



## RIGHT TIME ... RIGHT PLACE

Who better to understand the dangers of stress and high blood pressure...?

But dropping into Whitchurch Rotary's public health awareness event had not been a Saturday morning intention for Community Support Officer Jamie Robinson.

However, when he stumbled across the opportunity to be tested by healthcare professionals it was no-brainer. And retired GP Dr Jamie Muir was on hand to do the honours.



Nurse Michelle Whittaker (left), who has turned up for duty at all our blood pressure events for more than 30 years, was joined this year by Nurse Evie Williams.

This year 80 people were tested – of which nine were considered to have high enough readings to warrant a consultation with their GP.

## WOMBLING AGAIN..!

Youngsters at Whitchurch Junior School were so enthusiastic about taking part in Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great Big School Clean' that it was difficult to turn down an rare opportunity to join them one lunchtime.

So our president, David Ryder, and vice president Brian Acty, along with Walter Schafer and Graham King dug out their trusty litterpickers and tagged along helping to collect unsightly rubbish from pavements, hedgebottoms and around Waymills Park.



## ROTARY CAR BOOT SALE

**ALDERFORD**  
Sunday 1 June

from  
8am for sellers  
9am for buyers



## AN INK-REDIBLE RESPONSE



This year's school exams in an area of The Gambia are going better than students expected ... thanks to the Rotary District to which Whitchurch belongs.

The connection dates back to last year's District Conference when delegates were asked to donate pens to the charity 'Goal for The Gambia' – which supports education and training opportunities in the small West

African country and currently sponsors more than 450 young people at different stages of education.

But the charity is financially responsible for all the running costs of one school while also supporting three others, a clinic serving 50,000 people and a scout troop. So money is tight. Hence the appeal for pens – a pretty cheap commodity in the UK but highly prized in The Gambia.

The very positive response was packed, shipped out and shared between two schools – 'Kitty' which has over 700 students aged from four to 16 years and 'Sanyang' which is a similar size but covers all ages.

The pens arrived well ahead of the exam period and have been greeted with a massive wave of thanks from the children and their teachers as well as 'Goal for The Gambia' itself.



## TAKING THE WEIGHT OFF

The talents of the town's 'Men in Sheds' seem to know few boundaries. We were aware of their woodworking and carpentry skills – which is why we were keen to adopt their latest public bench project (*pictured left*) which will soon be sited on the towpath overlooking the Whitchurch Arm as a Rotary tribute to our onetime member and canal activist Peter Wagstaffe.

But even we were surprised when 'Men in Sheds' asked us to nominate homes for two unwanted mobility scooters which they had beautifully restored to pristine working condition. So our Community team set to work.

The result was that one was collected by Lauren MacMillan for her aunt. Lauren is pictured (left) with Alan Eadie and 'Men in Sheds' colleagues. A home for the second one will be found very soon.



### FORT – THE GOOD FIGHT

Whitchurch Rotary is a proud sponsor of the Fort Boxing Club's latest project to buy a minibus for transporting young members to competitions and training sessions. The club's own fundraising programme includes a sponsored 84-mile hike along Hadrian's Wall.



## ROTARY JOINS

## THE PARTY FOR SHEENAGH'S CENTURY CELEBRATION



Whitchurch Rotary was privileged to add their birthday wishes when the town's most distinguished Inner Wheel member celebrated her 100th birthday.

Sheenagh Bradbury, who lives in Malpas, joined one of the world's largest voluntary women's organisations 66 years ago. She went on to become club president and an active District figure which reached a peak in 1974 when she became District Chair.

The present District Chair, Norma Jukes, called Sheenagh "the epitome of Inner Wheel at its best."

## QUESTIONING THE GARDENERS

A massive 'thank you' to gardening experts Gordon Malt, Anne Harrison, Jonathan Allen and Bryan Cliff, who formed the panel for our successful 'Gardeners' Question Time' event, and to Whitchurch Garden Club who helped to organise it. Extra thanks, too, to Jonathan, owner of Holly Farm Garden Centre at Prees, for the generous number of items he provided for the raffle prize. The event raised almost £500 towards our prostate screening event later this year and this sort of community project could not happen without the help we get from supporters like these who make it all possible.



## BILL GROSSET

Whitchurch Rotary's oldest and longest serving member, Bill Grosset, died on 28 May at Elmhurst Care Home in Prees. He was 91 years old.

Bill, who was born in Gravesend, was a cornerstone Rotarian who arrived in Whitchurch in 1967 to join Norman Rushton at a law practice in Green End. Before then he had graduated from Kings College, London and spent six commissioned years in the Royal Artillery before four years of Air Force service in Hong Kong and London.

He joined Rotary in 1960, was president in 1982, and had two terms as secretary in the 80s and 90s. During more than 30 years membership he was especially active in organising annual canal trips for disabled children and arranging hosting for overseas exchange students.