

What has been happening within Rotary Clubs during the covid19 pandemic you may well ask. Well I hope this newsletter will give you a flavour of how we have continued to work and help within the community in this unprecedented time. Firstly, we have been having weekly Thursday 1pm Zoom meetings to ensure we keep in touch with members. We have also had many interesting weekly guest speakers plus a couple of quizzes during the summer. Zoom has worked very well for our club we even managed to conduct a socially distanced Presidential Handover with pictures shown on Zoom. Walter Fletcher suggested a daily coffee morning on Zoom for any members who just wanted a chat- this is still ongoing 8 months later daily at 11am and a great source of company.



The Local Community

At the start of lockdown, we contacted Rose Duncan at Collydean Community Centre to see what we could do to help. Geoff Sampson our President and Anne Sampson Secretary volunteered to deliver flyers in the local area asking the community for different types of support for the centre which became a hub for the whole of Glenrothes, providing



food technology befriending and any help needed. Four of our members enlisted for the befriending program and are still providing friendship and advice to



their allocated “buddie” -an invaluable service. Rose also decided she would like a piece of artwork – a sculpture or a mural to be erected in the town as a memory of this year and a tribute to the heroes and people of the town who have helped in the community and helped vulnerable people through the pandemic. It would also be a reminder for future generations of this extraordinary year. Rose initially

called a meeting with representatives from Fife Council, Go Glenrothes and Rotary. We also asked Malcolm Robertson a former Rotarian and former town artist. Malcolm had some extremely good ideas and there has been a few more meetings. We now await further information from the local council how we take this forward. Watch this space!!

Leading up to Christmas we will support them by providing Sweets and Selection boxes.

The Food Bank (Glenrothes / Leslie)

Rotary has supported the local foodbank over many years doing collections from neighbours, within the club and by donation, and this year it has been of greater importance as so many have had their lives thrown into turmoil through losing jobs, schools closing and no money coming in etc. initially we asked members for a small weekly donation and have now given **£390** and then we were given a **£303** grant from Rotary international specifically for the Foodbank. We asked what they were short of and Anne and Geoff did a huge shop at Morrison’s. Like many other companies Morrison’s were helping local charities

and gave us a substantial discount on the food cost. The Foodbanks work on referrals so anyone in need requires a referral slip to get food and sometimes this is not always easy or quick enough to support people in need. Some of the smaller communities started up their own mini food banks. One of these is Leslie Community Pantry run by Gayle Wilson. Gayle and her team who have been providing food for the local community for anyone who needs this. President Geoff put Gayle in touch with the local food bank manager. The money we saved from Morrison's allowed us to buy **£50** worth of supplies to help the Leslie Pantry. Now going for charity status and having moved from the Station Hotel to the Leslie Football pavilion courtesy of Fife Council. They are now the Leslie Foodbank a satellite for the main foodbank and are able to carry out referrals.

Leading up to Christmas we still support them by providing 50 Selection boxes, Toiletries, Books, and clothing.

Local Care Homes

After hearing that St Margaret's church were making toilet bags from old pillowcases and sheets for residents in a local care home, we did a collection for them. Geoff spoke to Rotarian Iain Oates about the possibility of a bird feeder project in the care homes. Iain contacted all the care homes in the area asking how we could help. We then provided 8 establishments with bird feeders and bird food at a cost of **£355**



so the residents could look at these from their windows. We also left collection tins so visitors can contribute to the continuation of providing bird food.

Following on from this we asked them if we could organise and provide entertainment. Rotarian Wilna Roger sourced different

entertainers who would provide their services free of charge. We have had singers, dancers a violinist and trumpeter who have done a total of 6 performances at 4 different care homes This was all done alfresco with residents outside also, keeping safe distances! The weather was really kind to us, and the staff and residents were so appreciative which was so rewarding for the Rotarians. Wilna Roger and Anne Sampson also delivered 50 tins of Rotary "polio" mints to Inchkeith Court sheltered housing complex in Cadham for the residents.



Hago Computers



Local company Hago Computers commenced running a campaign when lockdown began to provide old computers and laptops for pupils to enable all pupils to have this access to carry out schoolwork especially while schools had been closed and home schooling was in place. Many families have no computers or maybe only one which all members must share. Dave from Hago decided he would collect old computers and restore them to allow pupils to do their home studies. When President Geoff heard this, he set out on a mission to help! To date our club has donated 33 computers – a few of which were of such high quality they were sold to buy several second-hand laptops. Dave is continuing with his project to help community groups and we continue to ask for donations of any old computers or laptops to help Dave.

This is an extract from Hago's Facebook Page

Since we started the Laptops for Pupils appeal, we've now gone over 300 devices that have been generously donated by you, refurbished by us and kindly distributed FREE by the schools, agencies and charities we've been working with.

We've helped pupils all over Fife and although the appeal has quietened down a bit, we're still running the programme and helping keep youngsters connected. Without you this could never have happened. A massive Thank You to all our schools and partner agencies. With a special mention to the Rotary Club of Glenrothes who have done an amazing job of getting donations.

Fife voluntary Action Group

The FVA have been playing a totally different role in the community since the Covid 19 outbreak. Kenny Murphy CEO who spoke at one of our Zoom meetings and talked passionately about his team and how they have supported those in need in the community since the Covid 19 Pandemic hit us. Our club donated **£1500** to FVA at the start of the pandemic to support them in their support of local communities.

Gilvenbank Sports Hub

We gave **£500** to help them upgrade the provision of Sanitisation to become user friendly.

Yemen Humanitarian Crisis

We gave **£600** to support the crisis which provided for 4 aqua boxes being sent to them in August.

Global eye project

Having heard a talk from Alun Morgan of the Rotary Club of Alloa we agreed to send **£250** from club funds with a further donation of **£205** coming from 2 club members.

New Members

Despite having lost 5 members at the end of the last Presidential year, Roy Francey, Chris Grist, Trevor Newman, Malcolm Robertson, Tracy Thomson. we have so far this year inducted David and Beverley Cooper who are heavily involved in the Friends of Riverside also past member Scott Galloway who left us due to pressures of work away from home has also re-joined us with 18-year-old Kim Angel who is keen to get involved. Sadly, Chris Harris who had become very involved in Rotary died in October, such a loss to us all.

Community approaches

As was mentioned prior to and at the Club Assembly by President Geoff he was keen to be more involved and find out more about what is going on in the community. As advised previously we have been involved with the Collydean Community Centre, approached Leslie Community Pantry, FORP (Friends of Riverside Park), Pitteuchar, Stenton and Finglassie Community Council, Kinglassie Kats Mission/Community Council and Glenrothes Strollers. We have been in contact with Go Glenrothes to see how the groups can come together and support one another as we hopefully move out of the Pandemic. Having had talks from Fife Gingerbread and Fife Women's Aid we will be supporting them with our Christmas Collections

Environment Projects

Having received a talk from David Cooper of Friends of Riverside Park (FORP) President Geoff had approached David in July to see how Rotary could get involved with his group. It all started off with an evening walk round the park identifying areas requiring attention then another afternoon of litter picking, then David and his wife Beverley joined Rotary and the rest they say is history.



Our Planter which was previously down at the Morrison's roundabout was hit by a car and not to be replaced but having spoken to the Fife Council Geoff managed to get the Rotary name plates transferred onto the Planter at the car park at Riverside Park which works out very well with our new association with Friends of Riverside Park.



Fundraising

Has been non-existent, but 4 Rotarians Geoff, Anne, Wilna and Iain Haywood went down to Studio8 in Glenrothes to see what this facility could offer as the owner Euphene Shek had intimated she would like to help us in any way which was possible. We were not to be disappointed and allowed us to make better judgements on what was possible.

Morrison's Collection/Be seen weekend

IPP Ewen Macdonald approached Morrison's Community Champion Denise Gartshore to see if a Santa Collection was possible, sadly it was not but we were offered a table at the information desk for the 12th and 13th December. Would all our Rotarians please spare some time on these dates for at least 1-hour slots to ensure 1 person cover at the table for a collection and to promote the Club/Organisation.

Morrison's is open 7am – 10pm (Sat) and 8am- 8pm (Sun) it would be nice to have most of these hours covered.

Christmas Appeal

As we cannot get out and about to collect for Christmas this year, we appealed to all our members for a small donation given that we have had no outlay this year for lunches or social events. Anne also produced flyers for members to hand out to family friends and neighbours. The response has been astounding! From money donations to goods for the different charities. Everyone has been so generous. Morrison's were selling selection boxes half price at £1, they allowed us to buy 250 and gave us a generous discount. Most of the local charities have asked for these for the local children. The closing date for donations is 26th November then we can collate the goods and distribute. A huge thank you to all who have contributed.

Also, thanks to George Aitken who was one of our entertainers for the care homes who donated over 100 Santa Sacks for all the gifts. Our Christmas Collection raising over **£980** to date. New Rotarian Scott Galloway has taken the lead to liaise with Fife Gingerbread's Linsey Proctor and along with his business colleagues is close to achieving funding of **£700** for over 400 Selection boxes and a donation to the charity.



Club Donations

Our Clubs individual Collections since COVID restrictions back in March have to date raised the amazing figure of **£1900** (Includes £980 Christmas collection) with funds going initially to the Bird Feeder project and the Glenrothes Foodbank and the Global Eye Project.



Some pictures of Donations and bought goods




Rotary IN GLENROTHES **Rotary Opens Opportunities** **OSCR** Registered Charity SC049481

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This year more than ever local charities need our help – Fife Woman's Aid, Gingerbread, The Foodbank to name but a few. After consulting with these charities we have a list of things they need for this Christmas

<p>For the kids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection boxes chocolate Santa's, chocolate coins, lollipops etc Craft items - coloured pencils and marker pens, drawing pads, colouring books, glitter, small toys 	<p>Food Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mince Pies, slabs of cake, gift boxes of mini jams, teas, coffees, biscuit selections, shortbread, chocolates, Turkish delight, glacé fruits, Xmas puds
	<p>Toiletries—NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crackers Balloons Baubles Tinsel

CAN YOU HELP EITHER BY PROVIDING SOME OF THE LISTED ITEMS OR GIVING A DONATION TO OUR CLUB TO HELP US PURCHASE THESE ITEMS. IF YOU WISH TO DONATE MONEY CONTACT GEOFF SAMPSON ON 07944372598

Other News To support Love Oliver, we have given them our Santa Sleigh to be used in their window display in the Kingdom Centre in Glenrothes.

Anne advised if you are having problems with ZOOM technology she will gladly come along and assist.

As we move forward, we will be getting involved with The Rotary Club of Cowdenbeath and the Fife Ecology Centre at Kinghorn on an

Old tools project (Iain Oates – Lead Rotarian)

Books abroad project with the St Andrews Kilrymont Club (Wilna Roger – Lead Rotarian)

- Do you have any old Computers or laptops?
- Do you have old Tools?
- Do you have old / new clothes or toys/games?

I hope you are all keeping well, and I would hope that this has given you a flavour of what we have been doing. Rotary is not dead it is at the moment very different and we are well on our way to achieving our goals as suggested even prior to COVID19.

Wishing you and your families all the best of health and hopefully happiness during these difficult times and Anne and I hope you have as best you can have a Merry Christmas and COVID free and healthy New Year.

Best regards

Geoff Sampson President





Rotary in the Community



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And yes, we did relax and have fun – celebrating Kay, Wilna and Geoff's Birthdays!



**BALBIRNIE
MARQUEES
BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS**



Socially distanced Peace Walk



Laying the Rotary wreath on Remembrance Day President Geoff and Rotarian Derek Noble and shoe box collection

