



ABOUT BLOOMIN' TIME !

Whitchurch Rotary is teaming up with the town's Garden Club for a public "Question Time" event at Whitchurch Rugby Club on Monday 7 April from 7pm.

A panel of four gardening experts - including two Royal Botanic Gardens graduates and lecturers - will be on hand to answer questions ranging from day-to-day problems to more specialist issues. And the proceeds will help cover the cost of our prostate testing later in the year.

The panellists have wide gardening experience on all aspects of indoor and outdoor plants, flowers and vegetables, planting and pest control from common maintenance issues to more unusual problems. Tickets will be £5 and more details will be announced soon.

STRANGE MEETINGS

We've all had them ... but what's special about these?



Well, this time it's the title of a Wilfred Owen poem and it's been 'borrowed' for a special fundraising dinner in remembrance of the renowned Oswestry-born First World War poet.

So ... join us for a unique and unforgettable evening featuring a three-course meal followed by a dramatic one-man performance inspired by the poetry, experiences and legacy of Wilfred Owen on what would have been his 132nd birthday.

The evening is in support of our prostate cancer screening event, later this year, and which has now become one of Rotary's largest community health projects in the UK.

And there's an opportunity to win a unique wheelbarrow full of Shropshire goods for the modest cost of a £5 raffle ticket.

The dinner is open to everyone so, if you haven't already responded to an invitation please RSVP by 8 March to secretary@whitchurchrotary.org.uk and our organiser will get in touch.

SWALLOW BUFFET

But ... first up, before then, is the next Rotary social event - a Chinese buffet at the Swallow restaurant on Green End, Whitchurch. It's at 6pm on **Thursday, 27 February** and everyone is invited – not just Rotary members. So, if you are able to join the fun, send an e-mail to secretary@whitchurchrotary.org.uk and we'll send you the details.





ROTARY'S HELPING HANDS

Whitchurch Rotary is launching a new community fund to support local groups and individuals.

And our 'Helping Hands' project has already reserved an initial £5,000 to help bring new ideas to life.

The fund has been designed to bridge gaps for those facing immediate needs or challenges - whether supporting a neighbour in crisis, enhancing a community space, coping with a personal issue, or kickstarting a small initiative that could make a real difference in the town.

"The focus is on providing quick, simple, straightforward and efficient support for those in need, before it becomes too late. Our grants could be available within days," says President, David Ryder.

"There are times when urgent support is needed and existing services just aren't there to help in time. It might be a health emergency, a struggling community project, or someone facing a crisis.

"We want Rotary to be a local helping hand that acts fast, makes a difference, and supports those who need it most. Anyone with an idea, that meets the criteria and could positively impact the surrounding communities, is encouraged to apply."

Applications will be open soon – through the Whitchurch Rotary website, email or paper forms.

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

This is 'Tools With A Mission'... an Ipswich-based charity that collects unwanted but usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them and then sends them to the developing world to help people create new livelihoods there.

With this in mind, our Environment Committee is currently conducting a pilot scheme to find out whether Whitchurch can make a useful contribution to this initiative.

Quite simply – what unused tools might you have, stored in forgotten corners of a garden shed or garage, that could help this overseas project?

Give it some thought and get in touch with Tony Burch by emailing secretary@whitchurchrotary.org.uk - and, if you want to know more, go to the TWAM website at www.twam.uk

TWAM
Tools with a Mission

Donate tools,
transform lives

Your unwanted useable tools could transform lives in Africa.

We can accept:

Agricultural and gardening tools

Builders' tools

Carpenters' tools

Electricians' tools

Mechanics' tools

Plumbers' tools

Power tools

Sewing and knitting machines

Haberdashery

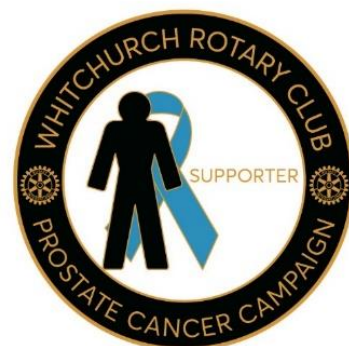
Fully working computers



BADGES OF HONOUR

We are about to announce a new form of 'thank you' to the Rotary friends and volunteers who help us deliver our community aid programme year after year. We're in the final stages of preparing a lapel badge that we can present in appreciation of their support.

And while we're designing badges we thought we'd do another one - to mark our prostate screening project that has grown into one of Rotary's biggest UK healthcare successes. But this time we'll be selling it to help cover the cost of this year's testing event.





RECOVERING ENERGY

This is what the internal workings look like when your black bin – and another few thousands just like it – are incinerated at an energy recovery facility.

Each year, this one at Four Ashes, near Cannock, processes 340,000 tonnes of waste that would otherwise end up in landfill.

In the process it exports enough electricity to power 66,000 homes. And it saves taxpayers around £250 million.

That's where environmental issues come together and make even better practical, ecological and economic sense – as we discovered when a group of Whitchurch Rotarians paid a visit for a conducted tour.

WELCOME ABOARD

Three new hands have stepped in to understudy the operation of our annual canal boat trips this year.

Chris Smith, who is retiring from the role, will oversee the waterway excursions for community groups from 7 to 12 July.

Learning what's involved will be new member Victoria Sugden, slightly less new member John Nunnerley, and honorary Rotarian Andy Hall.

Right – David Pritchard Jones prepares to steer away from New Mills Lift Bridge.



CAR BOOTS ARE BACK

And don't forget ... our 2025 car boot season launches on Sunday 6 April which will be the start of our monthly 'First Sunday' sales running through to October (except July when the field is in use for the Alderfest weekend).

So ... pitch up and sell ... park up and browse.

See you there.

B	B	B	B	B	I	N	G	O
10	3	3	2	12	16	34	56	63
FULL HOUSE								
14	1	4	4	14	23	37	52	71
11	12	9	8	7	28	40	48	64

More big thanks to husband and wife team Maggie and Lawrence Allen who organised and called the numbers at the charity bingo night in Prees in aid of Whitchurch Rotary. We went home with an extra £443 in our charity account.

WRAP UP, MR PRESIDENT

David Ryder's year as president of Whitchurch Rotary has created many highlights. But none quite so special as the scarf that was presented to him recently. For this unique neckwear is the only one of its kind ... in the world.

It's a one off design that features the Rotary logo stitched at one end with the the normal Alport club logo at the other.

"I'll wear it with pride," he said, "even though I won't be giving up my West Ham season ticket just yet."

Oh, put a knot in it, David ...!

