



THE HUB

Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Dudley

Feb/Mar/Apr/May 2022

Editor - Pauline Gregory

★ CENTENARY EDITION ★

From the Editor's Desk

The last three months of the Club's various activities are documented in this Centenary Edition.

However, this edition will celebrate our Centenary and will be sent electronically to all Club members with souvenir hard copies given to everyone attending the Centenary Celebration Dinner.

My thanks to President Colin for trawling through the Club Archives to discover the activities of the Club over the past 100 years to provide me, as Editor, the task of summarising them in just a few pages - a mammoth task! - with apologies if I have had to omit any vital events due to lack of space.

I trust it will give readers some idea of the Club's history of service and fellowship.

Editor Pauline

From 1922 to 1935

1923 The first sub-committee was a "Boys' Work Committee" which was active for the 10 years, during a period of great depression and unemployment.

PAGE 3 - THE DUDLEY CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1923

HAPPY BOYS AT ASTLEY BURF CAMP.



A PARTY OF BOYS FROM THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB, ASTLEY BURF CAMP, VISITING THE DUDLEY CHRONICLE'S OFFICE. THE BOYS ARE SEATED IN THE FRONT ROW, AND THE MEN OF THE CLUB STAND BEHIND THEM.

1923 Rotarian T W Tanfield gave land and an interest free loan to Dudley Council to set up a campsite at Astley Burf near Stourport, visited annually by 1000 children.

1925 The first record of fund-raising was in March when the club agreed to support the Guest Hospital £10,000 appeal.

1928 The Rotary Club in Weston Super Mare set up a Boys' Home in the town to which the Club gave financial support for many years and in 1945 gave 31 bedside lockers.

1929 It was agreed that the club should be responsible for the maintenance of the wireless, wiring and headphones at Dudley Guest Hospital. One Dudley Rotarian kindly donated a new wireless for this project.

CAMPS OF WORKLESS

Dudley Rotarians' Holiday Scheme

Dudley Rotary Club, which has on many occasions rendered generous assistance to schemes for helping the unemployed, is the prime mover in a new endeavour to further assist the men connected with the local Occupational Centre.

Realising that many of the men at the Centre have never had a holiday, they are to entertain about 100 under canvas, and three camps are to be organised.

1929 Each member donated 8/6d. to fund outings for crippled children with two visits made to Astley Burf Camp.

1934 At the height of the Depression dinners were provided for 40 unemployed. To commemorate The King and Queen's Silver Jubilee, a tea was held for unemployed men and their wives, followed by a visit to the Castle Cinema. Three separate parties of 30 unemployed men were also given a weekend at Astley Burf Camp.

1934 A clock was presented to Miss Dorothy Round (daughter of a Club member) in recognition of her winning the Ladies Singles Tennis Championship at Wimbledon.

The Club's work with the youth of Dudley began in 1934 and continues today in 2022.

A three day resounding successful Hobbies and Handicrafts Exhibition was held at the Park School, being jointly organised by the Dudley Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce and Dudley Rotary Club, with 250 exhibits made by Boys and Girls aged 13 to 17, many of whom would shortly be eligible for employment.

1935 The Club made a donation to Grimsby Rotary Club to provide assistance to the widows and dependants of those who lost their lives whilst fishing off Iceland.

1935 The Rotary Club supported the formation of the Round Table Club of Dudley.

The Club's first daughter Club of Rowley Regis was formed but in **1937** the Club unanimously resolved "That owing to social and geographical difficulties, it was not possible to ensure a strong and healthy Club in Tipton". In **1938** a second daughter Club of Brierley Hill started.

Eventually a third daughter Club in Tipton was formed in **1945**, meeting at the Royal Oak Hotel, Dudley Port. Two Dudley members resigned to join this new Club. When the Tipton Club closed in 2010, two Tipton members joined the Dudley Club!

From 1936 to 1947

1936 & 7 The club organised a major fund-raising flag-day on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign and supported this for many years.

1937 The Club entertained ten German girls and their hostesses for a luncheon and visit to Ludlow Castle with an exchange visit made later by a party from Dudley Girls' High School.

1938 The Community Services Committee ran a Dudley Guest Hospital Transport Scheme with members being available day and night. This service continued for many years and later included helping service men returning home on leave.

1938 The Rotary Club, in conjunction with Inner Wheel and the Odeon Dudley Car Club, organised a Christmas party for over 2000 old folk of the district.

1939 In September, RIBI hoped that Clubs would continue so meetings resumed.

1940 The Club helped with the war effort in many ways...

- > Supported refugees who had fled from Europe to this country.
- > Supplied the crew of HM Minesweeper "Taipo" with comforts such as knitted goods, tobacco etc. Correspondence was exchanged with both the skipper and a member of his crew, who was a Dudley man.
- > Wool was provided by the Club which was knitted up by the Inner Wheel Club and distributed to the forces.
- > Each month, 100 cigarettes sent to Club members serving in HM Forces.
- > Each member paid £10 towards the provision of a fully equipped Mobile Ambulance for the use of the troops in France.
- > Members organised wartime activities such as Air Raid Precautions and War Weapons Weeks and contributed to charities like the Spitfire Fund.

1942

- Charity Dance organised by Dudley and Rowley Regis Clubs in aid of the Red Cross raised £138.17s.1d and a Charity Ball in 1944 raised £75.5.11d.
- 120 poor children were entertained by the Club Community Service Committee with an outing and tea at Dudley Zoo.

In **March 1942**, a letter was received by the Club from No. 6 District congratulating the Club on the excellence of the **WEEKLY circular**. It was proposed that this weekly circular should be curtailed or only be published monthly due to the shortage of paper. This proposal was withdrawn after considerable discussion.

1945 110 children from Dudley (mostly orphans), were entertained to a Tea and Social.

1946 120 children went to Stourport in a charabanc and took a steamer to Holt Fleet. This was followed by tea at the Riverside Cafe.

1947 £73 12. 0d. was raised for The Paul Harris Memorial Fund for post-graduate students to encourage the development of good international relations. An International Students' Day was held including lunch with overseas students – an event which lasted 35 years.

From 1947 to 1950

1947 The Rotary Club of Endicott, New York sent toys for distribution at local hospitals.



Members of Dudley Rotary Club distributing gifts to the child patients at the Great Hospital, received from the Rotary Club of Endicott, U.S.A., in January, 1948.

1948 Past President Herbert Cartwright became Chairman of No.6 District, the first of three Dudley Rotarians to hold this highest honour in District, the others being Past President Bill Homer (1948-1949) and Past President Ron Brooks (1956-1957)

1949 150 books sent by the International Service Committee in response to an appeal for books for the Universities, Schools and Libraries in devastated Europe.

1950 The Club arranged 12 months' study at Princeton University U.S.A. for a Rotary Foundation Fellow. George Tolley, an executive of local firm Metallisation Limited, was selected from a short list of candidates.

The daughter of a Swedish Rotarian and the son of a French Rotarian were hosted by Club members in 1951 - the first of a type of Group Study Exchange hosting.

The Community Service Committee took 103 children on a day outing to Stourport, a very successful event which was repeated in future years.

1950 A Fellowship visit was made to the Rotary Club of Ostende. A party of 18 chartered an aeroplane. It was a very successful visit which was felt to be very worthwhile in the interests of International Fellowship. By coincidence, at the Rotary meeting attended by the Dudley party, the British Vice-Consul was inducted into the Belgian Club.

From 1951 to 1966

1951 onwards... A party of boys from Fort William was entertained during a visit to Dudley. Bert Bissell the organiser of this visit continued this link for many years with his annual climb of Ben Nevis.

Many community projects - a party of blind people entertained to tea and tour of Shropshire, 75 Christmas parcels, hospital visiting, Prestwood Sanatorium, support for the East Coast floods and Lynton and Lynmouth disasters, Hungarian relief fund, the Ockenden Venture.

1953 A party of 50 German Industrialists and a party of 5 Student Leaders were entertained to lunch. **It was believed that the Dudley Club was the first Rotary Club in the Country to entertain a party of this kind and it was thought that the visitors took away with them an excellent impression of the nature and scope of Rotary.** From 1954 Several international exchanges were arranged - 1954 France, 1956 Denmark, 1956 Switzerland, provided lunch for 50 overseas boys attending the Boys' Camp at Nash Court, 1958 Norway and 1958 Iceland. Nash Camps went on for many years. Here Rotarian W. Wakeman, also Dudley Mayor welcomes them.



These happy faces bespeak the good time these boys are having at District 6's (part of England) International Boys' Camp, a ten-day meeting of 100 youths, 50 of them from outside Britain. Here they get a welcome from Rotarian W. Wakeman, Mayor of Dudley, England. They enjoyed sports and song fests, visited many places of historic interest, and were the guests of several Rotary Clubs in the region.

The Rotarian - February 1956

1955 Essay competitions were organised at Dudley Girls' High School (on the theme 'World Food Supplies') and at Dudley Grammar School (on 'Anglo-American Relations'). Students attending the Technical College and Sir Gilbert Claughton School were included in later years.

1953 Rotary Foundation began with members subscribing 5/- per annum.

1959 Community Service Committee undertook many projects supporting the Voluntary Society for the Handicapped by transporting handicapped people from their homes every week to social functions, raising funds for TVs for the League of Friends of Dudley Hospitals and Prestwood Sanatorium.

1961 Regular Careers Events were organised by Vocational Service Committee in co-operation with the Youth Employment Service of Dudley Council, firstly at the Town Hall and later at the Technical College.

1963 The Club helped finance a Dudley Boy Scout to go to the World Jamboree in America.

1965 A Commer Minibus costing £708 was presented for the benefit of the physically and mentally handicapped of Dudley.

1966 The International Committee collected used ladies' stockings for a Leper Colony in Zambia to use as bandages! Over 1500 pairs of spectacles collected for the Overseas Missionary Optical Service for reglazing, overhaul and despatch to Overseas Missionary Stations.

From 1966 to 1974

1966 A Dinner and Amateur Boxing Evening was held at the Queen Mary Ballroom and a Wrestling Competition organised with Tipton RC. **1970** A Boxing Evening at Brierley Hill Civic Hall resulted in a profit of £660 for the Dudley Mentally Handicapped Committee.

1968 A Leisure Exhibition at the Town Hall organised with Dudley Council's Sport Advisory Council.

The Club paid for a young person at the General Wingate School in Addis Ababa for four years at a cost of £85 per year.

A Rotaract Club for 13 to 18-year olds was formed in January, **1970**.

1971 MOBILE CARDIAC UNIT was presented to Burton Road Hospital at a cost of £1600 with many members organising their own private fund-raising functions. (This vehicle was the first of three to be presented by the Club to the hospital – another in 1976 and later in 1983 with a 4 wheel drive vehicle - a Range Rover.) The main fund-raising was achieved by raffling a Mini-Metro car. **For this project the Club was awarded the 1983 District Significant Achievement Award.**

ROTARY HOUSE

In July 1971, the Club formed of The Dudley Rotary Club Housing Association Limited to build some flats in the Borough, in conjunction with the Housing Corporation, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Club. The scheme was to be financed from the rents received from the tenants, supported by a Government grant and by the Rotary Club. Every member of the Club became a shareholder of the Association by paying the sum of £1. The drive of President Stanley Jones led to plans for 26 flats on land on the Russells Hall Estate being placed with J.Hickman & Son at a cost of approx. £200,000. The Rotary House Flats were opened on 23 June 1977 by the Mayor of Dudley. The agreed basic rents at that time were a single person flat £6.25 per week and £8.25 for a two person flat.

The project won the District Significant Achievement Award for 1977.

In 1978 the Housing Association passed a resolution approving the building of 27 more flats on land immediately adjacent, if it could be purchased. In 1980 building started on Phase Two at a cost now of £550,000 and completed in 1982 with residents installed. In 2014 a major £100,000 refurbishment was achieved to modernise the flats.



However, many years later in early 2017, the responsibility for managing such a property became more onerous so the Board agreed to transfer the responsibility to CHADD, the Churches Housing Association of Dudley & District who had been acting as managing agents for a few years. CHADD took over in early 2018.

1972 The Club sent £25 to Father Tony Fleming, a Catholic Missionary in Orissa, India, for digging 5 village wells.

1972 Books were collected for the Ranfurly Library Service, a charity that distributes books to educational and community organisations in developing countries. (This support continued for many years).

1973 A Probus Club was formed in Dudley with a number of retired Rotarians as the nucleus of the Club.

1974 The first Group Study Exchange visited District 225 in Southern Africa. The nominee of the Club was employed by a Dudley member. A return visit of the team took place in 1975.

1974 The Annual Students' Day in March had 27 students from 17 countries on a visit to the Council House and Central Library, lunch at the Station Hotel and a visit to the Stuarts Crystal Glassworks.

1974 An "Olde Tyme Music Hall" was held at the Queen Mary Ballroom, with an Edwardian theme, raising £200.

From 1974 to 1980

ROTAWAKE - one of the events that stands out in the history of Dudley Rotary Club - for all the wrong reasons - was a Charity Fete at Halfpenny Green airfield, Bobbington. The smoke, caused by the Ox-Roast, combined with the rain and the wind managed to depress almost everyone. President Fred Baker, remained unperturbed and ladies of Dudley Inner Wheel churned out sandwiches. The high wind caused the balloon to drag its anchors and set off on its own, complete with basket, totally unmanned towards the car park. The sight of several Rotarians hanging on to the ropes, striving to hold it back was a sight for sore eyes. Fortunately only a few cars were damaged, although one was turned over. Despite everything, the Club, having expected a colossal loss, ended up with a profit of between £60 and £80.



1975 A 4-day Leisure Exhibition was held in Dudley Town Hall with 40 stands highlighting the large variety of leisure activities available locally. The Club again held a Fashion Show at the Town Hall, put on by Marks and Spencer. A total sell out.

1976 The Club made a very positive contact with the newly formed Club in Brittany, France, the Rotary Club Brest Côte des Légendes. A party from Brest visited Dudley, soon followed by a return visit to Brest - the start of a lasting relationship between the two Clubs into 2022. In 1978 on a second visit a substantial cheque was presented towards their main project - an inflatable lifeboat for inshore use in the Brest area. The Club received 8 schoolchildren aged 12 to 16 from Brest for a stay of 12 days. A further 15 came in April 1979 and 16 more in 1980. In May 1979 both Clubs came to enjoy a Barn Dance at Worfield Village Hall. In 2015 two students had a three-week exchange.

1979 The Club raised £2500 for a computerised monitoring system for Burton Road Hospital with a Speedway Evening at the Cradley Heath Stadium (£2000), and concert in the Town Hall by The Treorchy Male Voice Choir (£1500).

1980 The Club presented the town with an information board - Tourist Information Point - which was erected in the Market Place entrance to Churchill Precinct.

The Club 'adopted' 3 families of Vietnamese 'Boat People'. Dudley Council allocated houses for them on the Priory Estate. Club members spent a great deal of time and effort providing furniture, cleaning and generally making the homes habitable. Also a wider group of 52 'Boat People' from Vietnam, between the ages of 6 and 60, were taken on a trip to Dudley Zoo. The Club had been supplying clothes for them since they arrived at the reception centre in Wolverhampton. Support was continued until 1984 when no longer required.



From 1981 to 1986

Numerous events.... **1981 & 1982** Christmas Concerts.

1982 A Flag Day raised almost £400. £3200 was raised to provide specialist equipment for Disabled Children within the Borough.

A darts competition was held at Dudley Grammar School for local players and was attended by some 100 players.

1983 A shop was made available to the Club in the Churchill Precinct and this was used in the same way as today's charity shops. It was staffed by Rotary members, wives and Ladies of Inner Wheel. Members collected unwanted hand tools of all sorts which were transported to Southampton to be refurbished by a charitable trust, then distributed in kit form to the third world.

1983 Club members hosted a North Carolina GSE Team – the first of many such exchanges.

1983 The Christmas Social was held at the Handicapped Centre and took the form of a performance of the Pantomime 'Aladdin', written and performed by Club members.

1984 Two items of equipment were purchased for Burton Road Hospital ... an ECG machine at a cost of £1500, and two Closomatic toilets at a cost of £1720.

1984 A member asked Club Council to consider supporting an appeal being made to enable a Hospice to be built in Stourbridge.

1985 A boy was sent on an Outward Bound course.

1986 The Club sponsored Mrs Sara Kelby for a two-year period of work in Ghana with Voluntary Service Overseas. (She went on to be a teacher and later Teaching and Learning training leader & facilitator.)

POLISH GSE VISIT

November **1986** saw the visit of five young executives from Poland on what was, to all intents and purposes, a modified G.S.E. exchange. The visit was masterminded by Past President Fred Austin. A return visit took place by a team from Dudley in 1988. Dudley was thus the first Club in R.I. to organise such an exchange with a country behind the Iron Curtain. When the Polish Team visited Dudley they were hosted by Dudley members and spent their two weeks making visits to companies relating to their individual occupations. **The Dudley Club was given a Significant Achievement Award for the project.** A further Study Exchange was made in 1988 with a person sponsored by our Club in Brest.



From 1987 to 1990

1987 At a Celebrity Dinner, the international test match cricket umpire, Harold "Dickie" Bird, gave a very interesting and amusing talk which resulted in a profit of £520. Many such Dinners followed with Worcestershire cricketer, Basil D'Oliveira raised £400 and so on.

The Express and Star reported that since 1922, archives revealed that the Club had been involved in 742 local projects and 246 international projects and had raised and distributed £164,000 during that time. 782 local business and professional men had enjoyed fellowship in the Dudley Club whilst serving the community over the years and together with five daughter Clubs, brought a total of 2876 into the Rotary membership.

1987 Fund-raising events were held to support PolioPlus, the Rotary International effort to eliminate Polio throughout the world, The Treorchy Male Voice Choir Concert raised £4000, a Celebrity dinner at Dudley Zoo Club realised £700 and the Am-Am golf tournament raised almost £2000. In 1989 there was the Band of the Royal Marines, a Brass Band Concert, a Bavarian Evening with an Oompah Band and in 1990 a Gilbert and Sullivan Evening and the Raconteur's Dinner raised £700 and £154.

Over the years many similar events raised considerable sums of money for charity.

1989 The principal donations during the year were: Institute for the Blind £500; Mary Stevens Hospice £500; Burton Road Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit £200; and an amount of £2500 for laser surgery, £250 for Polish children.

1989 A fellowship visit was made to the Rotary Club of Bruges, Belgium.

1990 to 1995 BALGARH LEPER PROJECT

Father Tony Fleming organised a joint project between Dudley, Côte des Légendes and his own Club to build houses for lepers in Bargarh, India. The "Swasthya Seva Sangha Trust" was formed. A matching grant came from Foundation for the supply and installation of pumping equipment. By May 1995, 28 dwellings were completed. Past President Ray Glazzard visited Bargarh and was received like royalty staying with his old friend, Father Tony Fleming. The total cost of the construction of 40 dwellings was £28,737, of which £14,000 was raised by the Dudley Club. In addition, the total cost of ancillary works part-funded by Rotary Foundation was £2,508.

The Club was presented with the District Significant Achievement Award at the District Conference, for the Bargarh project. Father Tony Fleming was awarded an MBE in the 1997 New Years Honours List but he sadly died on his way over to receive the Award.

1990 Past President Ray Glazzard provided a vehicle for Past President Fred Austin to take items to Poland, including a modified hoist suitable for use in the hydrotherapy unit at the children's hospital in Warsaw.

From 1991 to 1999

Fund raising 1991 Fund raising 1991 An Austin Metro car was raffled to raise funds for a minibus for the deaf people in the Borough. £2000 was donated to Mary Stevens Hospice for day-to-day running and to help pay off a high initial loan.

1992 Two concerts raised £5,700 with Cradley Heath Choir and Treorchy Male Voice Choir. The Am-Am Golf tournament at Dudley Golf Club was once again a great financial success and these events continued for many years.

1993 Rotarian and partners visited the Brest Club for a weekend which included the legendary dinner on board the giant catamaran Azenor in the Straits of Brest during lashing rain and a force 8 gale.

1994 £2000 was donated to the Handicapped Centre in Wellington Road.

1995 The Sportsman's Evening at Molineux with former England and Liverpool football captain Emlyn Hughes made a profit of £3568.

1995 Projects were carried out as in previous years with West Winds, Handicapped Sports, Wellington Road Centre, Outward Bound and Christmas Hampers.

1996 A new Christmas Sleigh was built and placed on alternate days at Supermarkets at Burnt Tree and Withymoor Village.

1997 £2000 was donated to Dudley Cancer Support Group.

1998 Support was given to Dudley Festival of Music Drama and Dance by Rotarians acting as Stewards, by an annual donation over 3 years of £500 to provide prize music vouchers for children's choirs and hire of piano and by sponsoring a 'Youth Entertains' Concert featuring young winners from the Music, Drama and Dance sections, with broadcaster Ed Doolan as compere. This support still continues today.

1999 £250 towards Mukti Artificial Limb Trust and £300 for Florance Home Foundation which does medical work in the slums of Cuddalore, India.

Prize draw to blow up Eve Hill flats (18th July 1999) - 'razed' £1000 for the Mayor's Charity and £600 for our own charity funds.

1999 £500 given towards a minibus for Sutton Special School.



1999 A donation of £200 was sent to Orissa, India, towards the Typhoon relief fund.



1999 Donations to Mary Stevens Hospice (£1000) and Hearts of England Charity (£500).

The club met the £1100 cost of repairing the roof of the 7th Dudley Scout Group Hall.

Donation of £1000 to the Kosovo Appeal.

Two sums of £500 were donated to the Mines Advisory Group via Sedgley & Wombourne Rotary Club.

From 2000 to 2005

2000 A Disaster Emergency Box and two Aqua Boxes were supplied.

Pens Meadow Special School was donated £1000 donation towards specific facilities.

£1000 was given to Father Augustine in Orissa, India to buy cows to supply milk to undernourished children as well as other donations made over the years.

A donation of £2000 was made to Dudley Sailing Club to purchase an 'unsinkable' dinghy for use by disabled people.

Food parcels and gift vouchers were presented to young people in Leaving Care at Dudley and West Bromwich for Christmas.



2001 A cheque for £6000 was presented to surgeon Mac Rowse of Russells Hall Hospital to purchase equipment to combat Prostate Cancer.

2002 A new landscaped central garden at Rotary House was opened to mark the home's 25th Anniversary. The club also provided £1000 worth of garden furniture.

District Group Study Exchange team to South Carolina was led by Mike Summerfield

2003 Ashwood Park Primary School was presented with £4000 for special audio equipment to aid hearing-impaired pupils.

A donation of £250 was made to Oldbury Fire Service to assist a team of its firefighters visiting Romania to carry out rebuilding work.

Donations were made to the County Air Ambulance Service, Macmillan Nurses, The Beacon Centre for the Blind, and Mary Stevens Hospice

CENTENARY AWARD

To commemorate the centenary of the Rotary Movement in **2005** the Club set up the Rotary Club of Dudley Centenary Award in memory of the remarkable Bert Bissell, former probation officer, peace campaigner, and champion of young people. A fund of £10,000 was established to provide an annual award of £1000 to an organisation in the borough which serves disadvantaged or needy young people. The first Centenary Award was presented to Black Country Wheels, an organisation dedicated to training and encouraging deprived young people.

Subsequent recipients have been Dudley Hope, Dudley Young Carers Project, Round Oak Robins, the Priory Park Amateur Boxing Club, Coseley Comets, Bethel Chapel, Dudley Action for Children, Chatback Productions, The Young Ones Theatre Group, Fens Pool Voluntary Association, Revolution Youth Club (Primrose Hill), Side by Side Theatre Group, Brooklands Amateur Boxing Club, 7th Dudley Scout Group, Brooklands ABC again, and this year's recipient the Dudley branch of the YMCA Originally intended for ten years, this continues today but now with a £2000 award.



From 2006 to 2009

2006 Donations made of £4000 to Acorns Children's Hospice and £2000 to Dudley Women's Refuge, which provides accommodation and support for women and their children escaping from abusive relationships. Also £3000 to ORBIS, which uses a fully equipped DC8 aircraft, to set up as an eye hospital with an operating theatre to deliver treatment anywhere it is needed in the developing world. Also a donation of £1000 to Mercy Ships and £500 to Pakistan's earthquake appeal. Finally a donation of £500 to PumpAid to purchase equipment to supply clean water to 550 people in Zimbabwe.

2007 £1000 was sent to Bargarh to help with the refurbishment of Ashraya, our 40 home village for leper families. The 14 year old village was looking sad after the ravages of another monsoon season.



A further £1000 was sent to Father Augustine to fund a herbal medicine programme to help the poor in their recovery from illness. Local people were trained to make tonics from locally grown herbs and fruits for the treatment of various illnesses.

Young Chef Award This is an annual Competition which continues today amongst our local secondary schools and is open to Key Stage 3 & 4 pupils aged 13 years plus. A two course meal is prepared by each pupil and the winner goes on to the District Final. In 1995 the winning pupil sponsored by the Club not only won the "Black Country Young Chef" award but came 3rd out of 200 in the District 120 competition.



2008 A Swing Band concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall and other fund raising events meant that £10,000 was distributed to Barnardos, the Midlands Air Ambulance, and The Plastics and Skin Cancer Unit at Russell's Hall Hospital.

A charity Cantonese evening at The Mayflower restaurant, Sedgley organised by Rotarian Tommy Man, its proprietor, raised £1800.

2009 £2500 was sent to Father Augustine in India to sink a water borehole and purchase a storage tank and pumping equipment in order to give the orphaned children in his care access to a clean and ready supply of fresh water.



2009 A lunch and fund-raising Auction of Promises at the Molyneux made a profit of £3660. Everyone vied for "lots" as diverse as dog spaying to glider flights, and chiropody to colonic irrigation.

2009 The Club donated to Black Country Wheels a flat back transport lorry, all nicely sign written and carrying the Rotary logo, at a cost of £5000.

From 2010 to 2013

2010 £500 sent to aid recovery from Cockermouth and Keswick floods

Two emergency Shelter Boxes at £520 each for Haiti Earthquake.

Practical support was given to Dudley Stroke Awareness, with a cash donation and help on Stroke Awareness Day encouraging Dudley town centre shoppers to have blood pressure and blood sugar tests.

After the V Festival, members collected abandoned large tents and other camping equipment to be cleaned and sorted and sent to homeless refugees in Romania or other countries.

2011 AIRMEN'S MEMORIAL - A moving ceremony was held in the small French village of Hôpital-Camfrout near Brest at the unveiling of a memorial stone honouring four RAF servicemen, 70 years to the day that their bomber was shot down within a few hundred yards of the village killing all aboard. Their bodies were recovered by the villagers and, in spite of possible German reprisals, given Christian burials in the small village cemetery. With our twin club Brest Côte des Légendes and financial support from both, a memorial was erected, culminating in a moving fly-past by two veteran propeller driven aircraft.



In May 2015 on a visit to Brest both Clubs laid a wreath on the memorial

2011 JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI - Within days of the devastating Japanese earthquake, the Club had transferred £2155 to a contact living in Japan, who ran a mercy mission driving some 8 hours to help the stricken. He reported that their plight was desperate, 600 living in a gymnasium, and in dire needs of underclothes as extreme water shortage meant no washing.

2012 Donation of £2600 was made to Time For Me, a Barnardo's project working with young. £2000 to Macmillan Cancer Support. £2000 to Midlands Air Ambulance, £750 to BLESMA and £500 to Dudley Women's Refuge to buy children's toys.

Safety Playground for children with special needs at Pens Meadow School. This £35,000 project involved funding by the Dudley Club, our contact Club Brest Côte des Légendes, the two Rotary districts, and a Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation in America, all achieved through the tenacity of President Graham Dean. The official opening was in June 2014.



From 2013 to 2016

2013 The annual Centenary Award of £1000 was made to Chatback and used to produce a video presentation 'Anybody's Child' in 5 parts and with teaching notes to be circulated for use in schools, to raise awareness of grooming or sexual abuse of young people, and for adults concerned with young people. The Club made a presentation on this at the District Conference. A further £1000 was given to produce a cookbook – Recipes for Life - with messages on staying safe and avoiding sexual exploitation.

2014 The Club donated £2000 to the Wrens Nest School to help with their drive to improve literacy by purchasing books for the school's Reading Corners. With the Club's help, the school participated in the District Books4Home Scheme. They chose over 300 reading books, all free of charge, which the pupils could take home to keep as their own – perhaps their first and only book.



September 2014 PP David Attwood undertook a **Charity Cycle Ride from Lands End to John O'Groats** in aid of the Rotary Charity **End Polio Now** and raised a magnificent £12,000. A further £3500 was donated by family and friends in memory of PP Ian Orr, who had been a valued member of the Club, and topped up with £1500 from the Club - a grand total of **£15,000** towards the campaign to eradicate polio worldwide.

2015 Two donations of £1000 made to Action Heart at Russells Hall Hospital.

★ **THE HUB**, Dudley Rotary's quarterly newsletter, won the RIBI Media, Public Relations & Communications Award for the best, most effective Club Bulletin! ★

2015 Two Soundbeam Music Machines were donated as an aid to stimulating special educational needs pupils, one at the Old Park School and the other at Dudley College's Aspire facility.

The club sponsored 13 year old pianist **Lauren Zhang** to compete in the **Young Musician District Final** at Wrekin College. She played with such confidence and skill that the audience was stunned. Needless to say she was the clear instrumentalist winner. Unsurprisingly she won the BBC's Young Musician Contest in May 2018 and is now studying at Harvard University..



2016 The **Photography Competition** proved popular again with prizes presented by the Club. The 24 best photographs on the theme 'A Treasured Scene' were used to create a calendar which proved very popular as a Christmas present. This continues each year with other Dudley schools.

From 2017 to 2018

2017 The Club sponsored 11 pupils and 3 staff from Bishop Milner school and 13 pupils and 5 staff from The Brier school to attend a "Kids Magical Day Out" at Drayton Manor Theme Park.

2018 SOS Africa The Club funded the 'Dudley Rotary Education Centre' in the South African township of Grabouw at a cost of £55,000. The building has a large multi-functional classroom space that can be divided into smaller classrooms using movable partitions; also office and kitchen spaces, a fully-resourced library, and a private counselling room. There is outside space for extra-curricular activities including gardening on 16 raised beds. Our funds also purchased seeds and gardening tools so the children could be taught how to grow fruit and vegetables and so encourage both children and their families to grow their own. The Centre is in the middle of a school complex and is very well used by the main school. Small groups of pupils come for extra tuition.



Once the primary pupils finish their 8am-1pm school day the Centre becomes a haven for them in which to do their homework and other activities before going home in the evenings once their parents are home from their work. In 2019 two members and partners visited the Centre. A pupil there, Gideon, is still sponsored by the Club.



2018 The Dudley Kidney Patients Association was given a new van, at a cost of £9,600, to service its charity shop and enable it to collect and deliver furniture and other large items.

2018 The Lighthouse Centre - The Club had been supporting Heavens Kitchen for a considerable time but it had outgrown its current accommodation and wished to expand its range of activities by rebuilding.

The Club was an early sponsor of the development with a contribution of £50,000. The new building is known as The Lighthouse Centre and was officially opened in September 2020 by Anne, one of Heaven's Kitchen regulars. It includes a café and kitchen, reception area, counselling rooms for adults and children, and meeting and play rooms.



2018 The Roy Pedley Award for Student Excellence was inaugurated in memory of the late club member Roy whose long career involved textiles. The Pedley family suggested an annual award of £500 should be made in his memory and had donated £5,000 for this. The club works in conjunction with Dudley College Fashion and Design department to find a suitable and deserving candidate.

Vocational Study Exchange 2018 with District 2240 (Czech Republic and Slovakia) - The of Dudley Club sponsored Jenny Tetlow, a trainee solicitor with Higgs & Sons. She spoke with lawyers there and attended a court hearing in Prague where the Judge allowed it to be translated for her. She said the club gave her "the opportunity of a lifetime".

From 2019 to 2020

Black Country Wellbeing Centre in Lower Gornal - In March 2019 the Club gave a £1000 donation to support the development of the boxing for local youngsters. Since then the centre has developed and supported the local community during the Covid pandemic. The boxing ring can convert to a stage for entertainment, the main room is used for social meetings and teaching, there is a therapy room for aromatherapy, a recording studio, and outside planters for vegetables being grown by the children. Impressed by the Centre's achievements the Club donated a further £1000 in 2020.

'Aiming for Excellence' - The Best Trier Awards have run for many years now. A small shield and a £25 voucher is awarded to a pupil from each of the Primary Schools for extra special effort – not necessarily high achievement but outstanding effort to achieve. This year the title was changed to 'Aiming for Excellence', to be more in line with educational thinking. Awards were presented at eight schools.

2020 James Wright, golf Pro at Penn Golf Club, aimed to run 145 miles from Birmingham to London along the Grand Union Canal to raise money for Acorns Hospice in Walsall. The Club sponsored him to receive £15,000... James has since joined the Club.

★ **The Club was awarded a Rotary International Certificate of Recognition for giving more than \$1,500 to the Polio Fund in the last Rotary Year.** ★

2020 Matthew Bennett's Cycle Ride for Macmillan Cancer Support - Matthew from Netherton planned his own 100 miles cycle ride from Birmingham city centre to Milton Keynes via the Grand Union Canal in foul weather and with two punctures etc. The Club donated £1,000 to start his fund which eventually reached almost £12,000.

Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic - A donation of £10,000 was made to the nurses at Russells Hall Hospital. Some of the funds were immediately put to good use to support staff health and wellbeing and the balance put towards furnishing and equipping a number of Serenity Rooms for nursing and other medical staff who might need to take a moment away from their clinical environment.

2020 The Sycamore Adventure Centre - This award winning adventure playground and social enterprise is situated in an area of significant deprivation in North Dudley. The Club invested £10,000 to provide and install the water play development.



Packing of Buddy Bags - The Club donated £5,000 to purchase 200 Buddy Bags which 20 Rotarians and friends packed during an afternoon at the Balaji Hindu Temple in Tividale. Each year 48,000 children require emergency accommodation in the UK due to fleeing violent situations of domestic or sexual abuse, often leaving home with only the clothes they are wearing so each Buddy Bag contains essential items and topped off with a cute Teddy.

From 2021 to 2022

Foodbanks - Recognising the increasing pressure on local foodbanks because of the Covid pandemic the Club donated a further £1000 each to Heaven's Kitchen, Giving Hands, Black Country Foodbank and Primrose Community Church.

2021 Woodside Crafts is a non-profit organisation in King Street, Dudley, catering for people with mental issues, depression or anxiety, where they can learn woodcraft and other skills under the supervision and support of five volunteers. The Club donated £200 for this enterprise as it receives no public funding..



2022 The Playground at the CHADD Women's Refuge in Dudley was opened by the Bishop of Dudley. The Club donated £15,000 for the children to have an outdoor play area in a secure and safely supervised area. A huge wooden tractor that is going nowhere provides ample opportunity for imaginative play and two other wooden structures linked by a rope bridge offer the children the chance to climb and jump.

2022 The Lighthouse Project - When Lizzie came to talk to the Club, she explained how the Lighthouse Project new building, for which we had contributed £50k, was being used for facilities and services available to a wide range of people within Dudley. The Lighthouse Café, formerly Heaven's Kitchen, provides meals for those in need and Club members donate food each month to support this and the Friendship Group meets regularly to include a meal as well – just two examples of activities for the community at the Centre.



Therefore, as President Elect, Pauline had a discussion with Lizzie about her plans to determine how the Club might help during her year as President 2022/23.

Their needs... Due to lockdown, more counselling sessions were urgently required and she had the personnel but lacked the funds. At £25 per session, with very few clients able to make any contribution, £10k could provide one counsellor providing 8 sessions per week over a year.

Supervision for the counsellors is also expensive but vital for their wellbeing so a move to group sessions to reduce the cost would cost about £1k for a year.

To extend the work of the Kick Start girl, as her programme ends, would cost about £4k and meet their need of her contribution to the Lighthouse Café and also develop her admin skills to relieve the pressure on other staff.

That totals £15k which will be paid in September once the Project receives their further Lottery Bid. However since Lizzie was keen to start soon on the extra counselling an extra £3k would enable her to start now, not waiting until September. Club Council agreed this. The Club has been awarded a District Grant of £1,250 for future work.

PAST PRESIDENTS of the Rotary Club of Dudley

1922-23	FW. Cook, JP
1923-24	J. Smellie
1924-25	D.J. Shadden
1925-26	E.C. Theodam
1926-27	J. Gough
1927-29	W.C. Comm
1929-30	A.B. Whitehouse
1930-31	F.C. Briggs, MBE
1931-32	F. Morris
1932-33	J.L. Willman
1933-34	W. Pearson
1934-35	J. Snaxhill
1935-36	W. Hill
1936-37	A. Parker, MBE
1937-38	F.H. Crook
1938-39	H.N. Woodard
1939-40	Rev. C. Biggins, MA, BD
1940-41	J.G. Field
1941-42	B. Marsh
1942-43	H.H. Cartwright
1943-44	W.E. Horner
1944-45	A. Watson
1945-46	F.G. Cozens
1946-47	J.A. Naylor
1947-48	J.N. Foulkes
1948-49	W.J. Price
1949-50	G. Salter, MBE
1950-51	H.R. Bewley
1951-52	A.T. Cook
1952-53	A.J. Hillman, JP
1953-54	H. Durn
1954-55	C.F. Jones
1955-56	W.E. Ballard
1956-57	A.E.V. Sherwood
1957-58	K.V. Hooper
1958-59	J.S. Wightman, MBE
1959-60	L.R. Crump
1960-61	F.G. Lewis
1961-62	A.E. Webb
1962-63	G.E. Hill
1963-64	E. Bunn
1964-65	P. Hill, JP
1965-66	J.V. Hirst
1966-67	R.A. Brooks
1967-68	E. Bunting
1968-69	FW. Baker, JP
1969-70	S. Jones
1970-71	B.E. Poole
1971-72	G.W.B. Beasley
1972-73	J.M. Wall
1973-74	E.L. Lloyd-Hughes, JP

1974-75	D.L. Carus
1975-76	F.E. Jones
1976-77	A.E. Rumney
1977-78	E.J. Evans
1978-79	R. Glazzard, JP
1979-80	A.D. Foulkes
1980-81	C.V. Knipe, JP
1981-82	M. Crump
1982-83	A. Austin, MBE
1983-84	J.A.L. Black
1984-85	G.H. Harvey
1985-86	R.B. Jones
1986-87	H.G. Groves
1987-88	J.A.C. Black
1988-89	R. Pedley, JP
1989-90	J.D. Rowen
1990-91	K.A. Powell, MBE
1991-92	K. Jackson
1992-93	A.B. Townsend
1993-94	C.V. Knipe, JP
1994-95	A. Austin, MBE
1995-96	B.J. Beales
1996-97	I.C. Orr
1997-98	R.M. Emery
1998-99	B.K. Archer
1999-00	J.D. Madeley
2000-01	M.C. Summerfield
2001-02	J.B. Clarke
2002-03	J.M. Robinson
2003-04	K.G. Calloway
2004-05	R.D. Scott-Dow
2005-06	D.B. Walker
2006-07	J.R.B. Graham
2007-08	C. Greenaway
2008-09	A.C. Glazzard
2009-10	J.T. Plowman
2010-11	R.A. Howell
2011-12	D. Aitwood
2012-13	A.G. Dean
2013-14	K. Law
2014-15	P.A. Gregory
2015-16	M.C. Summerfield
2016-17	I.N. Walden, OBE
2017-18	R. Glazzard, JP
2018-19	J.D. Rowen
2019-20	J.A.C. Black
2020-21	D. Wilkes
2021-22	C. Knipe



President Colin Knipe presided in 2021/2022 as we celebrate 100 years.

First Vice President Pauline Gregory will become President in 2022/2023 and Second Vice President David Wilkes in 2023/2024.

So the Club continues....