

## **ROTARY CLUB OF SHREWSBURY DARWIN A BRIEF HISTORY**

The Rotary Club of Shrewsbury Darwin received its Charter on 1 February 1995. Since then it has been involved in a wide range of activities, some of which are highlighted below:

### **1995**

- Go Karting at Telford
- Wine tasting at Tanners
- Visit to Hodnet Hall gardens for the residents of Millingtons
- Visit to Abbey Colour
- In October the Club hosted a breakfast meeting at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth during the District conference and invited various members of District and other Rotarians to attend
- Hosted GSE team from South Africa
- Preview evening and talk on antiques at Halls

### **1996**

- The Club's first Charter Night was held at the Lord Hill Hotel
- Balloon race at Quarry Fun Day
- Assisted with the distribution of Organ Donor cards at Sainsbury/Safeway
- First Youth Exchange candidate, Emma Bowd, went to Finland
- The Bishop of Shrewsbury became an honorary member
- Trip to Bulmers
- Canal trip
- Took our first Ambassadorial student, Adriana Diaz from Mexico, to the District conference in Torquay. She was hosted jointly by Shrewsbury Darwin and Shawbury and received financial help to study at SCAT for one year
- Hosted GSE team from New Zealand
- Visit to Air Traffic Control school at RAF Shawbury
- Christmas choir concert at the Abbey

### **1997**

- Pimms evening at the Old House, Dogpole
- Shrewsbury Darwin, Shrewsbury and Wem hosted District Friendship exchange members from Australia
- Members were involved in Crucial Crew for the first time this year and continued to be involved for several years subsequently
- A number of members completed the Heart Start course organised by St Johns ambulance
- Visit to RAC control centre
- Hosted GSE team from Brazil
- Visit to Banks Brewery
- Club's new website won an award
- Held a Parisian buffet
- Celebrity Dinner with Frank Bough at the Lord Hill Hotel

### **1998**

- Visit to Cheltenham races
- Choral Night at Allington Hall
- First Paul Harris Fellowship awarded – Chris Parsons
- Shrewsbury Darwin, Shrewsbury and Wem hosted New Zealand Friendship exchange
- Programme of monthly Sunday walks commenced

- Visit to the lead mines at Snailbeach
- Took residents from Coton Hill residential home on a Christmas shopping trip to Telford

### **1999**

- Visit to BT World Network Management Centre
- Club members became Cycling Proficiency trainers and proceeded to run courses for primary school children
- First Club survey held to elicit members' views on the Club and its activities and to obtain ideas for the future
- Clifford Evans awarded Paul Harris Fellowship
- Club succeeded in having Sally Lewis and James Dale selected to go on GSE Team to Mexico. This was the result of a joint bid by Shrewsbury Darwin and Shrewsbury
- The Club also put forward James Stopford to become an ambassadorial student to study marine biology in Australia (his trip was deferred until the following year)
- First senior citizens' Christmas party held

### **2000**

- The successful practice of holding a meeting in a local restaurant on the evening preceding the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday in a month commenced
- Trip to the Grand National at Aintree
- Club visit to Italy – held first Shrewsbury Darwin meeting abroad!
- Took 6 disabled children on Kids Day Out and have participated in this event annually since
- Scheme to help foreign students improve their English
- Arranged for senior citizens to go on holiday to Blackpool
- Shrewsbury Darwin, Shrewsbury and Shawbury hosted the GSE Team from India
- Jane Wardropper led the return GSE Team to India and experienced the earthquakes which devastated the region
- Jeremy Johnson was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Club of Indiranagar
- Obtained matching grant to purchase computers for a school in India
- New Club banners were designed
- Drugs for Africa collections commenced

### **2001**

*Unfortunately, a number of activities had to be curtailed during this year due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease*

- Took PHAB members and senior citizens from Millingtons on canal trips
- Jeremy Johnson attended the District Conference in Bangalore
- Sisterhood agreement with the Rotary Club of Indiranagar with the aim of promoting friendship and co-operation
- Summer BBQ at Rowton Castle Country Club
- Second Club trip to Italy
- Theatre trip to 'That'll be the Day'
- Wine tasting at Tanners

### **2002**

- First sponsored slim held in the New Year
- Summer BBQ
- Evening at Chester races
- Club members went on a week's visit to Cyprus
- Hosted two boys as part of International Youth week

- Hog roast and music evening by the river in Shrewsbury
- Shrewsbury Darwin, Shrewsbury and Shawbury attended the West Mid Show to demonstrate the Shelter Box
- Took senior citizens from Millington's on a canal trip
- Redecorated the recreation room at the Lyneal Trust
- Ghost walk
- Family Bonfire party
- Progressive supper held
- Purchase and distribution to GP surgeries of drugs information leaflets for parents

### **2003**

- Horse racing night
- Introduction of Bonus Ball 1 to raise funds for Foundation
- Oaks project in South Africa was launched in collaboration with Rotary Club of Phalaborwa with actor Pete Postlethwaite as patron
- 10 children from Severndale taken on Kids Day Out
- Assistance given to Severndale with its fundraising summer fair
- Charity Auction and Lunch in aid of the Hospice and the Head & Neck appeal at RSH
- Hosted GSE team from Australia
- Canal trip for 10 residents from Coton Hill House
- Donor card stall at Focus was very successful
- Christmas card shopping trip for older people in Shrewsbury
- New website up and running
- Bonfire party

### **2004**

- First Club Protection officer appointed
- Visit to old lead mines followed by a picnic at Snailbeach
- Oak's project – team from the Club travelled to Limpopo. £12500 raised to build resource centre
- 11 children from Severndale taken on Kids Day Out
- Equal Opportunities policy adopted
- Second sponsored slim took place
- Provided stewards for Shrewsbury Arts Festival for the first time. This became an annual event
- Hosted GSE team from Brazil
- Go karting day out

### **2005**

- Contribution to tsunami appeal
- Work on the Oaks project successfully completed
- Wine tasting evening
- General Knowledge quiz held at Mereside
- First Stroke Awareness days held in Pride Hill Centre
- First two winners of the Youth Award scheme selected
- Entered team in Dragon boat race on the Severn in Shrewsbury
- 5<sup>th</sup> Friday visit to Wroxeter vineyard
- Visit to greyhound races at Wolverhampton
- Murder Mystery evening held
- Start of Club's involvement with Crowmoor House
- Cocktail demonstration – and tasting!

## **2006**

- First Club visit to India and our sister club in Bangalore
- Launch of Bonus Ball 2 to provide disaster funds
- Hosted GSE team from the Philippines
- Matching grant set up with the RC Indiranagar
- Mercy Ships fundraising dinner raised £2000
- Tour of glider project at RAF Shawbury
- Competition to compose new Club Grace for breakfast – won by Roger Ratcliffe
- Frog race night held at Mereside
- First RYLA candidate selected
- Breakfast questionnaire
- Family cycle ride held

## **2007**

- ‘Bollywood’ fashion show held to raise money towards matching grant
- Trialled continental breakfasts – decided to revert to cooked breakfasts
- Senior citizens’ day out to Llandudno
- Charity golf day held
- Successful Bavarian evening held
- Rotarians Sheila Allum and Jane Wardropper were awarded Paul Harris Fellowships in recognition of their contributions to District
- Club constitution amended
- Assisted with funding to bring 4 Russian girl guides to a Shropshire International camp
- First involvement with the clear up of tents after the V Festival at Weston Park. This became an annual activity
- Visit from two Past Presidents from Rotary Club of Indiranagar
- Summer garden party held
- Sent another young person to RYLA
- Hosted GSE team from Argentina
- India/Pakistan evening held
- Donated £250 to buy a well in Togo under Harvest Help scheme
- Sad death of Rotarian Roger Parry. Following receipt of bequest, the Roger Parry Fund was set up to assist young people

## **2008**

- Donation made to provide buggies for the new National Arboretum
- Italian evening held
- Wine to Water – fund raising wine tasting for Harvest Help
- The Club nominated Dr Annica Goddard as a GSE team member to go to Oklahoma and she was appointed
- Jeremy Johnson led a GSE team to Argentina
- Scatter week competition to see who could travel the furthest in 24 hours. The winning group had a great day out in Dublin
- Second Charity Golf Day held
- African evening held
- Criteria for awarding Paul Harris Fellowships established
- Murder Mystery evening held
- Organised day out to Blackpool for senior citizens which was enjoyed by all
- Christmas shopping trip to Telford for elderly ladies
- Donation to the Burma disaster

## **2009**

- Second club visit to India
- Irish themed evening raised £850
- Series of Roger Parry cycle rides started
- Successful leadership training day organised by Peter Kennedy raised £2500
- Rotarian Mu Wood was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for services to the Club
- Five members of the Rotary Club of Indiranagar joined us for breakfast
- Summer Sunday Lunch held
- A Summer Day with a hog roast proved successful in forging good relationships with other clubs and raised £2259 which paid for 5 Shelter Boxes
- Hosted GSE team from Malaysia
- Joint eye project planned with Rotary Club of Indiranagar
- Gave a small grant to a young person going to a charity Afrocamp helping Street Children and building a school in Kenya
- Health Awareness Day in April saw 250 people
- Gave a small grant to a young person going to a Sangam Guiding World Centre in Pune, India participating in a community action project with local schools
- A charity Ball with the other 3 Shrewsbury Clubs raised £3700 for the Rainbow Ward at RSH
- Joined with the other 2 clubs with a stand at the West Midlands Show
- Won a cup at District Conference
- Purchased 3 Aqua boxes for the SE Asia Disaster
- Concert in November
- Organised a Photographic Competition

## **2010**

- Stroke Awareness Day in May
- Supported the Thanks for Life Dinner in February
- The Three Shrewsbury Clubs worked together to collect and deliver furniture to the area of Cumbria stricken by flooding
- Club trip to Spain
- Jazz evening in April raised £1400
- Tent Collection at the V Festival
- Provided chaperones for Crucial Crew
- Club introduced coasters to replace banners for guests
- The Summer Day produced £2260 for Shelter boxes

## **2011**

- Collected unwanted bicycles for further use overseas
- Visit to France, liaised with RC of Aix en Provence
- Send to Shelter boxes after earthquakes in New Zealand
- Talk about the Battle at Goose Green had raised almost £3900
- Organised a Royal Wedding Street party which raised £800
- Kids Out with Severndale School in June
- Won the John Verrill trophy and have to host next year
- Runners up in the District Croquet final

## **2012**

- Held a Bavarian themed evening
- Held a Ceilidh to support Village water
- Organised a Music Festival at Garmston House
- Treasure Hunt round Shrewsbury on a Fifth Friday

- Matching grant with our sister Club Indiranagar Bangalore for a Dialysis Programme
- Wine tasting raised £700
- Registered as a Charity
- Murder Mystery Evening raised £200

### **2013**

- Held a Stroke Awareness Day in May
- Held a French Evening for Village Water which raised £1150
- The start of the Clubs involvement with Dementia Awareness
- Club agreed to pay for signage on a van run by Shrewsbury ARK
- Tent Collection after Shrewsbury Fields event
- Club members went on a trip to the Isle of Man
- A promise auction raised £1650
- 22 pupils of the Priory School attended our introductory Duke of Edinburgh's Weekend

### **2014**

- Trip to Harper Adams College
- Ceilidh for Village Water held in March
- Supported toys for Syria
- Bavarian Evening in April
- Inauguration of the Dialysis machine in Indiranagar Bangalore in January
- Sent 2 students to RYLA
- A team ran the Shrewsbury Marathon
- Santa (Tom James and others) was in a grotto in the Darwin Centre, Shrewsbury (produced £3105 – our share £566)
- Won the John Verrill Challenge at Market Drayton

### **2015**

- Rtn Jeremy Johnson received the "Service above Self" Award
- Ceilidh in March for Village Water raised £1200
- Entered a team in the Marathon in June
- Event in St Chads with Fron Male Voice Choir in April
- Supported Kids Out in June
- Started Lend with Care
- Organised the John Verrill challenge and came 4<sup>th</sup>
- Sent 1 young person to RYLA
- Hog Roast in September
- Held a competition for a new Grace at Breakfast
- Santa to visit Age UK Day Centres with sherry and mince pies

### **2016**

- Ceilidh in February raised £2840 for Village Water
- Provided Chaperones for Crucial Crew
- Santa to visit Age UK Day Centres with sherry and mince pies

### **2017**

- Member Alistair Bates ran the London Marathon
- Ceilidh in February raised £3295 for Village Water
- Some Club members visited India, including going to our sister Club
- 70's Night held in October with at least £100 of the proceeds to Bangalore Eye Hospital
- Sent 1 young person to RYLA
- The D of E scheme folded but our equipment was donated to the County Girl Guides

- Concert organised with Shrewsbury Light Orchestra
- Held collections for Shelter Box and raised £850

## 2018

- Sent 1 young person to RYLA
- Sent £1000 to our sister Club Indiranagar Bangalore for Global Eye Project
- Choir event in May
- Ceilidh with Village Water raised £3000 this time split 50/50 with the Club for End Polio Now
- Agreed to buy a new suit for Santa
- Held a 70's Disco night as a fundraiser
- Held a collection for Shelter Box at Salop Leisure

## 2019

- Supported the 6<sup>th</sup> Form College on their career's night
- Held a Health Awareness Day and took 210 Blood Pressures with several referrals for medical advice
- Pull up Banner obtained
- Choral event in June
- Held our first Border Randonnée in May
- Stewarded the Lingen Davies Ruby Run
- Provided a Defibrillator at Stop Café in Shrewsbury in memory of Rtn Mike Hoult
- Sent 2 young persons to RYLA
- Visited the Veolia Recycling Centre at Battlefield Shrewsbury
- Had a fellowship evening wrapping presents for Santa to give out at the Age UK Visits
- Rocky Horror event for Village Water in November
- Provided a second defibrillator
- Sponsored Peter Bettis partner Helen running in the Shrewsbury Marathon

## 2020

- Charter Night celebrated 25 years of Rotary Service
- Donated £2000 to the Grange Youth Club for Easter activities
- Members supported the Shrewsbury Colleges annual careers evening in March

*Then activity came to a halt as restrictions for coronavirus came into effect. The club continued to meet weekly by Zoom and Council continued monthly the same way. Planning for events continued but most subsequently fell by the wayside.*

*Once some restrictions were relaxed a little some club members met at the Riverview Café to keep the fellowship going.*

- Club member Graham Burns completed cycling 1000 miles in lockdown and donated money raised to the Clubs Trust account
- Member Jim Davies, who was at the forefront of Rotary's connection with the National Citizens Service whilst at his former Club opened a dialogue with Shrewsbury Town in the Community, the local provider.
- Santa activities were curtailed, and he only managed to deliver to the Albert Road Centre, Harlescott and then could only appear at the window.

## 2021

- Help sponsor Peter Bettis' partner Helen running the Shrewsbury half Marathon
- Supported the St Barnabas Food Bank Plus with cash and collected and delivered donations of food.
- Held a Wine tasting evening (via Zoom)

## **2022**

*When face to face meetings could resume, we had to leave the Lion Hotel who could no longer cater for us and moved to a new home at the Greenhouse Café, Shrewsbury*

- The second Border Randonnée was held with 80 entrants
- Supported Monkmoor Bowling Club with the supply of gravel
- Bucket Collections at various supermarkets
- Wine Tasting at the Morris Hall
- Book4Home at Greenacres and Martin Wilson Primary School
- Collected over £2000 for the Disaster Emergency Committee support for Ukraine
- Provided 3 laptops to Shropshire Supports Refugees for Ukrainian refugees, handed over on their national day (part funded by a grant via District)
- Provided chaperones at Crucial Crew
- Fellowship visit to local Canal restoration project
- District Quiz, which we part organise, resumed.