

**TEN YEARS ON**

**ROTARY IN STONE 1989-1999**

**A SUPPLEMENT (CHAPTER 8)**

**TO**

**“FIFTY YEARS OF ROTARY IN STONE – 1939-1989”**

**ROTARY CLUB OF STONE AND DISTRICT**  
**Addendum to "Fifty Years of Rotary in Stone" to cover years 1989-99**

**TEN YEARS ON**

I have been asked to write a further chapter as an addendum to "Fifty Years of Rotary in Stone", the history of our club which was published in 1989 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Presentation of the Club's Charter on 16th May 1939. All too fleetingly the time seems to have passed and now we can look back on a further ten years as we celebrate our sixtieth Birthday.

Writing very recent history, which perhaps merges with the present, is not an easy task: the past impinges untidily on today and it is not always possible for the writer, or the reader, to put such recent happenings in their proper perspective. Most of the club's past-presidents and members will have their own ideas on which events were significant and worthy of recall and their ideas may not always coincide with mine. Furthermore many of the things we do in Rotary are repetitive, happening every year, and constant mention of them might make tedious reading: nevertheless they make up so much that is fundamental in Rotary service and demand so much dedication from our members. On the other hand some of the events that have taken place, or that we plan soon to do, are more spectacular in their impact and speak for themselves. I can only hope that I may succeed in making this a readable narrative and at the same time do justice to the continued success and progress of the Rotary Club of Stone and District during this recent decade of mature development.

Not all the events to be recorded here have been happy ones, for we have all too often had to mourn the deaths of valued Rotarians whom we still remember with affection. Moreover the whole matter of maintaining Rotary membership is a dynamic one and recruiting to take into account losses through retirements, removals and pressure of work has continued to occupy our attention throughout the decade. The scene in the whole Rotary world is never static and we have had to give much thought to matters such as the optimum size for our particular club (our numbers have fluctuated around the forty mark throughout the decade) and whether or not to remain a single-gender club. However, despite heavy professional calls on their time, it is pleasing to note that, more than in any previous decade, members from Stone have taken office and served on committees at District level. Perhaps above all, we shall record with pride later in this chapter the key role we played in the formation of a new Rotary Club in our area at Eccleshall.

It has been through the annually recurring items, as I have already hinted above, that much useful work has been done both locally and overseas. These are matters that deserve our special attention because we tend so often to take them for granted: yet it is the cumulative effect of these "minor" efforts that ought, here at the beginning of the story of the years 1989-99, be brought to mind. In our international service we have in the past ten years sent overseas for reuse in the third world about 5000 pairs of used spectacles, many hundreds of books for educational use abroad through the services of the Ranfurly Library and, more recently, Book Aid, while our regular support for what we used to call "the eye bank" (members may recall the somewhat macabre looking eye-shaped Money-box that used to be passed round during the meal at our meetings?) has enabled the sight of hundreds of cataract sufferers to be saved in India and Africa. Each year too we have filled and dispatched at least one large emergency box, containing a variety of desperately needed items, to disaster areas or else so-called aqua-boxes which in addition can be used to provide a supply of safe drinking water. At home so much goes on continuously and unannounced - regular visits to the elderly and lonely, major involvement in Rotary's annual Community Day outing for old people and, at the other end of the age-range, liaison with schools and youth organisations. It has also been a decade in which Youth Exchange has flourished - and this in addition to the close links with our friends in the Rotary Club of Offenbach-Dreieich which led to our official twinning with the German club. All these recurring, and perhaps inadequately publicised, items could possibly be aptly recorded here by borrowing the words of Albert Schweitzer when he wrote: ".....they do not

make a great show of themselves; they pass almost unperceived; often, indeed, their significance comes home to us first as we look back...." They also reflect well the true spirit of Rotary.

The ballroom at the Crown Hotel in Stone was filled to its maximum dining capacity when the club assembled to celebrate its fiftieth birthday on the evening of Tuesday 16th May 1989. Although it was to be a formal occasion with presentations and speeches following the Dinner, one could sense from the outset that the whole evening would be permeated by Rotary fellowship at its best : an appropriate degree of formality tempered throughout by an atmosphere of celebration and friendship. Our Club President Ken Rogers, ably assisted by his team of officers, ensured that the great event ran smoothly. Over 150 Rotarians and civic guests attended. As well as Douglas Imrie-Brown (Past President of RIBI and a Director of Rotary International) and District Governor Brian Ball, there were other officers from District 121 (as it was still numbered in 1989) as well as numerous Presidents and other representatives from neighbouring Rotary Clubs. Civic representatives in attendance included the Deputy Mayor of Stafford Borough, Councillor Brian Deakin and a former Town Mayor of Stone, Councillor Joyce Farnham. President Bernadette Tunnicliffe represented the Inner Wheel Club of Stone which was itself forty-two years old, having been founded in 1946. Two fledgling clubs, established through initiatives made by Stone Rotary Club, the Stone Probus Club and the Stone Rotaract Club, were represented by their respective Presidents Tom Pickering and Jane Darlington. Inevitably - but very appropriately - there were many speeches, some of them long but often tinged with humour and all of them in keeping with the occasion. The Club ensured that our visitors were made welcome while our guest speakers paid generous tribute to the completion of fifty years of service by the Rotary Club of Stone and District. Proceedings were punctuated by a surprise event (certainly for the recipients), the Presentation of Paul Harris Fellowships to four club members : first to Past President Dieter Anders, who had done so much to foster international friendship and the links which, in due course, were to lead to our official twinning with the German Rotary Club of Offenbach-Dreieich, and then to three Past Presidents who were each celebrating in 1989 thirty years of membership of our Club, Albert Holmes, Geoff Leese and Alan Woods. It was a long evening, ending - if I remember rightly - well past the midnight hour, but it was an occasion that will long be recalled with pleasure and pride. As a lasting reminder of the event all Stone members were presented with a special tankard and a copy of the Club's history.

One might be forgiven for thinking that Ken Rogers's presidential year must have been dominated by our 50th Anniversary but that was certainly not the case. That the Club had been very active in other spheres is evidenced by the fact that by May 1989 we had already sent off over £4000 to RI's Polioplus Appeal, a total that was augmented that month by £200 raised at a concert given by the Stone Revellers and an unexpected donation from much further afield - £100 from a primary school in Barnsley in Yorkshire that, encouraged no doubt by Rotarian Mike Bird, had raised the money for our Appeal at their Christmas Concert. On Stone Festival Saturday the Club organised a Balloon Race in Westbridge Park. The Newsletter provided a prize and the Halifax Building Society 1000 balloons. This little event later gave rise to an unusual and somewhat enigmatic entry in the minutes of the Club's August business meeting, when it was recorded that "a winner had been found, it was said, in Corfu. Birmingham Weather Centre said that this was possible but the meeting was sceptical and derisory. Other claims had come from Macclesfield, Crewe and Newport. John Ferrie is to investigate." (The writer cannot remember the result of John's enquiries !)

It was also during Ken Rogers's time as President that the first formal steps were taken, that led to the setting up of our daughter club at Eccleshall, when a business meeting of the Stone Club resolved in February 1989 "that the Rotary Club of Stone and District agrees to the formation of a Rotary Club at Eccleshall, on the basis of shared territory, subject to the RI requirements being met." It is perhaps helpful to draw attention to this significant event and the particular club minute concerning it. When the history of our own club was being written to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary we knew that we had originally been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Stafford but we could find nothing recorded on paper to confirm it. Needless to say this had no adverse effect on our excellent relations with the Stafford Club, but it would have been nice to have known exactly when we were "first thought of"!

After all the excitement and energy expended in celebrating our fiftieth birthday, the club might have been tempted to ease up a little during the following Rotary year : however Ken Rogers's successor as Club President, Joe Rogers (unrelated), made sure that we did not do so and indeed 1989-90 turned out to be another extremely busy year. Its beginning was marked by the arrival of a handsome gift from the Stone Inner Wheel Club in the form of a new collarette and jewel to be worn by the Rotary President. Also more congratulatory greetings from clubs abroad continued to reach us, including letters from the Rotary Clubs of Bodrum, Turkey (itself just one year old), Warsaw in Poland (newly re-formed) and Monte Carlo in the remote Gran Chaco of Argentina (with whom we had had contacts in the early 1960s). These were, needless to say, not our only overseas contacts that year during which we were also pleased to receive visits from Group Study Exchange teams from Australia and the United States : in fact the minutes recorded that the New Jersey GSE team expressed "particular appreciation of their visit to Lord Stafford and his farms and had also acquired a liking for English beer." We also gave our usual support to the RYLA Camp and were active in promoting Youth Exchange arrangements.

In addition to ensuring that we clearly reached and passed our set target of £5000 for Polioplus, 1989-90 proved to be a year in which we successfully raised money for a very wide range of worthy causes. We seemed to find the change itself a challenge after the more concentrated effort we, like Rotary clubs throughout the world, had been making for the imaginative aim of eliminating poliomyelitis from the world scene by the early part of the 21st century. We also seemed to find enjoyment in being involved in such a wide range of events : something to please all tastes and which included an old-time music hall and concert by the group Cosmotheke, an Antiques Roadshow type evening, a Bangers and Smash Evening with Rotaract, a Race Nite (which alone raised £750), our usual Swynnerton whist drive, a Grand Auction and also a Barn Dance (for Polioplus), while some of our members raised £432 by doing a brief stint of collecting at the Keele Services on the M6 for Children in Need. Some "new" local causes had called on us for help but our efforts were not only in support of charities in our own country for we also gave substantial donations to a conservation project in Tanzania and to a school for the physically handicapped in Thailand. Records show that we also made one donation that particularly reflected President Joe Rogers's own medical interests : it was towards the provision of a transcutaneous oxygen monitor. During the year we sent abroad 1300 pairs of spectacles, 20 boxes of books; at home we provided an outing for 37 elderly people on the annual Community Day at Trentham Gardens.

An important domestic decision was made by the club in October 1989, when it was agreed to change over completely to evening meetings (in recent years we had been operating a mixed combination of lunchtimes and evenings). However the members could not agree on a starting time for the evening meals, a vote by show of hands having produced a tied result - 12 votes for 6.30, 12 votes for 7.30 and 7 abstentions. So a compromise time of 7.00pm was put to the meeting and accepted, an arrangement that has operated ever since. Two significant appointments at District level were made when our members Keith Barlow and Neville Bramhall were appointed District Quiz Officer and District Membership Development Chairman respectively. Keith set about reorganising the District Quiz on a team basis, thereby vastly increasing its popularity, while Neville - now more than ever - became the mentor and adviser-in-chief of the new Eccleshall Rotary Club during its formative period.

Our sponsoring of and the official birth of the new Rotary Club at Eccleshall early in 1990 must always and undoubtedly be regarded as one of the most important and worthwhile happenings in our own club's history. Eccleshall's inaugural meeting on 12th February and its Charter Night on 11th June received the wholehearted support of our members. At both these meetings our President Joe Rogers played an important role, at the first one in accepting foster responsibility for the new club and at the second by responding to the toast to "our guests". Stone Rotary Club presented a President's jewel to the new club and our members gave Rotary pins and car stickers to its individual members. We have subsequently seen, with not a little pride on our part, the Rotary Club of Eccleshall and District go from strength to strength with youthful enthusiasm and both clubs have proved that sharing territory can promote friendship and not rivalry. In March 1990 we

in Stone were delighted to receive a letter of congratulation from the Rotary International President Hugh Archer on our sponsorship of the Eccleshall Club.

At his first business meeting in July 1990, as well as at our club assembly, Neil Hammersley, like all presidents, was keen to make clear his own style and ideas for the coming year. Club membership was to be consolidated and care to be taken that new members were speedily and efficiently integrated. "Action not words" was his text for the year and with this in mind Rtn Mike Bird was appointed to coordinate all planned events. At the same time that policy for 1990-91 was thus being proclaimed, it was proudly announced that the final total of money raised by the club for Rotary's PolioPlus Appeal was £5,267.78 - comfortably above our set target.

Throughout the decade covered by this chapter there is ample evidence that the club did not shirk from physical tasks, perhaps especially by partaking in a wide range of sports sponsored by the Rotary District. We were blessed with a succession of enthusiastic sports officers in the club and often their keenness was rewarded by success, as indeed was the case in 1990 when we reached the Final of the District Cricket Competition against Wellington. Not all of us, maybe, can shine on the cricket field but it was decided that we all have talents in the back-breaking exercise that is known as bulb-planting : so we all, plus wives and sometimes our children, set about the task of planting daffodil bulbs in the grass verges along the A34 - thousands of them (John Ferrie seemed remarkably skilled in producing what seemed like an endless supply!) It may have been that experience that gave some of our members the idea of an even more violently demanding way of raising money for charity : a sponsored 24hr. cycling marathon on a static bike housed inside a tent at the 1991 Staffordshire County Show. The idea worked well and over £500 was raised, while the winner, whose estimate came nearest to the mileage clocked up, received the prize of a weekend in Paris. A less demanding event, also very much with its socially enjoyable side, is the annual District Conference. That in 1990 was in Llandudno and was attended by a party of 38 from Stone - Rotarians, their wives and several members of our small but active Rotaract Club.

Money-raising events during Neil Hammersley's year were often of an original and novel nature, sometimes ambitious and always enjoyable. Two shining examples were the President's Birthday Party on 8th November 1990, hosted by Neil and Carol at their home in Oulton - a delightful occasion which raised "a substantial sum"- and the Grand Charity Ball held in the Potteries Centre in Hanley in April 1991. Indeed the Charity Ball was undoubtedly one of the most remarkable events in the history of our club. It was considered something of a risk to hire a considerable part of the Centre for a formal event of this nature but the final outcome was financially excellent for we made a profit of £2,078 all of which went to charity. Dancing in the central eating area to the Ceramic City Stompers was complemented by admirable catering arrangements which included an eye-catching buffet and, of course, bar facilities.

The whole event in this spacious setting, attractively decorated for the occasion, was much enhanced too by the formal dress worn by all attending. In March 1991 Neil varied a little the format for Ladies' Evening : dancing was dispensed with on that occasion to give more time for the guest speaker (Mr Mel Thomas) and fellowship.

The club having undertaken to donate £1,000 to the appeal to provide a scanner at the Stafford Hospital, money-raising was a vital facet of the Rotary year. Small events were as essential as the major ones, though less spectacular, and these included clay pigeon shoots, our annual Christian Aid breakfast, a sponsored bowling event in Stafford for the Jaipur limb centre, Community Day for the elderly and yet another remarkable collection of aid items for overseas - no less than 2,000 books for Book Aid, 1,200 pairs of spectacles, 2 emergency boxes and a number of hand tools.

It is perhaps also appropriate here to pay tribute to the splendid effort of our Rotaract which, despite having very few members, raised £1,000 for charity during this year.

In January 1991 the situation in the Persian Gulf, following Iraq's invasion and attempted annexation of Kuwait, led to an air assault by the allied coalition on Iraq followed by a brief land war in late February. This was a period of national anxiety, not least in Staffordshire because of the

involvement of a considerable number from the county who were serving in H.M. Forces over there. An appeal had been launched by the Town Mayor, Councillor Joyce Farnham, for the support of Staffordshire families of our forces in the Gulf. The local response was generous.

During the first half of 1991 the club suffered some much felt losses in membership. On 31st January we heard with sorrow of the death of our longest serving member Rtn. Reg Bassett. Many of us were able to recall Reg's great pride in seeing his son Len becoming our President for 1981-82, to the best of the writer's belief, the first time that a father and son had both been club members simultaneously (this was also later achieved by Brian and Phil Elliott). Reg had not only been a prominent and successful businessman; his musical talent had also made him a very popular dance-band leader in North Staffordshire. Although an extremely busy man he remained a loyal and staunch supporter of Rotary. The club was greatly saddened by his death and extended its warm sympathy to Reg's wife Marjorie (Inner Wheel President 1967-68) and their family. We also felt a great sense of dismay at the end of the Rotary year in June following the loss through resignation of two club stalwarts. Rtn. M.G. Pharaoh (affectionately known by everyone as "Paddy") had been President of the club in 1980-81 and Secretary for two long stints (1974-78 and 1983-88) amounting to nine years in all. Following his retirement Paddy had become increasingly involved as secretary and later president of the Stone Golf Club and calls on his time were great but he was much missed by Rotary in Stone, which he had served with distinction - truly the role model of a good Rotarian. Then we were shocked and saddened by the decision to resign his membership by our Immediate Past President Joe Rogers. His year as president had been a splendid one for the club, as has been recorded above, but Joe had subsequently experienced a period of ill-health and this and his living on the far side of Stafford, making contacts with the club less easy, contributed to his decision. Three such gaps in a club's membership are not easy to fill.

On a happier note it is to be recorded that, towards the end of Neil Hammersley's year as President, we received a visit by Rotarians and their wives from the Rotary Club of Dreieich - a visit that was greatly enjoyed by all. Our guests arrived on 9th May 1991 and were with us for four days during which they attended a Reception at the Stone House Hotel, enjoyed home hospitality, took part in a canal-cruise and made a visit to Oxford. Thus the links that later led to the official twinning of our clubs were already being strengthened : so much so that a return visit to Dreieich was immediately proposed, some Rotarians and friends going to Germany for four days in Spring 1992.

Following a Service at Barlaston Church, conducted by our popular former club member the Rev. Godfrey Simpson, the incoming President's Sunday was celebrated, not perhaps unexpectedly in view of Keith Barlow's own sporting interests, at the Whitmore Cricket Club, where we were treated to a buffet lunch and an afternoon cricket match. The club was in good heart : despite the individual losses recorded at the end of the 1990-91 Rotary year, the club had, through recruitment, in fact increased its membership - a net gain of 3 compared with July 1990. Keith made appointments to "new" offices - those of almoner, bulletin editor and banner secretary (these tasks had always been carried out by someone but it was rightly decided to make them recognised offices within the club). Attendance had been good during 1990-91 too, at an average well above 80%, four members having achieved 100% and consequently awarded the Attendance Silver Salver.

Keith Barlow's presidential year in due course turned out to be a particularly remarkable year in the Stone Rotary Club's history, for during it we successfully embarked on what was our biggest project up to that time, details of which follow. From the point of view of club organisation and administration however it seems to have been a generally uneventful one, though one does wonder exactly what had been taking place when the secretary saw fit to write "there was a rowdy and hilarious passage of questioning about club policy on speakers, which could not be minuted in detail" and also, at a later meeting, "Trevor Mardling suggested, with general support all round, that speakers' hosts should tactfully inform speakers of the length of time that was appropriate for their speeches, as a recent speaker had continued until a very late hour. This was readily agreed with some humorous comment." The President was certainly himself keen on cutting down on wasted time and requested that service committee members should sit together at the same table at business meetings. The humour with which Keith was able to conduct the club's business was

characteristic of his personal good nature which was such a sad loss to the club when he died in December 1996 at far too early an age. He certainly had us working well during his year in office and was quite undaunted when John Ferrie told him that the Stone Town Council had 65,000 bulbs to plant that autumn : it is believed that we in the Stone Rotary Club planted at least 10,000 of them!

Two long-term decisions were made early in the 1991-92 Rotary year : to give our full support to the 1992 Scouts international friendship Camp at Kibblestone and to play a major part in Group Study Exchange visits from and to Malaysia. Scouting was beginning to re-emerge in the former Soviet Union and in other Eastern European countries following the collapse of communism and numerous embryo scouting organisations in that part of the world had indicated a wish to attend the camp but could not afford to do so. Not only did we agree to make a substantial contribution ourselves to help to overcome this problem, Neville Bramhall was also successful in soliciting the aid of District 1210 in obtaining contributions from many other clubs. When the camp eventually took place in the summer of 1992, Rotary had been able to give substantial financial help to all the scouts attending from Eastern Europe and the so-called Third World. More details of the camp itself will be given later in this chapter. While we had always tried to give wholehearted support to the Group Study Exchange scheme, our efforts in 1991-92 were rather special. We housed a party of participating students from Malaysia between 29th September and 5th October, concluding their visit with a rally at the Little Stoke Cricket Club. Furthermore our club was greatly honoured when our nominee, Rotarian John Shillabeer, was selected to be leader of the GSE team from District 1210 going out to District 3300 (Malaysia) in February 1992. The team was given a farewell dinner in the Stakis Hotel, Hanley on 22nd January and John went out to Malaysia armed with fifty of our club banners and a number of Wedgwood plates to present out there. He later returned with so many banners that Malaysia has continued to figure in numbers prominently in our club's large banner collection. John continued afterwards to give outstanding service to Group Study Exchange and was very appropriately rewarded with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

By the early autumn of 1991 it had become apparent that there was a good possibility of our being able to hire the Victoria Hall in Hanley for a major event and that the Hallé Orchestra would be willing to come down from Manchester to give us a charity concert at a minimum charge covering only unavoidable expenses. The concert was to be in aid of the Macmillan Nurse Appeal, with which our club treasurer Rtn. John Prew was very actively involved, and at an early stage we were fortunate in obtaining a joint sponsor in Churchill Tableware Ltd. By the New Year plans were already advanced though, needless to say, there were some anxious months ahead. There was even a possibility that the chosen date, the 4th of June 1992, might well coincide with a General Election when the Victoria Hall would have been required for other purposes and therefore we had to insure rather expensively against such a happening (in fact the election took place somewhat earlier in April 1992 and our fears proved groundless). As soon as we could, members started selling tickets for the great event and it is recorded that we had sold 750 of them before the concert was even advertised. The Concert, "A Viennese Evening" turned out to be very popular. The Hallé Orchestra, conducted by Colin Metters and with Julie Kennard (soprano) as soloist, played to a packed Victoria Hall, a venue deservedly renowned in musical circles for its near-perfect acoustics. Tickets ranged in price from £6 to £15.50, though some seats in the centre balcony were sold as "gold seats" for £30, a price which also entitled the purchaser to attend a champagne reception before the performance. When all expenses had been met, the final yield of the concert for the Macmillan Fund was a highly gratifying £9,817.

Although the proceeds of the Hallé Concert tended to dwarf those of other money raising events during the year, another performance by Cosmotheke (sponsored by Broadcrown Ltd.) in January 1992 at the Wayfarer Hotel raised £1950, while on a smaller scale a Fun Quiz at the Little Stoke Cricket Club produced a much appreciated £122 for the Oak Tree Farm Project. Following our successful static cycle marathon at the previous year's County Show, it was decided to have a stall there again in 1992, on this occasion for a Grand Raffle of teddy-bears : this proved to be a hard sell at which some Rotarians were more adept than others but the event raised £169 and proved to be an enjoyable one in the good weather that the Show enjoyed that year. We continued with recurring annual events such as the Swynnerton Whist Drive and the Christian Aid Breakfast,

organised our own Community Day by taking a party to Hartington , did our bit - as always - in numerous collections of items for international service and kept our Youth Exchange Officer busy with no less than ten candidates for exchange in California, Texas and Germany. On the social side, Ladies' Night on 20th March at the Crown Hotel followed the new pattern established the previous year and dancing was again dispensed with. Instead, after Dinner, we enjoyed a recital by a locally educated opera singer, Miss Yvonne Howard, accompanied by Mr. David Lloyd.

The Rotaract Club had an active year with a membership round about the ten mark. One particularly happy occasion for the club was the marriage of two Rotaract past-presidents, Virginia Ellard and Jeremy Clay, the second such event for Stone Rotaract Club, the previous one having been that between Edith Leigh and our present Rotarian Philip Leason.

Tim Joyce's Presidents' Sunday (held, as had already been the custom for many years, jointly with the Inner Wheel) took place on 5th July 1992 at St. Mary's Church in Swynnerton, followed by a reception at the home of Tim and Kate in Yarnfield. Later in the month we enjoyed another pleasant social get-together when the two clubs joined in a barbecue at the home of John and Jane Lockley. We continued in this vein by then holding, as a money-raising event, a Barn Dance and 60s Night at White House Farm by courtesy of Mrs June Ball, our President's mother-in-law.

The Scouts' International Friendship Camp took place at Kibblestone in late July and early August and it was gratifying to see that the club's efforts in raising money - and in persuading other clubs in District 1210 to do the same - had really borne fruit. Indeed our financial contributions had made a tremendous difference to several scout groups from the newly emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and Africa, who might not otherwise have been able to attend. The camp was visited by the RIBI President John Kenny, himself connected with the scouting movement, and his International Service Chairman Douglas Davies. They flew down from Scotland for the event and it is recorded that John Kenny said that he had been fascinated by what he saw and that it had been "a good day all round".

In good time for the start of the new school year our youth exchange student, Micky Siemplensky from Dallas, Texas, arrived to join the Sixth Form at Alleyne's School. During her year here she was provided with a home by two members of the club, Rotarians Martin White and John Lockley, and quickly made to feel one of the family. Indeed Micky soon became a favourite among all members of the club and made many friendships with their families. After making a few initial adjustments, necessary because of differences in syllabus between American and English high schools, she proved to be a great success at Alleyne's and an excellent ambassador for her country. She seemed to enhance even more her delightful personality during her time here and became a fluent and confident speaker, as was demonstrated when she talked to various audiences including this and other Rotary clubs. Happily she has retained her contacts with us and has revisited Stone. This and other successful youth exchange schemes caused District to urge us "to spread the gospel about Y.E. to other clubs"!

Some plans that came to fruition in later years were put forward early in Tim Joyce's year. Our much travelled Rotarian John Aston had become interested in an autistic children's unit in Malaysia and proposed that we should engage in a "matching grant" project with a Malaysian club : in due course this came to pass and John was able to visit the unit in Kuala Lumpur during his own presidential year. Past President Ken Rogers, also with international service in mind, thought that we ought to have a hand-out document to present with our club's banner, explaining the motifs shown on it and giving some information about Stone. The task of producing this fell to our newly designated banner secretary and in due course such a document was produced in English with translations in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and Japanese! Our growing interest in Rotary at District level was also shown early in the 1992-93 year, when no fewer than six members of the club allowed their names to go forward as nominations for office, namely Keith Barlow (as Assistant District Secretary), Tim Hughes (as Youth Exchange Chairman), and David Thornton, John Aston, Mike Dillon and John Shillabeer as members of District committees. However we also had to make an unexpected change in our own club offices when Rtn. Andrew Milward resigned his membership in late September. He had been a very active member, generous



with his time and one who had worked particularly hard in youth exchange arrangements and in the planning of the Hallé Concert : his loss was going to be a serious one, not least because he had been appointed as our junior vice-president for 1992-93. Fortunately John Lockley was willing to step into the vacancy, which implied of course that he would be our club president in 1994-95. When he was inducted as our J.V-P. at the October business meeting, he was greatly touched by the fact that he would be wearing the jewel that his father, the late Frank Lockley (our President in 1977-78) had bought for the club.

Then, sadly, in November 1992 the Rotary Club of Stone and District was shattered by the news of the death of Past President (1982-83) Brian Hilton. Brian had been seriously ill for some months but we were grieved none the less by the passing at an early age of such a fine man, a much loved club member and a true and stalwart friend of many people of all ages. He had been the founder headmaster of Walton Priory Middle School and his loss to education in Stone was immeasurable. Our sympathy went out to his wife Marjorie and their family. A large number of Rotarians, past and present, attended the funeral.

Rotary however must continue in its duties, and in its fellowship, despite personal grief and before Christmas 1992 we had hosted the GSE Team's farewell rally at the Crown Hotel, visited the RAC Control Centre at the junction of the M5 and M6, held yet another whist drive in the village hall at Swynnerton, enjoyed a visit led by Brian Elliott of members of the Manchester Rotary Club, voted overwhelmingly against a proposal to establish a breakfast-time Rotary Club in Stone, and taken part in the annual late night shopping event in Stone High Street. The last named had its amusing side and will long be remembered as "the Bovril evening". The Bovril firm had announced that it was willing to donate a quantity of its famous product to any charitable organisation that would make use of it at a money-raising event (thereby, no doubt, also promoting its sale). We decided to accept the offer but unfortunately we were not the only ones, as the Stone Lions Club had had the same idea and Stone seemed to be awash with Bovril that night. We were left with a kilo or more of Bovril to use at subsequent events - and we were, of course, grateful to the Bovril company - but for a time it became a club joke and members would even say (quite wrongly!) that even the soup we had at our Rotary meals had acquired a strong Bovril flavour. In fact, serving the community tends often to have its amusing side, as became apparent on a visit to a very elderly and frail elderly lady in a residential home by our President that year. He telephoned the home beforehand and was told that the lady had no teeth and must have soft-centred chocolates - and then he was also told to "be careful because she scratches".

Early in 1993 we held a function at the Aston Village Hall described as a Bad Taste Evening. This turned out to be a little controversial as a few members thought that a bad taste evening was not in good taste! They were perhaps right but it turned out to be fun and has recently been repeated. Also it raised £250. We had also been given a rather fine child's dolls' house by a grateful parent to raffle : this we did and raised nearly £500 for the Birmingham Children's Hospital. We were also grateful when we received a donation of £5 per ticket sold at a concert by the Temperance Seven held at the Granville's Restaurant.

Alleyne's School was the venue for two big assemblies in the early part of 1993. On 11th March we hosted the District Council meeting there, at which the Town Mayor gave a civic welcome, while on 29th April the school hall housed the excellent County Youth Brass Band which gave a splendid performance for our charities. May too turned out to be a busy month in which we held another Barn Dance at the White House Farm in conjunction with the Inner Wheel and raised £700 to be split between the two clubs and this was followed on the 14th by Ladies Night at the Stone House Hotel, our first one held at what was soon to become our permanent home. The main speaker at the Dinner was the barrister Barry Cliff. At the end of his year President Tim Joyce was able to announce that we had raised £2,300 for various charities during it.

Stone Rotary Club was proud of its incoming President for 1993-94, John Shillabeer, for not only had he been awarded the MBE for his distinguished career in the Fire Service, he had also very successfully led District 1210's Group Study Exchange Team on its visit to Malaysia, with which

country he has continued to have close contacts (for his services to the work of the Rotary Foundation with particular reference to G.S.E. John was later awarded his Paul Harris Fellowship).

Keen to promote fellowship and efficiency at the same time, John decreed that we should continue with the practice of sitting by committees - two service committees per table - at our business meeting meals, but at all others we should circulate and avoid always sitting at the same table. Club membership remained around the 40 mark. From the point of view of attendance John was himself an example to us all, for he was one of the three joint winners of the club's attendance trophy along with David Thornton and Keith Barlow. He also expressed his keenness on members of the Stone Club putting their names forward for service at District level.

It had now become customary, with Keith Barlow - and later, David Thornton - acting as District Quiz Officer, for us all to be ready and available for the first round of the District Quiz in October. It was indeed quite a challenge for the club to provide question masters and time-keepers for at least a dozen venues as well as a team to compete on Stone's behalf. Nevertheless it was a popular chore, even though some Rotarians would be called on to travel considerable distances to the periphery of District 1210's area, sometimes later in the winter in adverse weather conditions.

In early autumn came yet another bout of bulb-planting. This time John Ferrie told us that the Council had two and a half tons of bulbs to be put in the ground : the figures seemed to become more daunting every year! It is no wonder that Ted Anderson was inspired to write an article on growing daffodils in the Club Bulletin. At this time too came one of our major events of the 1993-94 Rotary year, our first sponsored water-carry for Water Aid. We had not run this kind of event before but we were greatly encouraged by the support we received from the public, partly as the result of some good publicity in the local press, which included a picture of bucket-laden Rotarians near the canal and alongside the Star Inn, though I am told there was no significance in that location. Our two middle schools in Stone showed considerable interest and Christ Church school made Water Aid the subject of a school project. This was a re-enactment, albeit a token one, of what people in many under-developed parts of the world have to do every day, though in those countries the distance might be measured in miles, rather than a few hundred yards, and take hours to cover, a task too that often had to be carried out by women and children. Water Aid's aim is to dig wells and to provide a piped water supply in such areas. On this occasion the sum of £1,200 was raised. Later, in 1996 we repeated the idea on an even larger scale in aid of our specific "matching grant" project, initiated and guided through by Phil Bailey, to provide a fresh-water well for a village in southern India. This one in 1993 also however proved to be a very worthwhile and popular event - but it did take place at a time when the club was extremely busy with a variety of plans, a matter which seems to have caused concern to a number of members, as the following quotations from our business meeting minutes indicate : "Keith Barlow, while not wishing to pour cold water on the event (!), was worried by the fact that this would be the fourth consecutive Sunday on which the club had had commitments." This was taken up by Club Council on 1st November, when it was minuted that "there was great enthusiasm in the Council as well as in the Club generally. However it was important that events did not clash and there were already two events in one week in November."

The events in November 1993 included the stamping of postcodes on bicycles in schools as a precaution against theft, the distribution of blood donor leaflets, entertaining a visiting GSE team from Canada, as well as another major money-raising event, a Casino Evening at the Stone House Hotel which raised over £500. 140 entries were received for the annual Tom Wilson Essay Award, all from pupils at Alleyne's but it was hoped that some from St. Dominic's Priory School would also compete in future.

Early in 1994, after much discussion and heart-searching, for we had been happily housed at the Crown Hotel for 55 years (apart from a very brief period in the early life of the club), it was decided to move our meetings to the recently enlarged and refurbished Stone House Hotel. The vote to move was almost unanimous but it was recorded that the club was sorry to leave the Crown "which had been prominent in the life of the town for a long time." Our first meeting at the Stone House Hotel was on Monday 7th March 1994. Later in that month, on the 25th, our Ladies Evening

was held at the same venue. The reply to the toast to our guests was made by the Town Mayor, Councillor Adrian Bennett and after the Dinner we resumed, after three years without it, dancing - this time to the group 49th State.

Towards the end of the Rotary year the news reached us that Rotarian Brian Elliott had been made a Paul Harris Fellow by the historic Rotary Club of Manchester of which he was a Past President. Brian had returned to live in Stone and we were delighted to welcome him when he transferred his membership to our club in 1995

The club continued to be busy right up to the summer "break" (is there such a thing?). We again supported Community Day by taking 50 elderly citizens to Trentham Gardens and we took 20 children on "A Kids' Day Out" at Drayton Manor Park. One of our main donations this year was to the Staffordshire Air Ambulance, in aid of which President John Shillabeer and Rotarian John Hemmings had done a lengthy sponsored walk, but many other good causes were supported including one donation to Bosnia Relief reflecting the sad state of affairs in that small country in 1994.

In June 1994 the nation commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy during World War II. This was especially meaningful to those older members of the club who had been serving in HM Forces at that time and the event was marked in a brief but moving way at the club's meeting on June 6th when Alan Woods made a short speech to mark the event. Reconciliation as well as remembrance was the keynote of our celebration of the event and in this Rotary had certainly played a big part and not least the Rotary Club of Stone and District.

We had recently welcomed as our speaker Rotarian Klaus Becker, District Governor for 1993-94 of District 1850 in North-West Germany (a close friend of Alan's for many years); we had enjoyed a splendid year with a German as our President in 1985-86, our very popular member Dieter Anders; and by 1994 we had already forged links of friendship, which later were to lead to an official twinning with the Rotary Club of Offenbach-Dreieich. We now looked forward to the celebrations in 1995 which would mark the 50th anniversary of the end of that long and tragic conflict.

All who knew the late Frank Lockley (our President in 1977-78) felt how proud he would have been to see his son John installed as our President for 1994-95. To date this is the only instance of both father and son holding that office in the Stone club. This must have evoked many memories for John's mother Rita (President of Inner Wheel in 1973-74) especially at the combined Rotary and Inner Wheel church service to mark the beginning of the new Rotary year.

As tends always to happen, a new president finds himself soon concerned with domestic affairs. The arrival in August 1994 of the new regalia for the club's sergeant-at-arms marked a new departure for the club and, somewhat surprisingly perhaps, did not receive an unmixed welcome : Roy Bostock protested at the club having such an officer and said he had "seen enough of sergeants" when he was in the Forces, a sentiment that caused one or two others to nod whimsically in agreement. However we are a club that knows how to temper discipline with a sense of humour and the appointment of Albert Holmes to the office was a popular one. The club's increasing role in District affairs soon became apparent when Keith Barlow and David Williams were proposed for, and in due course duly elected to, the offices of District Secretary and District Assistant Secretary respectively for 1995-96.

Club Council became increasingly concerned about the future of the Stone Rotaract Club in 1994 when its membership dipped to an all-time low of three : a later small revival to five members, while welcome, only tended to underline the growing fears about the clubs continuing viability - a worry that stayed with us in the ensuing years. The Rotary Club did all it could to help Rotaract in its activities, as well as in its striving to improve recruitment, and thoroughly enjoyed joining in the mass production of baked potatoes for sale on the evening of the Town Bonfire, but the difficulties that Rotaract was experiencing in Stone seemed to be typical of those being experienced by similar

clubs elsewhere. Some believed that the age range for which Rotaract clubs attempted to cater was too large.

In May 1994 the club had been deeply grieved by the untimely death, following a brief illness, of Carol, wife of our Past President Neil Hammersley and who had herself been Inner Wheel President for two consecutive years between 1986 and 1988. It was of some comfort to us therefore when, in October 1994, Neil informed us that the handsome sum of £2,500 had been raised in her memory and that the hoped for donation to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary could be made.

In November 1994 the club held another Casino Night - and a great success it turned out to be, for it was attended by more than 150 people and attracted so much sponsorship beforehand that a profit for charity of over £900 was made. A marked success of a very different kind had become very apparent by the autumn of 1994 : the club's own musical entertainment group which named itself the "Rotones". Inspired primarily by Bill Bates, himself a successful songwriter and musician of no mean talent, the trio consisted of Bill himself, Alan Lockett and Martin White : they provided the music and were eventually augmented by that raconteur and monologist (is there really such a word?), Neville Bramhall. The group aimed, certainly initially, at an audience of elderly people in residential homes but its repertoire of popular items soon ensured that it was in wider demand as indeed it still is today. This is an unusual undertaking for Rotary and those belonging to the Rotones are to be congratulated on their vision and success. Still in the realm of entertainment, it was decided in December to "tinker about a bit" with our usual Christmas arrangements. It was felt that "everybody is so busy just before Christmas" and we therefore moved our Christmas Dinner with our ladies to the 16th of January. It was a great success.

One or two new ideas about the Tom Wilson Essay Award were being put about this year. Some thought the winning essay should be published in the local press but in the event a very happy idea was hit upon : the essay was recorded by the winning entrant on tape and in that form issued as part of an edition of the Stafford Talking Newspaper for the Blind. Another new idea, put in to effect by Vince Emmerson's committee, was to organise a visit to the Birmingham Symphony Hall for those elderly or handicapped music-lovers who were never able to get to concerts. Such a visit, much appreciated by all who attended, took place on 30th April 1995. Information about a number of people, who might be keen to attend such an event and who otherwise might have been overlooked, came from a number of sources including the postal service and the Women's Institutes.

In addition to another planned visit to Dreieich in 1995 the club had numerous international contacts during John Lockley's year. We welcomed several overseas visitors including the Group Study Exchange Team from British Columbia in Canada, whom we entertained for a week in April 1995. An Albanian student, who spoke at one of our meetings, had the improbable name of George Shore : others came from Sweden, the Czech Republic, Germany and Texas, while we for our part arranged for four young people to go abroad under Rotary's Youth Exchange scheme. Then, of course, we sent our usual two boys to the RYLA camp, again from the Sixth Form at Alleyne's. All this international activity was perhaps particularly appropriate in 1995 when we celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the birth of Rotary International (on 18th February 1995 a celebration service to mark this event was held in the Salvation Army Citadel in Hanley).

On 24th March Ladies Night was held at the Stone House Hotel. The Town Mayor Councillor Joan Holland responded to the toast to our guests and after the Dinner, following a cabaret by Eric "Busker" Newton, we danced to the Spencer Young Band.

The Town of Stone held a special Church Parade on Sunday 7th May to mark the 50th Anniversary of V.E.Day and many members of the club participated in it. The High Street was lined with spectators who warmly applauded the large parade of ex-servicemen from the Second World War as they marched to the saluting base and refreshment tent in the Market Square. It was a moving occasion.

At the end of the Rotary year donations were, as usual, made to charities too numerous to mention individually here, but it was apparent from the list, which included items such as help for scouts attending the World Jamboree, the local Air Training Corps unit, Red Cross Exchange and the Kibblestone Scout Camp, that our President John Lockley had placed much emphasis on service to youth during his year of office.

To mark the beginning of David Thornton's year as President (1995-96) the Club assembled at Aston Church for a joint Rotary/ Inner Wheel Service conducted by our then senior vice-president Trevor Mardling. Afterwards we paid a return visit to enjoy our buffet meal in the invigorating country air of the Whitmore Cricket Club. The calendar influenced our planned domestic activities this year by producing no fewer than four "fifth Mondays" on which we invited our ladies to club meetings. It was also a year that remains, to date, unique in that the club held two breakfast meetings, one as usual in support of Christian Aid and an extra one in October to raise money for club service funds. During 1996 our Inner Wheel Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary and Rotary turned out at full strength at their special Anniversary Service at Aston Church on 31st March. To mark their special birthday we presented the Inner Wheel Club with a new collarette for their President. We also sent congratulations to the Rotary Club of Offenbach-Dreieich, which celebrated its 25th Anniversary on 24th April 1996 and presented them with a Rotary plate.

A different kind of celebration took place in August 1995, one that followed our major national celebration in June : this time it was V.J.Day's fiftieth anniversary on which we remembered the final end of the Second World War. On 20th August the club was strongly represented at a drumhead service in Westbridge Park. On a much smaller scale we had our own worries : the Rotaract Club was struggling and indeed its slight improvement up to a total of six members was halved by the end of the year, indicating a recurring problem that had to be tackled, disappointing though this was.

A little gentle leg-pulling is doubtless a feature of Rotary clubs throughout the world and our club is certainly no exception. Our good-natured President David was reminded of the time when he was at the receiving end of one when he visited the Rotary Club of Manchester with Brian Elliott in April 1996. There he met Herb Brown, President of Rotary International. In fact David had spoken to him on the telephone earlier in the year but had refused to believe that he was doing so! David was convinced it was an imposter but it really was Herb Brown on the phone. Keith Barlow had indeed managed to persuade no lesser person than the President of RI to cooperate in an ingenious leg-pull. But I have no doubt in believing that David took it all in good part and forgave his good friend Keith.

In reading the club minutes in David Thornton's year, one becomes impressed by the constant references to items of international service. There were of course the usual recurring items that happen every year : books and spectacles sent abroad (this time 420 pairs of specs to war-torn Liberia), a donation of £240 to Sight Savers, much help for Water Aid, support for the RYLA camp ..... the list goes on. Some perhaps deserve special mention. The District Governor's Denda Project (to supply water to a school in Zimbabwe) received a cheque from the club when the DG Ron Lucas visited us in September. From him we heard that 400 emergency boxes had been sent to Bosnia (in fact ours went to Albania that year) and that the major Jaipur Limb Project had been taken over by the Indian government after receiving an input of £500,000 from Rotary, a sum which had enabled 27,000 artificial limbs and callipers to be issued. During the year our matching grant project, to provide a freshwater well for the village of Koppa in southern India, made much progress and we were pleased to receive a letter from the Governor of District 3180 (Karnataka, India) confirming their side of things : but things move slowly in such matters and it was agreed that the project should be carried over into Trevor Mardling's year. With Eccleshall Club we acted as joint hosts to the GSE Team from South Africa and Zimbabwe. However our main project was undoubtedly to sponsor some overseas scouts, mainly from "the third world" and from countries in Eastern Europe in particular, at the 1996 International Scout Friendship Camp at Kibblestone. We set ourselves a target of £1,000 for this purpose but Margaret Woods made some marmalade and boosted our total to £1,050! We had a fascinating talk by a scouter, David Ball, who had taken a special interest in the re-emergence of scouting in the former communist countries. It was the more

western and southern parts of our continent however that featured in the club's European Wine-tasting Evening at the Stone House Hotel on 17th May 1996. Wines and food from France, Spain, Germany and Great Britain were featured, the event was well supported with Bill Cash, soon to be elected MP for Stone, being among those attending.

A further £1,500 was raised by two contrasting events : one was another Casino Evening, which involved the whole club and raised £980, and the other a demanding sponsored walk by Bryan Pickering and John Shillabeer, which raised well over £500. Not all our efforts however were concerned with raising money for charity; some social events were to foster fellowship and these included visits to Tittesworth Reservoir, to a performance of Barnum and even to the Cannock Sewage Works! Ladies Night was held at the Stone House on 15th March 1996 when the Town Mayor, Councillor Harry Brunt and Fraser Dukes, District 1210 Governor Elect were our guest speakers. Dancing after Dinner was to the Spencer Young Band.

Interestingly there was a project put forward during the 1995-96 Rotary year which had a controversial aspect. It was to support and participate in the distribution of "drug advice cards" for parents, probably through the schools. While all agreed that parents should be alerted to the dangers, there had to be very sensitive liaison with the Staffordshire police and the local education authority. Furthermore some schools had already embarked on their own schemes. Some disquiet was expressed in case the project would in itself advertise drug use and even cause unnecessary concern. It was a thoughtful and interesting debate that took place on a delicate issue and it seemed to reflect the anxieties being felt about this worrying national problem. In due course we came to a useful decision in supporting the Stone Youth and Community Centre's project on Drugs Awareness, which was going well and had received a small but helpful grant from the National Lottery.

Presidents' Sunday on 5th July 1996 was unusual because it was President Trevor Mardling who himself led the Service at St. Saviour's Aston-by-Stone and preached the sermon. Afterwards a reception and buffet lunch was held at the home of Trevor and Helen at Oulton Heath. It was the beginning of a very busy year.

In late July the International Scout Friendship Camp assembled at Kibblestone. We were gratified by the news that with Rotary's financial help many Eastern European scout groups had been enabled to attend, and we welcomed groups from Poland, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the republics of the Caucasus. On 27th July a tour by VIP visitors included the RIBI President, Keith Barnard-Jones and our District Governor Fraser Dukes. They were also able to attend a special meeting of the club and, maintaining the international flavour of the occasion, were presented with the first copies of the multilingual leaflet on the club's banner. One scout group from Abakan on the Russian Black Sea Coast, having already visited Kibblestone in 1992, returned in 1996 and their leader Galina came to speak to us at our meeting on 5th August. The club had agreed to sponsor one day of activities at the camp, including a trip to the Peak Trail at Waterhouses and the Manifold Valley, on which the scouts were joined by seven Rotarians.

Already by August, when many Rotarians are basking in the sun elsewhere, our business meeting minutes indicated that the Stone Club was busy and in good heart, as perhaps the following rather varied list might confirm. A record number of five members tied for the 1995-96 award of the Attendance Trophy - Rotarians Barlow, Elliott, Rogers, Shillabeer and Thornton - all with 100%. The club decided to organise its own internal lottery on a monthly basis : if no member came up with the lucky number, then that month's prize would go to club funds. Other plans were being made and, optimistic about attendance (correctly so, as it turned out), the club booked an entire hotel for the District Conference at Southport in October. Furthermore, towards the end of this Rotary year in June 1997, the club was also represented at Rotary International's World Convention in Glasgow by three members, Rotarians Rogers, Williams and Woods. Nominations for District Office were again made : Keith Barlow as District Secretary, David Williams as Assistant District Secretary, Ken Rogers as Chairman of Youth Exchange and John Shillabeer to continue for a further year on Rotary Foundation. The Rotones continued to be in high demand.

Even the Rotaract Club had a small revival in its fortunes with its membership creeping up to six again. Furthermore in August, greatly to its credit, the club found a new way of raising money for a good cause by making a collection at the Minor Counties v Pakistan cricket match, played at the Stone CC ground; it brought in over £650 for the Macmillan Fund.

On 6th September 1996 thirty-four visitors from the Dreieich Club arrived. After a Reception at the Stone House Hotel their itinerary included another such welcome at the Mayor's Parlour in Stafford, a Barn Dance, visits to the Cadbury's factory and to Wedgwood at Barlaston, the Milwich Show, Chatsworth and Haddon Hall, all this then being followed by a brief tour of Wales. It was a very happy occasion and one eventual outcome of this successful visit was that the Dreieich Rotary Club made a proposal in January 1997 that our two clubs should be joined in an official twinning.

To raise money for the Koppa well project it was decided to hold a large-scale water-carry and to enlist the help of schools. Talks about the aims of Water Aid, and of the club's matching grant project in particular, were given in schools and appear to have caught the imagination of the pupils. Both Christ Church and Walton Priory Middle Schools said they would assist, many parents as well as children volunteering to take part. Alleyne's School, otherwise occupied with their annual charity walk, said they would nevertheless donate £400 from that event. Participants on the day, Sunday 13th October, picked up their buckets at the car park in Whitebridge Lane, walked along the canal towpath to Westbridge Park, filled their buckets from the River Trent and then returned by the same route to the starting point, where the water in the buckets was measured. It was an imaginative and well supported day which raised £1,537.

Special mention must also be made of an evening event on 13th November 1996 at the Stone House Hotel... This was no ordinary "race-nite" but a fashionable and colourful occasion called our "Ascot Night". Those attending were asked to wear Ascot-style dress, attention being paid particularly to the ladies' hats for which there were prizes. Albert Holmes was dressed very convincingly as a jockey, while "Chief" Neville Bramhall was darkly unrecognisable as a famous racing tipster. This event raised almost as much as the water-carry - over £1,500.

Also at the Stone House in November 1996 the District held its Farewell Rally for the departing New Zealand GSE Team, and it was at this event that John Shillabeer was awarded deservedly, and very appropriately by the N.Z. Team, his Paul Harris Fellowship. A month earlier John had been awarded a Rotary Foundation Citation for outstanding work for Group Study Exchange In the New Year, on 27th January 1997, exactly 50 years after the death of Rotary's Founder, Ken Rogers was also similarly honoured with the award of a well merited Paul Harris Fellowship

Our third major money-raising event during the 1996-97 year was a Concert in St. Michael's Church given by the celebrated Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir, whose services had been sought and successfully obtained by Rotarian Tim Hughes. It was held on 7th June and was a fine concert by a famous and talented choir, much appreciated by an enthusiastic audience of music lovers.

Prominent among our many social activities was our customary Ladies Night, held at the Stone House on 28th February 1997, a delightful evening of good fellowship at which the civic representative was the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Peter Sinnott. The club also gave its usual support to the District's sporting competitions, though there seemed to be some worries behind the scenes at District level, for the following intriguing and amusing item appeared in the minutes of the club's business meeting in April 1997 : "District had asked for suggestions of other sports (for District competition) as only 18 clubs had entered for cricket this year. Club members, in a facetious mood, responded with alacrity : suggestions included canal-jumping sumo wrestling and welly-wanging!"

Sadly the Rotary Club of Stone had to mourn the deaths of three of its stalwarts during Trevor Mardling's presidential year, each of them a cruel blow to their many Rotary friends. Past President M.G.(Paddy) Pharaoh collapsed while playing golf on 9th November 1996, the result of a heart attack from which he failed to recover. He had been Secretary of Stone Golf Club for many years and also, on two occasions, its President. As has been recorded earlier in this chapter, he devoted

nine years to Stone Rotary Club as its Hon. Secretary and was our President in 1980-81. He was much respected and regarded with great affection by all who knew him. He and Jean had quite recently celebrated their Golden Wedding and our thoughts and sympathy went out to Jean (who delighted us all by agreeing, despite her great sorrow, to serve again as Inner Wheel President the following year) and to their family.

Only a few weeks after Paddy's death, on 28th December 1996, the club was devastated by the news of the death, at the early age of 59, of our Past President and recently appointed District Secretary Keith Barlow. It had already been decided to honour Keith with a Paul Harris Fellowship and this was approved by Rotary International on the very day that he was taken ill : it was due to be presented to him by President Trevor on 6th January. On 7th January 1997, after a family cremation, a Thanksgiving Service for Keith's life was held in a crowded church at Barlaston, led by the Rev. Godfrey Simpson, a club member for many years, and by President Trevor Mardling himself. After the service a reception was held at the Upper House Hotel. At Barlaston that day there were present nearly all the officers of Rotary District 1210 and numerous representatives from other Rotary Clubs and from the many sporting organisations with which Keith had been connected. In our own club he had given service as secretary and was President in 1991-92, though this bald statement of fact hardly does justice to the enormous contribution he made to the service and fellowship that he engendered among us in Stone. He had been inspirational as District Quiz Officer by reforming its format so that clubs came to regard it as something to look forward to rather than as a duty they felt they must accept. Our heartfelt sympathy went out to Keith's wife Carol and to his family : Carol was later presented with Keith's Paul Harris Fellowship medal and citation. Many people paid tribute to Keith at the time : in writing this chapter, perhaps I might allow myself the privilege of doing so again here? I first knew Keith when I was teaching at the Manchester Grammar School, where Keith was a boy and a member of my junior soccer team. I think he was astonished to come across one of his old schoolmasters again when he joined Stone Rotary Club! But we became good friends and enjoyed talking about old times and, indeed we attended an Old Mancunians Dinner together shortly before he died. He was cheerful, likeable and completely honest as a boy, and a good sportsman too, and so he remained right up to the time of his death.

Our third bereavement came as a very sudden blow to us on the 27th June 1997, when our long-standing member Roy Bostock collapsed and died during a bowls match being played in Stonefield Park in Stone as part of the District competition. Although Roy had become a senior member of our club, and was highly regarded as such, he was far too modest to pretend to be anything but himself- genuine, friendly and selfless in his service to others. He had a kindly nature and a great sense of humour; consequently he was deservedly popular in the club. He never wanted to take up the office of President and felt he could serve Rotary just as well in his own characteristic way. And so he did for, whatever the occasion, Roy could be relied on to be there helping - the sort of friend one describes as "the salt of the earth". He was a well-known businessman in Stone as a watchmaker and jeweller and had only recently retired. We all wished he could have been with us longer, as we expressed our deepest sympathy to Lois (Inner Wheel President in 1974-75) and to their daughter and son-in-law.

An enjoyable Presidents' Sunday at Oulton to mark the beginning of John Beamond's presidential year, as well as that of the incoming Inner Wheel President Jean Pharaoh for her second time in that office, did a little to alleviate our sadness at having to attend Roy Bostock's funeral later in the week. Lois very thoughtfully, and in accordance with what would certainly have been Roy's wish, sent a donation to the Rotary Club to be spent specifically on "a drink for all Rotarians" in his memory at a meeting of the club. A very appropriate result of Roy's untimely death was that the club decided to arrange for a course in resuscitation technique at a future club meeting through the Heartstart and Breath of Life Scheme.

The minutes of meetings held early in a Rotary year invariably mention some new plans, the continuation of well-tryed old ones and also a few innovations- perhaps some of them dealing with the conduct of club business. It was in connection with the last-named of these that Ted Ellard produced an American booklet giving advice on the duties of a Rotary Club's sergeant-at-arms,



from which he quoted with a twinkle in his eye. Examples of advice given included : "among his duties he (i.e. the sergeant-at-arms) should provide a podium for short (in stature?) speakers, special lighting effects and other props." (Albert Holmes asked if any advice was given on ensuring that members could hear the speaker!) and also "late arrivals should be ridiculed and/or fined but early leavers should be treated with tact." A touching quote from the same club minutes also refers to Albert. He and Ev had won the prize of a trip to Bruges on Eurostar on the club's recent "Ascot Night" about receiving which Albert said that "when he and Ev had won the prize, they had been moved by the warmth of the members' response : it had been as though the whole club had won the prize." Nicely said, Albert! It was also noted in July 1997 that nearly £2,000 had been disbursed at the end of Trevor Mardling's year, including donations to the St. Michael's Church Restoration Fund, the Life Education Centre, Riding for the Disabled, Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Talking Newspaper. The Attendance Trophy was awarded to David Williams and Ken Rogers (both with 100% for 1996-97): they were also nominated for District Office as District Hon. Secretary and District Youth Exchange Chairman respectively. On a more frivolous note it was decided that the fancy dress for our club at the Rotary District Conference Evening Ball should be that of the Teletubbies

Also in July 1997 we heard good news about our two matching grant projects.

The first, with the Rotary Club of Koppa in India, had reached its completion with the opening of the fine new well, of which we received photographs, in a village called Binthrawally. With regard to our second scheme we were delighted to hear that the financial side had been sorted out by Rotary International and that, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur, we should be bringing into existence a new and well equipped autistic clinic there. Much of the inspiration for this latter project came from John Shillabeer, who had led the District's GSE Team on its visit to Malaysia, and he, along with John Aston, Mike Dillon and Martin White, later embarked on a sponsored long walk from Kidsgrove to Stone along the canal towpath in aid of it. Later in the year, the devaluation of the Malaysian Ringgit caused us to have to raise an additional £98 for this project.

For as long as the club has been in existence, Stone Rotarians have visited elderly people in hospitals and retirement homes (for example, for virtually half a century we made regular visits to the old Trent Hospital) but it was felt that a more structured system, linking specific patients with a particular Rotarian, would be more likely to provide continuity and engender friendship. Brian Waterhouse in particular fostered this idea and introduced a "Rotary Friends" scheme to this effect at Tittensor Manor, Roseneath and the Manor House. The aim was for a pair of Rotarians to visit the same patient at least four times a year. The scheme has worked well. The Rotones continued to be in demand to entertain the residents at the above homes and the group also again provided music in the shopping arcade on the town's pre-Christmas shopping night in the High Street. At the other end of the age range, we again sent a coach-load of students from Alleyne's and St. Dominic's to the annual celebrity lecture in Wolverhampton.

It was another busy year for international service. The club responded positively to the District Governor's special appeal to raise £25,000 in District 1210 for the Hope and Homes charity to enable it to build a home for fifteen orphans, and also to an unusual request from Ralph Waley, an old friend of ours who did so much for international scouting and whose death in 1998 we sadly mourned. Ralph asked if we could find "pocket-money" for a Russian girl scout (called Olga) from Abakan who was planning to visit Britain, and Stone in particular, and who was extremely limited in the amount of money she could bring : for this we held a wine raffle at several successive club meetings. Later, during her visit to England, Olga came to speak to the club. We heard that our Youth Exchange nominee, Helen Frost, had settled happily in Bombay and that her parents were to welcome an Indian student for a short visit in return and furthermore would host another, Laura Petrosino from Argentina, who also gave a presentation to the club at one of our meetings. We also welcomed from South America the GSE Team from Brazil and we hosted two New Zealand Rotarians and their wives for a week or so during the summer. Pre-RYLA hospitality is something we undertake almost every year but 1997 brought us an intensely interesting guest in Petr Pavlok, a young student from Prague where his father is a member of the Rotary Club. His literary interests

amazed at least one Rotarian when Petr informed him that his current interest was studying old Anglo-Saxon and that his main musical interest was Gregorian Chant. So, it came almost as a relief to discover that he had been a great success at the RYLA camp, where he was also able to display some more youthful and athletic interests. It also seems appropriate to record here that, as usual, our own two RYLA camp participants from Stone performed well and were given leadership awards.

There were, of course, numerous money-raising events during John Beamond's year. One should perhaps mention maggot-racing (raised £104) among the unusual, but one particularly recalls the ingenious and attractive setting of our Fun of the Fair Night on 21st November 1997 when the main function room at the Stone House Hotel was filled with sideshows and stalls and with even a fortune-teller concealed in one of the comers. On the same day, very early in the morning, some Rotarians from the club had dressed up as highwaymen and "held up" motorists and lorry-drivers at the traffic lights in Stone, raising £880 in two hours for Children in Need - an initiative that was even more successfully followed up in the following Rotary year. We also repeated our success in collecting money at the Minor Counties v South Africa cricket match at the Stone C.C. ground, raising £608 for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund, while a collection at tables relieved those attending Ladies Night of a further £285 for Hope and Homes for Children.

At our Ladies Night on 27th February 1998 at the Stone House Hotel however the truly memorable moment was the presentation of the Rotary International President's Citation (for outstanding service in the four avenues of service for individual Rotarians), as well as a Paul Harris Fellowship, to Past President John Lockley. This much deserved honour came as a complete surprise to John : it was also one that delighted all his fellow members of the Rotary Club of Stone and District.

Writing recent history is difficult enough but to put down on paper a necessarily selective account of the current year, with still three months to run at the time of writing, is verging on the impossible, for how can one judge objectively the contemporary scene in the eyes of a future reader? What we ourselves may regard as significant today may seem trivial in the light of experience; conversely the apparently trivial now could in fact be sowing the seeds of something of future importance. One thing I can say with certainty however is that our much travelled President for 1998-99, John Aston has, through his global view of our shrinking world, given added meaning to the international aspects of Rotary service and to the opportunities that it presents. For example, not only did we complete a very worthwhile matching-grant project in the establishment of an autistic clinic in Kuala Lumpur, John went out there himself to see it in action. He also visited Addis Ababa to explore the possibilities of yet another matching grant project, connected with the supplying of books to medical centres, in that part of Africa. John seems to have invented a new catch-phrase - or even way-of-life - "See the world and serve Rotary".

President John Aston and the incoming President of Inner Wheel, Kath Pickering, marked the beginning of their year in office with a Church Service on 5th July 1998 at St. Saviour's in Aston-by-Stone (a somewhat appropriate place-name?), followed by a reception at the Stone Hockey Club. The following evening the club met for its first business meeting of the new Rotary year at which we were all issued with a rather special edition of our club's Bulletin. It was not only the first issue to carry a coloured photograph (of our new President), it was also the largest issue to date with interesting and very full service committee plans, set out by their respective chairmen: Phil Bailey (club service), Martin White (membership development), John Sayer (vocational), Gary Chantry (international), Bryan Pickering (Rotary Foundation), Brian Waterhouse (community), Brian Elliott (youth exchange and Rotaract) : all in all a helpful supplement to what we heard at our Club Assembly. Indeed, perhaps this might be a suitable opportunity to place on record our thanks to all those Stone Rotarians who have edited and produced our Bulletin over the years. At present, with John Lockley's skill and the onward march of information technology the Stone Bulletin is better than ever and much appreciated.

It had been requested by the District Governor this year that members in all clubs should wear name tags at meetings and the club introduced these at the beginning of July. With regard to our strengthening links with District 1210 we were delighted when David Williams's appointment as

District Hon. Secretary was confirmed and Ken Rogers was elected Assistant District Governor. In domestic matters fellowship remained high on our list of priorities and our "family functions" included a well attended Christmas meal with our ladies and members from some neighbouring clubs, a "Bad Taste Evening" at the Aston Village Hall in February and, of course, another enjoyable Ladies Night at the Stone House Hotel. Local walks, organised by Tim Hodson, have also provided opportunities for fellowship (and perhaps some much-needed exercise?) in a different environment. The club's continuing good relationship with schools has also been very much on our agenda, especially in our promoting competitions for the Young Chef and the Young Innovator, talks to the Sixth Form at Alleyne's and welcoming students and former students, who have attended the RYLA camp or been on youth exchange visits. Most of the plans of our service committees have followed a familiar pattern and have gone well, but there have been a few difficulties and disappointments, as we found when we tried to establish a wishing well at our nearby motorway service station and also in trying to overcome what often seemed to be bureaucratic difficulties in the way of our scheme to provide smoke alarms for the elderly. However there have also been several highlights in 1998-99 that deserve individual mentions in greater detail.

Early in September 1998 came another and particularly significant visit to Dreieich. David Williams had made the detailed arrangements for the visit and he is to be congratulated on doing it all so well. During this visit the twinning ceremony of the Rotary Clubs of Offenbach-Dreieich and Stone and District took place at the Palace of Wolfsgarten, the home of Princess Irina of Isenburg. The twinning document was signed by the two club presidents, Rotarians Helmut Meermagen and John Aston, in the presence of the Mayor of Dreieich, Bernd Abeln and the District 1820 Governor, Rotarian Jurgen Strupp. It was a special moment too for our own Past President Dieter Anders who now, though officially still a member of the Stone Club, spends much time in his retirement in Mainz at the Dreieich Club. At the ceremony John Aston courageously made a short speech in German. Helmut Meermagen in his address wisely remarked : "Mutual affection does not arise from sharing the same language, but from similarities in thought and feeling. We have enjoyed a very close and warm-hearted friendship. We have had many interesting conversations, rich in content and emotion. And most important of all, we have shared a common sense of humour. I feel these common experiences, memories and features are the main reason why we are well matched and why our partnership can look into a very promising future."

On 12th October 1998, at a specially convened Extraordinary General Meeting, the club entered into a debate, happily without it becoming too acrimonious, on whether or not Stone and District should cease to be a single-gender club. Because we are a long-established club we may, under the RIBI Constitution, retain our present status unless by a majority vote we choose to do otherwise. For over a decade women have been admitted to the Rotary movement, except in certain countries in which it would not legally be allowed for traditional, and usually religious reasons. It is a debate that evokes strong feelings in those holding both of the opposite points of view, but on this particular occasion the arguments tended quickly to be submerged in a debate on voting procedure. A vote by show of hands, as was apparently specified in the constitutional rules, was considered to be potentially divisive and at least one speaker said, not without some emotion, that he considered that "the unity of the club was more important than the letter of the rules" - a comment received by a most unusual round of applause from most of those present. A vote was taken and by 31 votes to 1 the club resolved to proceed with a vote by secret ballot. This decision proved to be very significant. This right for a club to choose its own preferred method of voting was subsequently taken up by Past President Neville Bramhall and in due course presented as a resolution at the 74th Annual RIBI Conference in Dublin in April 1999. The proposition, after some discussion and a minor amendment, was put to the Conference and passed by a big majority. Afterwards our Bulletin editor, who had himself been present at Dublin, wrote as follows : "The whole experience of an "ordinary Rotarian" changing RIBI Standard Club Constitutions was very exciting to be part of. The Rotary Club of Stone and District was congratulated on its success. Tense times and hard work, with the seed being planted by Rotarian Neville Bramhall, has taken Rotary a further step towards democracy. Do not underestimate the power each Rotarian has; after all, "the grass-root Rotarian" is Rotary."

So, although our meeting on 12th October in the end voted to retain at present its single-gender status (by 22 votes against 9 with 1 abstention), it came to have a far wider significance, giving individual Rotary clubs an additional freedom, one that many of us had hitherto assumed they already possessed!

It almost seemed as though the differences in opinion, expressed at the debate on 12th October, in an unexpected way made the club's members more determined than ever to pull together in their service committees. Certainly this was reflected in the fact that during November we raised over £2,500 for charities. Much of this was the result of a highly gratifying turn-out by our members to act as "Highwaymen" on 20th November in aid of Children in Need. Throughout the day traffic in Stone was assailed by Rotarians in disguise, and the generosity of drivers, and not least of those driving heavy goods vehicles, was heart-warming. At the end of the day we had doubled last year's total and our contribution was that night reported on TV and radio. A few days later, on 26th November, at the evening switch-on of Stone's Christmas lights, the club held a "Throw Seven Sixes" competition for a Ford car, the vehicle itself being specially parked for the event in the Market Square. Add to all this the proceeds of a bucket collection at the town bonfire, plus the sum of £125 raised by an evening of maggot racing at the Little Stoke Cricket Club, and it all makes a very creditable burst of money-raising energy.

On 14th December the club held a very enjoyable Christmas meal, with musical entertainment by young members of the Stone Revellers and some added magic. Our ladies, as well as guests from some neighbouring clubs joined us. Sadly this happy occasion was followed by a period of anxiety, and then deep sorrow, when we heard of the illness and death of our popular member Ted Ellard.

Ted Ellard passed away on the 5th of January 1999, just when it seemed that he was making a good recovery from his short illness. Ted, a linguist and senior member of the teaching staff of the University of Staffordshire, one who had been honoured for his services to Anglo-French relations, had just reached the stage in his career when he was easing his way towards retirement. We grieved for Betty and their family. In the Stone Club we shall remember particularly his enthusiasm for our District Quiz team and for his very acceptable interpretation of the office of sergeant-at-arms. As was written in our Club Bulletin following the news of his death, "Ted researched the job of sergeant-at-arms in depth,..... Carrying out his duties with care and attention, especially on important club occasions, his special talents were appreciated by us all. We will miss you, Ted."

I should not wish however to end this chapter on a sad note. We mourn our losses, but service to others and fellowship among ourselves both demand that we remain in good heart. To do so means that we must keep busy. It has seemed appropriate for us, especially at this time, to look back and evoke memories of past years. Furthermore, also during this year, three of our Rotarians will be celebrating forty years of membership, all having joined the Stone Rotary Club in 1959 : Geoff Leese (President in 1964-65 and again in 1976-77), Albert Holmes (President in 1965-6) and Alan Woods (President in 1966-67). However, having briefly paused to celebrate our Club's sixty years, let us immediately turn again towards the future. After all, we have one of our biggest-ever events looming large on 3rd July 1999, when we shall be holding our mammoth Brass 'n Blues Evening at Sandon Hall. But that will have to be a story at the beginning of the next chapter in our history, to be written in the year 2014 when we shall celebrate our 75th Birthday!

Any volunteers for writing it?

**Alan Woods**  
**Stone, April 1999**

ROTARY CLUB OF STONE AND DISTRICT  
Register of Members and Classifications in May 1999

<i>Name</i>	<i>Classification</i>
* K D Anders	# Senior Active - Glassware (Admin)
E G Anderson	Architecture
** J L Aston	Senior Active - Newspapers & Periodicals Distribution
P Bailey	Ceramic Sanitaryware Engineering
* L J Bassett	Senior Active - Transportation (Freight)
W J G Bates	Catering Management
* J E Beamond	Past Service - Building Societies
* N J Bramhall	# Senior Active - Ceramic Materials
G A Chantry	Industrial Control Systems
M P Dillon	Ceramic Industry - Design
B A Elliott	# Senior Active - Telecommunications
V P Emmerson	Senior Active - Electronics Consultancy
A A Ferrie	Senior Active - Frozen Food (Retail)
D J Hemmings	Accountancy Services
T G Hodson	Manufacturing - Electronics
* A Holmes	# Senior Active - Local Government
T J Hughes	Past Service - Banking Local
S N Jones	Education - Primary Schools
* T R Joyce	Senior Active - Electrical Engineering
R A Knight	Business Services - Taxation
P A Leason	Alcoholic Beverages Distribution
* G T Leese	# Senior Active - Motor Vehicle Distribution
* J Lockley	# Motor Vehicle (Repairs)
* T R Mardling	Law Practice - General
B Pickering	Chemical Engineering
* K J Rogers	# Senior Active - Insurance Broking
J C Sayer	Business Services - Consultancy
* J N Shillabeer MBE	# Past Service - Fire Service
* R D Thornton	Senior Active - Ceramic Materials
R C L Tobias	Senior Active - Printing (Colour)
B Waterhouse	Past Service - Building Societies
H Watkin-Jones	Business Service - Product Promotion
M White	Computer Systems & Training
* E W B Whitehead	Honorary
D R Williams	Charities - Resource Management
* A C Woods	# Senior Active - Education Secondary

\*\* *President*

\* *Past Presidents*

# *Paul Harris Fellows*

**Rotary Club of Stone and District : Principal Officers 1989-1999**

	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice Presidents</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
1989-90	J.Rogers	N.D.R.Hammersley (snr.) K.H.Barlow (jnr.)	N.J.Bramhall	K.H.Barlow
1990-91	N.D.R.Hammersley	K.H.Barlow (snr.) T.R.Joyce (jnr.)	N.J.Bramhall	J.H.Prew
1991-92	K.H.Barlow	T.R.Joyce (snr.) J.N.Shillabeer (jnr.)	N.J.Bramhall	J.H.Prew
1992-93	T.R.Joyce	J.N.Shillabeer (snr.) A.K.Milward (jnr.)	N.J.Bramhall	J.E.Beamond
1993-94	J.N.Shillabeer	J.Lockley (snr.) R.D.Thornton (jnr.)	G.R.Harris	J.E.Beamond
1994-95	J.Lockley	R.D.Thornton (snr.) T.R.Mardling (jnr.)	G.R.Harris	D.R.Williams
1995-96	R.D.Thornton	T.R.Mardling (snr.) J.E.Beamond (jnr.)	G.R.Harris	D.R.Williams
1996-97	T.R.Mardling	J.E.Beamond (snr.) J.L.Aston (jnr.)	T.R.Joyce	D.R.Williams
1997-98	J.E.Beamond	J.L.Aston (snr.) P.Bailey (jnr.)	T.R.Joyce	T.R.Turner
1998-99	J.L.Aston	P.Bailey (snr.) T.J.Hughes (jnr.)	T.R.Joyce	T.R.Turner / D.R.Williams

**Presidents of the Inner Wheel Club of Stone 1989-1999**

1989-90	Mrs Verna Bramhall
1990-91	Mrs Elaine Bird
1991-92	Mrs Elaine Robinson
1992-93	Mrs Jane Lockley
1993-94	Mrs Jennifer Anderson
1994-95	Mrs Pamela Beamond
1995-96	Mrs Elaine Lockett
1996-97	Mrs Andrea Emmerson
1997-98	Mrs Jean Pharaoh
1998-99	Mrs Kathleen Pickering

**Stone Probus Club : Presidents**

1989-90	Tom Pickering
1990-91	Derek Cartledge
1991-92	Sylvester Davie
1992-93	Geoff King
1993-94	Peter Clayton
1994-95	Ken. Jones
1995-96	Ernest Grainger
1996-97	Peter Waghorn
1997-98	Norman Ellis
1998-99	Ted Pick
1999-00	Adrian Wright

**Stone Rotaract Club : Presidents**

1989-90	Simon Price
1990-91	Virginia Ellard
1991-92	Clare Woodhead
1992-93	Jane Darlington
1993-94	Paul Roberts
1994-95	Julie Griffin
1995-96	John Boycott
1996-97	John Boycott
1997-98	club dormant...