to see their doctor and five were urged to do so urgently.



Nurse Michelle Whittaker takes Duncan Raynor's blood pressure

WALKING THROUGH THE TOWN'S HISTORY



Even many 'born and bred' Whitchurch folk had never heard of 'The Old Music Hall' in Dodington.

That's why so many were surprised to find it on the schedule for the 'Walking History Tour' social event that Dave Simcock and Keith Robinson put together.

Hence the surprise to discover what is probably the town's oldest religious building tucked back from the main street.

Built around 1716 the historic building, which was once burned down by a rioting mob (yes, really!), served the town's Presbyterian congregation for more than a century.

This multi-functional hall has also been a school ... during World War II it was a lively canteen and dance hall for American soldiers ... by the 1970s, it was a boxing club ... then an antique dealer's showroom.

And now it's well on the way to becoming a community art and performance venue.



FREE CAR BOOT STALLS

Our successful 2024 season of car boot sales ends on 6 October – with an early Christmas offer for the area's charities and community groups. We are providing **three** stalls, free of charge, to give local fundraisers a great sales or profile opportunity.

Organisers can contact us through our website at whitchurchrotary.org.uk and the first three applications we receive before 16 September will get free pitches to sell and raise money or simply promote themselves.

October will be the last of this year's six car boot sales before we take a winter break and start planning the 2025 season from next April. And it's the most popular one for pre-Christmas bargains – which offers a premium chance to raise much-needed funds.

Our car boot sales are now well-established features that attract dozens of stallholders and long queues of regular buyers – so they can be very profitable.

The offer applies to the standard car rate
- which normally costs £10.

Footnote

The car boot sales continue to break their own records ... the last one raised more than £1,340 to support our work.