



SPECIAL PROSTATE ISSUE

"THE L-O-N-G WEEKEND" ...!

Saturday – the town's Blackberry Fair was under threat of stormy weather but income from the Rotary stall had been earmarked to help cover the prostate screening costs. So, like many others, we moved into St Alkmund's Church and went ahead anyway.

Sunday – members were up at dawn and onsite at Alderford to set up for the last Car Boot Sale of the season. Another prostate fundraiser.

Monday – now for the prostate screening event, itself, at Whitchurch Rugby Club, which broke through the 1,000 barrier and took a record 1,042 blood tests in little more than three hours.

Tuesday – back to normal with one of our usual two club meetings of the month.

SATURDAY - BLACKBERRY FAIR

Victoria Sugden, who organised this year's Rotary stall at the town's Blackberry Fair, got the morning off to a start alongside vice president Andy Danton (below) ... and the day finished with Sarah Smith and Dave Simcock (right) selling out the 'Bottle Game'.



The man who launched the prostate project 10 years ago had no shortage of interest from VIP visitors either. Dave Simcock is pictured with Shropshire High Sheriff Jane Trowbridge and North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan who both stopped by to support the prostate initiative.



The last hurrah of 2025



SUNDAY – CAR BOOT SALE

The last 'car boot sale' of the year was another dedicated prostate fundraiser ... and, despite the worst weather forecasts, it was a decent morning that put £648 into the coffers to help cover the cost of the prostate event.

Sellers responded well ... with one coming from as far away as Birmingham.

And, on this occasion - which was managed by Sharon Weeks - a team of 13-14 years-old students from a Newport school joined in and set out their wares as part of an entrepreneurial competition.

The teacher who supervised the project said afterwards: *"It was invaluable. They learned to work together and act as a team. They had to think about pricing and then negotiating a deal with the customer. Plus the maths involved. The car boot sale was a very friendly, welcoming one and ideal for the boys to be involved".*

The 2026 programme of car boot sales will begin again on 5 April. See you there.

MONDAY – PROSTATE SCREENING

Quite simply – this year's screening clinic became a phenomenon.

Following county and national publicity surrounding the 10th anniversary year we marked the decade by taking blood samples from a record number of men. The 1,000 barrier was broken and a total of 1,042 men were tested in little more than three hours. That's around 320 an hour..!

The screening programme, which began in 2015, is now Rotary's largest UK community healthcare project. And the media coverage attracted attention from two other Rotary clubs that are interested in setting up their own similar projects.



Left - Whitchurch president Brian Acty (*in Rotary blue*) hosted a visit by (*from left*) Ayo Oyeade (Hendon, North West London), Paul Hardcastle (President, Wensleydale) and Alex Ayodeji (Hendon) who travelled to Whitchurch, to see how the prostate clinic was organised, in order to adapt the model to their own areas.



Right – As men filed into the testing area, a plastic basket at the entrance slowly filled with donations to help cover Rotary costs. This, with donations and raffle ticket sales, raised £4,746.

As the '1,000' barrier was broken there were loud cheers from the 64 volunteers who made it all happen – phlebotomists, Inner Wheel members, family, friends, supporters and Rotarians working under Dave Simcock, Ian Fawcett and Steve Chisholm. And when news hit the community Facebook page there were nearly 540 Facebook 'likes' within the first hours, along with 84 comments. A typical one read: *"What a fantastic achievement well done Whitchurch Rotary Club and all of the nurses, phlebotomists, car parking staff and all other helpers including the lady handing out the clipboards, administrative volunteers and staff directing everyone throughout the evening. It was most noticeable how polite, friendly and helpful everyone was to ensure that everything passed swiftly, correctly and professionally. **You all smashed it out of the park.** A massive 'Thank You' to everyone involved."*

TUESDAY – ROTARY MEETING

ROTARY HELPS FUTURE CAREERS

Three young people, who were sponsored on personal development courses, reported back on their experiences at the following day's Rotary meeting.

Ciceley Richards and Callum Nicolson (right) had attended a week-long Rotary Youth Leadership camp that coached them in team building, confidence and problem solving through a series of activities including abseiling, orienteering, rock climbing and survival techniques.

Josh Reeves (left) had been on a 'Uniformed Services' course as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. This five-day course prepared students for future career choices by teaching skills and personal qualities which, in Josh's case, involved training in firefighting techniques including emergency first aid and dealing with casualties.



- 'Rotary Youth Leadership Awards' is a leadership development programme run by Rotary International to help participants build confidence and develop leadership skills. RYLA participants are nominated by local Rotary clubs – so to find out more, and how to apply for next year, email us at enquiries@whitchurchrotary.org.uk
- A 'Uniformed Services' course is an educational program, typically offered at colleges and further education centres, designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and the necessary experience to pursue careers in public services such as the police, fire and rescue, ambulance and armed services.



PEGGY NOMINATED FOR AWARD

One of Whitchurch Rotary's active members, past president and a current vice president, Peggy Mullock, is one of seven nominations for the forthcoming Citizen of the Year award. Peggy joined Rotary in 2014 during her 30 years of community service as a school governor, Shropshire and town councillor, including a term as Mayor. The citation commends her *"deep sense of care, compassion, selflessness, and commitment"* which *"truly embodies the spirit of community"*.

Voting closes on Sunday 9 November. For full details go to www.whitchurchtowncouncil.gov.uk and click on 'Citizen of the Year awards'.



SPORTS NEWS



MEANWHILE ... YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME



Rotary can be a roundabout world.

The well-established Whitchurch Rotary bowls team (*left*) won 3-0 against rival finalists from Wellington Rotary in south Shropshire, to lift the District crown green bowls tournament trophy for the 11th time..!

But the newly formed croquet team (*right, with members of the winning team*) were beaten by Cannock on neutral ground at Shrewsbury. The positive achievement, there, however, was that the relatively novice players, competing in their first year as a team, had already beaten off a stream of opposition to reach the final in the first place. No mean feat!

Rotary has a known reputation for its community work in Whitchurch but fewer people know much about our social activities, let alone the sporting achievements.

... AND FINALLY



DON'T BE A GROUCHO

When Groucho Marx resigned from the Beverley Hills 'Friar's Club' in Los Angeles he famously said "I don't want to belong to any club that will accept people like me as a member" ...!

WE DISAGREE ... !

We would love people like you to take a closer look at us. As 'Update' readers you already know quite a bit about what we do. If you'd like to know more – and see us up close – you're invited to come along to a meeting as our guest, enjoy a two-course meal, see who we are and what we do ... even if it's only to say 'hello'. Just drop me a line at secretary@whitchurchrotary.org.uk

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