

# The Rothes Rotary Rag

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GLENROTHES

Issue 22

March 2016

DISTRICT 1010

## Presidents Report



What a busy couple of months for our club especially for those members involved in the Youth Programme, with one event following hard on the heels of the previous!!! As always the Young Musician competition proved to be an evening of outstanding entertainment while the Young Artist showcased the artistic skills of our contestants in a variety of forms. The judges of both competitions were so impressed by the standard achieved and provided the youngsters with valuable feedback. In the very near future it is the turn the photographers and I shall look forward to admiring their work. Once again the Primary school quiz was hotly contested, the winner this year being Pitcoudie PS whose team led almost from the word go-- well done to all the pupils who took part !! In the very near future the senior pupils will battle it out in the Top of the Form Quiz which has become so popular that more schools are participating this year. Good luck to you all!! As if all that wasn't enough the Foundation committee organised what is to be our final Booksale and in the same weekend supported 4 teams in a sponsored Swimarathon along with the Dunfermline club. Meanwhile the Interact club at Glenrothes HS have been collecting used spectacles in support of the Specsavers/ Vision Aid campaign and are planning a sponsored walk across the Forth Bridge on 5th March to raise funds for Midwives in Haiti. I have been so impressed with the way this small group of sixth year girls has demonstrated planning and organisational skills while at the same time having a lot of fun!!! I am very grateful to all the members who have supported these events, our input enhances the curriculum and provides opportunities which otherwise would not exist - Rotary in action and making a difference!!!



Be a gift to the world

## Youth competitions

February was a really busy month in the club with lots of youth competitions being held, the first of these was the district competition for the Young Chef. This was held in Dundee college on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Our representative Grant Duffus from Glenrothes High School was one of eleven pupils who were given excellent feedback (apologies for the pun) from the judges for the preparation of a three course meal produced and plated in two hours. This was the seventh and last year of Mike Robbins from the Rotary Club of Stonehaven organising this very successful event as he prepares for being District Governor in 3 years. This Year's District Governor Mike Halley from the Rotary Club of Loch Ness was on hand with his wife Wilma to make the presentation. The winner of this year's competition who was entering for his third year was Matthew Turnbull from Menzieshill High School in Dundee with the runner up Maddie Owen from Monifieth High School. In third place was Hannah Rose from Madras College. Our club were represented by Community Chair Anne Sampson and Geoff Sampson. Grants family were also there to support him on the day.



*The winning menu*

## Booksale

The Foundation committee held its final book sale last month in the Kingdom Centre Glenrothes. A total of £259 was raised and a fun day of laughter and catching up was had by all involved. The proceeds will go towards the "end Polio Now campaign", Many thanks to the Kingdom Centre management for allowing us access to the Centre. Thanks to Jeannie Interacter from Glenrothes high school, Foundation Chair and organiser Brian Johnson and his wife Kay, Steve Grist and Rotarians for giving of their time in raising these funds



## Young Musician

The young musician competition was organised by Glenrothes High School this year. It was another fantastic night as thirteen talented pupils from Auchmuty, Glenrothes and Glenwood High Schools showcased their musical talents. The winners were Brandon Low (Vocal) and Rosie Randall (Instrumental) both from Auchmuty High School. Many thanks to Avril McNeil rector and staff and pupils at Glenrothes High for hosting the event and to the Judges Jennifer Drysdale, Bruce Fraser and John Gourlay. Also many thanks to the parents, teachers from the other schools and Rotarians for supporting the event.



*Brandon and Rosie*



*contestants and judges*

## A TRIBUTE TO JOHN REICH 1920 – 2015



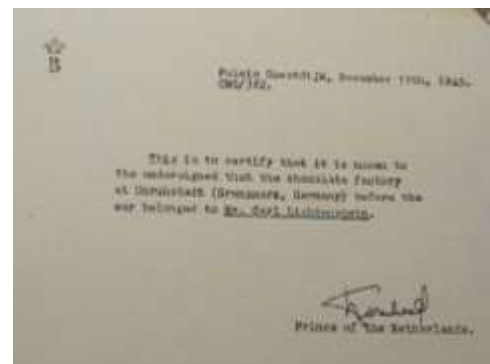
EGON REICH

Our recent colleague, John ...or Hanns as he should more properly be called, was one such person and learning about his life must surely bring back sad memories, especially to older Rotarians!

John was born into a professional German family



who lived on the German-Polish border and that family recognised only too well the meaning of the growing and dark clouds that were appearing on the political horizon in Nazi Germany in the late 1930s. John had a traumatic childhood! One branch of John's family who lived on the Polish side of the border were suddenly told that that territory was now considered Germany and that they had to immediately hand over to some local Nazi official, the keys of their chocolate factory and its title deeds. Simultaneously, John's father was removed from his post as a senior obstetrician in a major hospital and was made to wear a blue armband which allowed him to be only a vet to farm animals. After the dreadful "Kristallnacht" of November 9<sup>th</sup> 1938 when many Jewish business premises were wantonly destroyed, John's parents could see the Holocaust coming and put their 18-year-old son's name on a sort of "Schindler's List" with links to England. That far-sighted move just before the outbreak of the Second World War enabled young Hanns to be sent by ferry to the south coast of England. He clutched a very precious piece of paper that got him past the guards in his own country: it was a letter from a British company saying that his job application had been successful and that he should start work in England immediately! John knew that he had never applied for any job but he had been told that the address on that piece of paper actually existed and he eventually found his way to the factory gates. Only then was he turned away, for it was confirmed that there never had been any job available but at least he was now safe and out of Nazi Germany. That was more than could be said of his parents who were due to be exterminated soon after John arrived in England along with 22% of the Polish nation in an infamous concentration camp built on soil that is today called Poland. Mercifully,



John's mother somehow survived the war.... but just! I know little of John's early career in England but our paths crossed because he was an expert glass-blower of scientific glass-ware. By the 1970s he'd set up a small factory in Kinglassie making (mostly) one-off specialist glass-ware for various universities and institutions. He had a business partner but the two could not agree on the way forward: John wanted to continue blowing glass while the other company director wanted



to branch out into the manufacture of electronic meters capable of



measuring acidity and alkalinity. ... "pH meters"! The two parted company. John then moved his operation to a small shop and workshop on Leslie High Street while his ex business partner moved with his sons to a new factory in

Fife. From Leslie, John supplied very specialised and precise glass laboratory equipment which was used by a little-known department of St Andrews University in the 1970s... but a department that would eventually see Britain lead the world. Those laboratories were the first to manipulate, multiply-up and define strands of DNA. John had the responsibility of supplying the complex glassware required while another tiny local company simultaneously supplied various one-off components in plastic and in silicone rubber to match John's glassware and to facilitate the laboratory processes being further developed. The St Andrews University work for both those companies was short-lived because big international concerns soon saw the medical and forensic opportunities for DNA and so ploughed vast sums of money into this new research and technology! John was subsequently sidelined and so he retired from active business to live a life of tranquillity in Dunshalt along with his wife Sybil. It is interesting that John, while being a quiet man by nature, met a very interesting lady also living in the Howe of Fife who was full of character and who had been Sir Winston Churchill's private secretary during the Second World War. I often found myself reflecting on that chance meeting, a German Jew getting to know the lady who herself must have been privy to the innermost secrets of the man who dedicated his life to destroying Hitler and the Third Reich, the very people who had so cruelly treated John's parents. John, in spite of suffering great trials and tribulations in his life, gave of himself wholeheartedly to local business ...and to the Rotary Club of Glenrothes.

**We of that Club are proud to have known John and to have been a fellow member of the Club during his lifetime. Archie Lawrie**

## Young Artist

Glenwood high School was the venue this year for our judges to cast their expert eyes over the artwork produced by 5th and 6th year students from the 3 High schools. Seventeen pupils entered the competition in both Expressive and Design categories at higher and advanced higher level. The judge's overall winner and Young Artist of the Year went to Olivia McKendrick-Brown from Glenrothes High School. Thanks to Glenwood High School for hosting the event and to our Rotarians for their support. Gillian Parsons one of our judges is organising having a few pieces of all our winners' work displayed in the Rothes Halls in November /December this year.



## Primary school quiz

Our annual primary school quiz was held in Auchmuty High School recently. As with other years this was a very successful and very enjoyable evening with 10 Primary Schools taking part. Many thanks to Auchmuty High School for use of the facilities, all the Rotarians who assisted on the night and parents, relatives and friends for coming along to support the children. In what was a closely contested quiz. Pitcoudie Primary took the trophy from Markinch who finished second place putting an end to their winning streak and Kinglassie in third place. In the picture Rotary Club President Wilna Roger is with the winning team made up of Leith Munro (res), Ben Robertson, Alex West, Ewan Christie and Ellie Philp. Pitcoudie School will now go forward to the District competition.



Remember that all photographs and event details can also be found on our Facebook page and also on our website

<http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=33>

## Scottish night



At the end of January, we decided to host a Scottish night rather than a traditional Burns supper. It was a very successful evening with entertainment from pupils from

both Glenrothes and Auchmuty High Schools and our own Linda Ballingall. Sixteen Rotarians and 20 guests attended many of whom were from the two High Schools. President Wilna welcomed started the evening with a classic Burns Supper joke which was a fitting start to a fantastic evening enjoyed by all. First selection on bagpipes from Connor Pratt and then John Gowans and Callum Ford playing Caledonia and the Parting Glass followed by Highland dancer Morgan Stevenson. Cameron Duncan followed on the accordion with a Victoria Waltz and Miss Rowan Davies. Claire Houston the winning vocalist from the Young Musician of the year last year and the three-piece group with a song selection. Linda Ballingall finished the first part of the evening with a Scottish song selection.

The second part of the evening

followed with Morgan Stevenson dancing a modern dance with Cameron Duncan on accordion with Scotland the Brave and Bonnie Lass of Fyfie. Linda Ballingall finished off with a further song selection and again with Connor Pratt



on the Bagpipes. Auld Lang Syne completed the evening with John Gowans and Callum Ford. Well done to all these talented youngsters and good luck to The Glenrothes High School Interactors with their fundraising efforts.

I think the picture below shows that all the entertainers enjoyed the evening!!!!



## District Assembly

The District Assembly for all Rotarians in District 1010 is to be held in the Thistle Hotel, Altens, Aberdeen on April 17th 2016 Please let President Wilna know if you would like to attend. Bookings to be in by 10<sup>th</sup> April. The programme for the event can be found on the District Website

<http://www.rotary-ribi.org/districts/events.php?DistrictNo=1010>

### Swing night

A few Rotarians had a good night out at the Rothes Halls recently to see the big swing band during the Fife Jazz Festival

### Kids Out

Kids Out day has now been confirmed as 8<sup>th</sup> June and Rotarian Will has booked the Deer Park at Cupar for this event

### Aircraft Carrier Visit

Rotarian Murray Grubb chair of the Vocational Committee recently organised a trip to Rosyth Dockyard to the visitors Centre for the new aircraft carrier Queen Elizabeth We were given a talk on the progress and the process and viewed the storyboards in the visitor's centre. Certainly worth a visit to be close to a real piece of history. Many thanks to Steve McKenzie at the Rosyth visitor centre who has been involved in the process since it started. For security reasons we were not allowed to take photographs but Steve took a couple of the group with the carrier in the background which he will send on to us. But look out for the launch of the sea trials later in the year. Thanks to Rotarian Murray for organising the event.

**Remember ! Rotary Club of  
Glenrothes AGM**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Gilvenbank Hotel!**

## New Members

The club has inducted two new members in the last couple of months thanks to the efforts of our membership committee. Our evening meetings have been set up with the intention of inviting potential new members to the club and showcasing the good work done by Rotarians and we ask our members to actively encourage friends and colleagues to come along to these evenings. Our two new members are Scott Galloway a local business man and Malcolm Robertson a local sculptor. The photos below show president Wilna inducting the two members and SVP Brian with Malcolm beside Malcolm's latest piece of art – a very familiar figure for some of us – OOR WULLIE!



## Sportsman's Dinner



The poster is for 'The Rotary Club of Glenrothes Sportsman's Dinner'. At the top is the Rotary logo. The title 'The Rotary Club of Glenrothes' is in large blue letters. Below it, a central box contains the event details: 'Sportsman's Dinner', 'Friday 25th March', 'Gilvenbank Hotel Glenrothes', '7PM until Late', and '£30 per person'. This box is flanked by two black silhouettes of golfers. Below the central box, the word 'Speakers' is centered above a stack of silver coins. The names 'Willie Allan', 'Willie Henderson', and 'Eric Davidson' are listed on the coins. To the left of the speakers is the word 'Raffle' and to the right is 'Auction'. At the bottom, a box states 'Supporting our nominated charity Glenrothes Strollers Football Club', flanked by two soccer balls.

**The Rotary Club of Glenrothes**

**Sportsman's Dinner**  
**Friday 25th March**  
**Gilvenbank Hotel Glenrothes**  
**7PM until Late**  
**£30 per person**

**Raffle**      **Speakers**      **Auction**

**Willie Allan**  
**Willie Henderson**  
**Eric Davidson**

**Supporting our nominated charity**  
**Glenrothes Strollers**  
**Football Club**

Rotarian Iain Haywood is still looking for raffle prizes for the event. If you have anything suitable please contact Iain. Rotarian Tracy is also making a chocolate hamper so donations welcome for this too. There are still tickets for the event so hurry up and get yours if you want to attend this very popular event.

## Swimarathon

The Swimarathon was held at Bannatyne's leisure centre in Dunfermline on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February. There were 4 teams from Glenrothes. The total raised from 2 of the teams was £600, £300 of this goes to our foundation charity. The other 2 teams have still to finalise their totals. SVP Brian says this was a very enjoyable event and one to get involved in, in the future.

## Diary March/ April 2016

DATE	SPEAKER	VOTE OF THANKS	SIGN IN AND GRACE	TAKE MONEY	Visitor HOST
3 March 2016	Sarah Kettles Fife Pilgrim Way		Jim Boyd	Rube Fernando	Chris Grist
10 March 2016	Council Reports		Murray Grubb	Iain Haywood	Arlene Kidd
17 March 2016	David Lyth, surgeon Urology surgery clinics in Uganda		Mark Latimer	Archie Lawrie	Julie MacDougall
24 March 2016	Scott Galloway Vocational		Chris Grist	Jim Boyd	Gerald Cameron
31 March 2016 Evening	John Reade – Malt, Ale and Whisky in the Glenrothes Area		Ewen MacDonald	Peter May	David Ritchie
7 April 2016			Scott Galloway	Lindsay Roy	Hamish Rothnie

Awards Evening  
Gilvenbank Hotel  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>  
May

### **Just for a laugh!!!**

If you want to find out who loves you more, stick your wife and dog in the trunk of your car for an hour.

When you open the trunk, who is happy to see you?