



VICTORIA SWAPS HER HEELS FOR TRAINERS IN A HEATWAVE RUN

Congratulations to Victoria Sugden – no longer the newest Rotarian in town but certainly the only one who would brave the Chirk 10k run in heatwave temperatures hovering in the late 20°s.

With her work colleague Heather Thomas-Bache, she crossed the finish line with nearly four times the sponsorship money they had originally targeted. And donations were still rolling in.

The ladies both work for the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Charity and were raising money to fund vital projects that enhance hospital standards, create a more comfortable environment for patients, provide extra resources for staff and improve facilities in the delivery of world class patient care.

"We were a little out of practice, as neither of us has run in nearly two years," said Victoria (*pictured right*). "So, we didn't do this because we enjoy running (we don't), or because we're fit (we're not), or because it's easy (it definitely wasn't). I'm far more likely to be found in heels than trainers. But we did it because of a shared goal to raise money for a cause that we care deeply about."

If you would like to donate, and help lift Victoria and Heather into a four-figure total, please go to:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/heather-victoria-chirk10k?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=019



THAT'S OWL FOLKS...!

This time of year is a busy season for John Holland - because it's the height of the breeding season for barn owls. And, as a member of Broxton Barn Owl Group for the past 25 years, he's been out catching and fitting the youngsters with uniquely numbered metal rings - so the British Trust for Ornithology can monitor their population, movements and nesting habits.

Barn owls are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act and receive special legal protection – covering not only themselves but their nests and eggs too.

John is pictured with a newly ringed owl.

"I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU"

We are saying a big 'thank you' to people who volunteer for us on a regular basis through the year. They are not Rotarians and it may only be a simple certificate and a badge. But with that comes our thanks for the time, talents and energy they have given to improve lives of people in our community over the past year.

Joyce Huxley, for instance, (*right, with David Ryder*) who collected money from friends and customers at Tesco to help our prostate evening. And at Christmas she collected herself 200 sweet and biscuit tubs in response to our environmental appeal.

Jim Mullock stores our Christmas float in one of his barns through the rest of the year. David and Paul Roberts, from D.A. Roberts at Grindley Brook, service the float and provide a van, free of charge, to pull it through our December tour. Michelle Whitaker, a nurse from Whitchurch Hospital, has taken blood pressures at our annual health awareness events since they began decades ago. Stephen Prince, from Tarporley, has skippered many a narrowboat trip for several years. And Jason Wainwright, from Securasound, loaned a sophisticated sound system for our recent Gardeners Question Time.





AHOY, ME HEARTIES

Life, if not on the ocean wave, is certainly well enjoyed on the calm waters of the Llangollen Canal.

Which is why Rotarians, friends and supporters positively lapped up the 19 trips we made throughout five days in July. Groups totalling 175 senior citizens, carers, adults with learning difficulties and youth organisations such as scouts and guides, were taken sailing on 90-minute journeys between the Whitchurch Arm and the Grindley Brook locks.

So, many thanks to the Jane Higginson Trust, who sponsored the week, and to the Lyneal Trust for their ongoing support without which this project could never happen.

It was partly in recognition of the Lyneal Trust's involvement that our President Brian Acty and Victoria Sugden represented Whitchurch Rotary at the Trust's 40th anniversary garden party at their base near Ellesmere when they celebrated four decades of providing accessible canal holidays and short breaks for people with disabilities, their families, and carers.

The Lyneal Trust offers specially adapted canal boats and cottage accommodation, enabling people with a range of physical and learning disabilities to enjoy the peace and joy of countryside waterways. "It was a privilege to represent Rotary and support such an inspirational charity," said Brian. "The Lyneal Trust embodies values that Rotarians hold dear – service, inclusion and community."

Pictured, from left: a group of passengers enjoy their trip ... crew member John Nunnerley takes the helm ... and Victoria Sugden (foreground in blue dress) at the Lyneal Trust garden party.



Picture by Cuckfield Lindfield & Haywards Heath Rotary

FANCY A CHAT?

It's very easy for Rotarians to get deeply involved in the community support, international service and emergency aid response that we are known for.

So easy that we can often neglect the social element – the friendship that brings us together in the first place.

But things are changing. Last year's president, David Ryder, was instrumental in starting to reverse that path ... and his successor, Brian Acty, is building on it in a way that will encourage friends and supporters to enjoy more social events with us.

Social evenings with no structure. No agenda. No set format. No set time. No dress code. Come and go as you wish. Just meet up for a chat ... and keep in touch. A time to feel a more closely involved with what we do and who we are.

So – if you would like to be kept informed about forthcoming occasions like this please drop me a line and we will include you in the circulation list as and when we're arranging another 'get together'.

We'll look forward to hearing from you. Please e-mail - grahamking.gk@gmail.com



WALK INTO HISTORY

The long-awaited 'Whitchurch History Walk Part 2' will be around the High Street on Tuesday 29 July.

Everyone is welcome!

Meet by the Bullring clock tower no later than 6.30pm.

The evening ends with an optional Indian meal at the Blue Water.

(If you don't want to do the walk but still want the meal, be at the Blue Water for 7.30pm.)

Interested? Then please e-mail maggieallen1961@hotmail.co.uk

CAR BOOT SALE

**THE NEXT ONE IS ON
SUNDAY 3RD OF AUGUST ...
AND THE ONE AFTER THAT,
ON 7TH SEPTEMBER, WILL BE
IN AID OF OCTOBER'S
PROSTATE TESTING SESSION.**



ON THE FRON LINE

It could be the Rotary fundraiser of the year..!

The latest prostate testing session will take place, later this year, on Monday 6 October. And it's expected, again, to cost us in the region of £10,000 ... so we need all the support we can get.

To help us pay the bills, the internationally-award winning Fron Male Voice Choir, from Froncysyllte near Llangollen, will be returning for another benefit concert in Whitchurch.

The date is Saturday 16 May 2026. So please find a place for it in your diary.

WHITCHURCH ROTARY – the team

As a footnote to this **Update** issue it might be useful to introduce our team players for the coming year.

The members out on the front line received a fair amount of exposure in the last issue when chains-of-office changed hands (or necks!) at our annual 'handover' meeting.

But there will be a lot more happening behind the scenes over the next 12 months which the town will not always see. These are the people who keep Whitchurch Rotary ticking over and, without their help, various aspects of our community aid programme would almost certainly stall.

So ... here's a name check for the Rotarians who take responsibility for various aspects of our activities.

Community Service:

Helping Hands

Ways and Means (fundraising and events):

Membership:

Environment

Social Media:

Website:

Press Officer / Public Image:

Christmas Float:

Tree of Light:

Christmas Lunches:

Lifeline:

Prostate Cancer Screening:

Canal Trips:

Youth:

Town garden beds:

Health Awareness:

Pop-up Shop:

Lend with Care

Andy Danton

Andy Danton, Victoria Sugden, Walter Schafer

David Ryder, David Griggs

Dave Simcock

Mike Wildi

David Ryder, David Hewitt

Steve Chisholm

David Ryder

Dave Hewitt, Walter Schafer, Ian Fawcett

Steve Chisholm

Bob Thompson, Ian Fawcett, Maggie Allen

Steve Chisholm, Andy Danton

Dave Simcock

Victoria Sugden, John Nunnerley, David Ryder, Andy Hall

Bob Thompson

Walter Schafer

Maggie Allen

Dave Simcock, Peggy Mullock, Anne Newman

Tony Burch

And the backroom people whose teamwork keeps us functioning are:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

International:

Foundation

Compliance / Safeguarding:

Speaker secretary

Almoner:

Data and GPDR:

Health and Safety Officer:

Fellowship:

Sport:

Club and Club Council Minutes:

Safety:

Graham King

Steve Chisholm

John Holland

Maggie Allen

Greg Watson, Walter Schafer

Phil Leigh

Tom Kelly

Ian Fawcett

Wendy Richardson

Maggie Allen

Ian Fawcett

Peggy Mullock, Graham King, Kath Park, Maggie Allen

Bob Thompson