

Fifty Years
of
ROTARY IN STONE
1939-1989

Foreword

A 50th anniversary always seems to have special significance, and is a time when one reviews the past. It was with this in mind that I asked Alan Woods if he would undertake the task of producing a club history.

The result of Alan's hours of research is an impressive work by any standard, and it is an eloquent testimony to the contribution of service to the local community which Rotary has given.

It gives me particular pleasure to record on behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Stone & District, past, present and future, grateful thanks to Rotarian Alan Woods.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. J. Rogers', written in a cursive style.

K. J. Rogers
May 1989

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Author: Past President Alan Woods.

Acknowledgements

Research into the Club's history was considerably handicapped by the incompleteness of records, some of which unfortunately appear to have been lost. However, I was able to obtain much invaluable information from our club secretary, Past President Neville Bramhall and from many other colleagues in the club. I have also been particularly grateful to the staff of the William Salt Library in Stafford and the Editor and staff of the Newsletter, all of whom went out of their way to be helpful. I am greatly indebted to them for giving me complete freedom to peruse innumerable back copies of the Staffordshire Advertiser, the Stone Guardian and the Stone Newsletter.

The research for, and most of the writing of the third chapter, entitled 'Mixed Fortunes' was done by Past President Brian Hilton (hence its entertaining style). I was particularly grateful for this help, as I know how busy he is at present dealing with so many new developments on the educational scene.

I must also say "thank-you" to my wife Margaret for the proof reading of my laboured typing and also for putting up with my long period of hibernation during the writing of this document.

There are bound to be some omissions - perhaps even one or two errors - and for these I apologise. I have tried to avoid being too anecdotal and indulging in tedious repetition in my effort to make this history of the Rotary Club of Stone and District a readable piece of prose. I hope that I have, at the same time, managed to be reasonably objective in my selection of material.

Thanks are also due to Hill & Ainsworth Ltd. for helpful suggestions and assistance in the publication of this history.

Alan Woods
April 1989

The Foundation of Stone Rotary Club

The nineteen-thirties was a period of great expansion in the Rotary movement in Great Britain and Ireland, and it is perhaps not surprising that the proud and gradually growing market-town of Stone became part of that expansion, just in time for its club to become firmly and officially established before the nation was engulfed by the Second World War. The source of the initiative that gave birth to the club in Stone is not clear from our records but it would be safe to assume that a desire to see the foundation of a Rotary Club in the town among a sufficiently large number of local professional and business men coincided with a friendly willingness to help, and a desire to see extension of the movement in this part of Staffordshire, by already well-established neighbouring clubs and especially those in Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent.

It was in fact in May 1938, almost exactly one year before the granting of the Club's Charter on 16th May 1939, that the initiative had gathered sufficient momentum for an Inauguration Dinner to be held at the Crown Hotel in Stone on 12th May 1938. Representatives from clubs in all parts of the Midlands, to the number of one hundred Rotarians, attended the occasion which was presided over by Mr W. Withers (Bilston), Chairman of Number 6 District Extension Committee. He was supported by the District Chairman, Mr I. H. Rose (Birmingham), the Interim President of the proposed club, Mr E. Shufflebotham, Mr E. Marks (Stoke-on-Trent and Immediate Past District Chairman), Mr E. W. Pidduck (President of the Stoke-on-Trent Club), Mr G. Sandy (President of the Stafford Club), the Deputy Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Alderman I. H. Dale and, representing the Town of Stone, the Chairman of Stone Urban District Council, Mr T. Bagley who was also a member of the interim club.

Moving the resolution that the Stone Rotary Club be formed, Mr Ernest Shufflebotham said that he was sure that all would admit that Stone was of sufficient importance to warrant the formation of a Rotary Club. It was a town of great antiquity and, though its growth had been slow, it could claim to be sturdy. Seconding, Mr Thomas Bagley said that the underlying principle of the movement, that of service, was a wonderful ideal. The resolution was carried.

Mr Rose, District Chairman, then gave an address on the aims and ideals of Rotary. In essence, he said, it aimed at making its members better citizens. The two visiting presidents of the neighbouring Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford clubs then added their words of welcome to the Interim Club of Stone.

Reporting the Inauguration Dinner the Staffordshire Advertiser recorded the names of those present who were said to be members of the newly formed interim club. These were recorded as: E. Shufflebotham (interim president), C. S. Challacombe (interim secretary), A. G. Duncan (interim treasurer), Dr C. Arthur, T. Bagley, W. Bailey, H. Barker-Smith, I. A. Beardsmore, R. H. Carr, C. G. Day, Rev. F. N. Didsbury, H. N. Chambers, A. A. Hargreaves, E. Henshall, R. S. Heywood, Dr. J. O'Donnell, H. Perry, J. Sawyer, S. Scholefield and S. Smallwood. It is clear however that about half of these did not go on to become Charter Members of the club, several in fact moving away from the area, including the

interim secretary and the interim treasurer. Ten of the original members of the interim club did nevertheless remain and were joined by eight new members to form the group of eighteen founder members of the officially established club when it received its Charter in May 1939.

During its year as an interim club, Stone's meetings were often reported in considerable detail by the local press. At the time this must have given much useful publicity in the town and its surrounding rural area to the activities of Rotary. Looking at these reports in retrospect one gets an interesting glimpse of some of the issues being discussed at that time and, it is felt, a few examples might be of interest to our readers. In giving these we are particularly indebted to the efficient reporting of the Staffordshire Advertiser in 1938/39.

'Should football pools be suppressed?' was the subject of a discussion at the club meeting on 9th November 1938. The Rev F. N. Didsbury, opposing the Pools, said that the spending of money on these pools by the poorer people meant that in many cases they went without proper food so that they could have a flutter. In addition, if the promoters were going to run chain stores, the ordinary traders would be badly hit. On the other hand, Dr J. R. O'Donnell said the pools provided every class of people with a fair and legitimate gamble, and he could not see that it fell foul of the teaching of any church. Mr T. A. Beardsmore thought that whist drives were as much a form of gambling as football pools, while his fellow headmaster, Mr H. Barker-Smith, thought that it would be an unwarranted interference into the liberty of the subject if the pools were suppressed. Finally — and from the point of view of the 1980s this would seem to be a fascinating and even prophetic utterance — the President

E. Shufflebotham thought that since the introduction of the pools the conduct of the average spectator at football matches towards the players had seriously deteriorated. Later in the month however Mr Shufflebotham was himself the speaker. His topic was 'Changes in the distribution of wealth' and his comforting address pointed out that Great Britain now enjoyed a higher standard of living among her people than any country in the world. (Certainly prices were low by present-day standards: the same papers advertised a dining-room suite for under £12 in Lewis's sale and a "ladies well-tailored tweed swagger coat" for 15s 9d at Beattie's in Wolverhampton).

A hint of the growing anxiety about the possibility of an imminent war was now being expressed in talks given by visiting speakers. In April 1939 Mr H. F. R. Harris of the Stoke-on-Trent City School of Commerce spoke on the theme "the shape of things to come". He referred to the numerous causes of the 1914-18 War but maintained that they were all secondary to one main cause: wrong thinking. Most of the troubles and misconceptions in the world were being caused because people were rarely ready to draw a distinction between what they thought and what they knew. This proposition still seems just as relevant half a century later.

One heated debate at a meeting early in the same year was on the suggestion that corporal punishment in schools should be abolished. The argument quickly developed into a more general one about corporal

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punishment for adult offenders and prisoners. Despite one expressed view that "as a nation we are getting too soft", there was a considerable body of opinion against corporal punishment: even so it was to be another half-century before it was banned in our state maintained schools.

A further visit by the Number 6 District Chairman in March 1939 enabled him to expand on the functions and aims of the Rotary movement, doubtless with the imminence of the granting of the club's charter in mind.

It was reported at the first - and last - annual general meeting of the Interim Club that the new Charter for a Rotary Club of Stone was about to be granted and signed on behalf of the Board of Directors of Rotary International and R.I.B.I. In fact the Charter was finally approved and granted on the 16th May 1939, thus making this the official date of birth of our club as a fully fledged member of R.I. In anticipation of this, tentative arrangements were made to celebrate the occasion with a Charter Dinner "in a few weeks time's. At this annual meeting also were elected the officers who were to become the first holders of their appointments in the new, chartered Rotary Club.

These were to be as follows:

President: Mr Ernest Shufflebotham (former President of the interim club).

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Pedr Pollard.

Hon. Secretary: Mr Stanley C. Blood.

Hon. Asst. Secretary: Mr Harold N. Chambers.

Club Council additional members:

Messrs T. Bagley, T. A. Beardsmore, R. H. Carr, S. Smallwood, Rev F. N. Didsbury, Dr J. R. O'Donnell.

Membership of the club on the granting of its charter numbered eighteen. A complete list of all these original members and their classifications is given as an appendix. The club was to meet weekly on Wednesdays at lunchtime.

In due course, on 5th July 1939, the celebratory Dinner to mark the granting of the club's charter was held at the Crown Hotel. It was well attended by representatives of Rotary Clubs from many parts of the Midlands, including club presidents and members from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Nantwich, Leek, Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Rowley Regis, Uttoxeter, Cannock, Smethwick and Stafford. Rotarian T. Bagley proposed the toast to the Visitors, to which the District Vice-Chairman R H. Ashby-Bailey and the Chairman of Stone Urban District Council, Mr. B. Tyler, replied.

In handing over the Charter to Club President Ernest Shufflebotham and investing him with the badge of office, Mr. T. H. Rose (who had also attended the Inauguration Dinner of the interim club in the previous year as District Chairman), said that he was now privileged to offer to the Rotary Club of Stone the greetings of 200,000 Rotarians all over the world. Fifty years later we are able to rejoice in the fact that this number has comfortably passed the one million mark and that Rotary flourishes again in the countries which, for six long years, were to become our adversaries in the tragedy of a second world war, through which our newly born fledgling Rotary Club in Stone had, not without difficulty, to struggle and to survive.

The War Years

In Ernest Shufflebotham the Rotary Club of Stone was indeed fortunate in having a Founder President who led it with wisdom and dignity and who was greatly respected in the town. His presidency coincided with the time when the nation was trying to come to terms with the likelihood of war with Nazi Germany, and possibly with both of the European Axis Powers, while still clinging with persistent and, as it turned out, an ill-judged optimism, to the chances of a war being averted. It was in this context that Mr Shufflebotham himself gave an address to the Club on 19th July 1939 in which he put forward the thesis that neither Germany nor Italy could afford to go to war. The talk was reported in the Staffordshire Advertiser as follows:

“Recently, said Mr Shufflebotham, the German newspapers had been criticizing the financial position in Italy, but it seemed to him that this was very much a case of ‘the pot calling the kettle black’. Any country which refused to issue a balance-sheet must be either bankrupt or very near to it. So far as raw materials were concerned, in many instances the position in Germany was worsening. They had been trying to make up their petrol deficiency by manufacturing it from coal, with the result that their coal supplies had become very scarce. There was only one grade of petrol in Germany, and that cost twice as much as in England”.

Seven weeks later Hitler invaded Poland and we were to learn the hard way how misplaced our optimism had been.

Preparations for war did however begin to creep into our local news during that final summer of uneasy peace. Stone Urban District Council, having rejected a proposal for a swimming pool for Stone at a cost of £4,500 as, to quote one councillor, “a luxury not necessary at all”, turned its attention to other matters. An Air Raid Precautions organisation had been set up and in August was given “a comprehensive work-out” in view of the public. By 2nd September, as war now seemed inevitable, plans were published for the reception of evacuee children on their arrival in Stone. They were to be sent initially on arrival to St. Dominic’s Convent and then distributed to billets. However, if they arrived too late at night to be dispersed to their billets, they were to be housed temporarily at Meaford Hall which Miss Parker-Jervis had placed at the disposal of the authorities. In fact, it was later to be the boys of Alleyne’s Grammar School that were evacuated to Meaford Hall, so that the buildings at Oulton Cross could be taken over by the Air Ministry, an option that was never taken up.

The last peacetime meeting of the club at the end of August 1939 had Mr J. A. Moore as its guest speaker. He spoke on Lawn Tennis and made the interesting observation that the Wimbledon tournament was beginning to suffer because of the “absurd distinction between amateurs and professionals” (open tennis was not to come until 1968). He also thought that no one should advise a boy (there was no mention of girls) to take up sport as career, since there were such things as injuries and loss of form, which might put an abrupt end to a career in its early stages.

The meeting on Wednesday 20th September however saw the Club turning towards a more immediate problem

— that of augmenting food supplies by growing one’s own. Mr John Stoney spoke on “The use of gardens in wartime” and said that, whereas Stone had formerly some of the finest amateur gardeners in the country, there were now very few to be found in the town. He thought a move should be made to induce the local authority or some large landowner to supply land for horticultural purposes, because so much land had been lost through building schemes. He appealed for greater support of the allotments movement.

One strange but persistent rumour circulating in the town in September 1939 was that Air Raid Precautions workers were receiving “fabulous salaries”. This was denied at an Urban District Council meeting when it was announced that A.R.P. paid workers were receiving wages of £3 per week (men) and £2 per week (women) for an eight hour day, on call seven days per week. This widely believed rumour also crept into a Rotary Club meeting at the end of September when a discussion was held on “Can the country afford the present A.R.P. organisation?” Several members spoke on the urgent need for economy but Mr Stanley Blood, club secretary, referred to the absurd rumours which were in circulation as to the salaries being paid to some A.R.P. officials. Such rumours were, he said, entirely wide of the mark and were calculated to do a great deal of harm.

It became clear at a very early stage in the war that most Rotarians were going to be deeply involved in time consuming activities connected with the war effort, as well as by increasing pressures in their own occupations. Nevertheless the Club decided to continue with its weekly Wednesday meetings. Gradually the realities of war, even during the winter of the so-called “phoney war”, became apparent. Young people were joining the Forces in increasing numbers; the town’s first black-out casualty of the war occurred when a pedestrian was killed by a car in Radford Street; and official food rationing came into force on 8th January 1940 with a weekly ration (later in the war to be much reduced) of 12oz of sugar, 4oz of butter and 4oz of bacon per week. Meat rationing followed in February. On the other hand, life in wartime Stone seemed to have some compensations, as the Urban District Council actually reduced its rates to 14/2d in the pound. It was also reported at the annual licensing sessions that Stone had one public house for every 211 inhabitants.

The Rotary Club held its annual meeting at the Crown Hotel on Wednesday 24th April 1940. Mr Shufflebotham had announced that he would be resigning because of his retirement as manager of the District Bank, and it was therefore necessary for the club to elect a new president. On the proposition of Mr T. Bagley it was agreed to elect Mr T. A. Beardsmore, headmaster of Alleyne’s Grammar School. Archie Beardsmore had been very active in the foundation of a Rotary Club in Stone from its inception and had lived in the town since taking up the Alleyne’s headship in 1936. He had been awarded the O.B.E. in the 1914-18 war for dangerous experimental work and was active in many aspects of voluntary work in the town with which he continued despite subsequent problems caused by the evacuation of his school to Meaford Hall. Undoubtedly Archie Beardsmore played a major part in keeping the Rotary Club alive during the early war years when membership dropped to a dangerously low level.

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Furthermore he was to see that Rotary played a significant role in many of the aspects of service that had been made more urgent by war conditions. He was in fact, to hold the office of President for three Rotary years: 1940/41, 1941/42 and subsequently 1950/51. He remained a Rotarian after his retirement in 1959 in the Wellington and Knutsford clubs, right up to the time of his death in 1969.

Club Treasurer Captain Pedr Pollard MBE reported at the same meeting that the club was in a sound financial position, having a balance of over £20! He was re-elected as treasurer but the position of secretary was "left in abeyance". (Subsequently this matter was resolved by a switch to Wednesday evening meetings, which enabled Stanley Blood to resume office as club secretary). However, by this time pressure on the time of members seemed to be verging on the intolerable and, furthermore, new recruits to Rotary were becoming difficult to find for the same reason. No fewer than five of the club's original eighteen members had resigned by mid-1940, two because they were moving away from Stone and three because they had no time to attend meetings. Numbers dwindled to thirteen but recovered slightly to fifteen by September 1940 when H. H. Bowers (Brewing, John Joule and Sons) and the Rev E. R. Lindsay (R.C. Priest-in-charge) joined the club. There had also been one recruit to the club during the 1939/40 year, Mr B. Haynes (vehicle building) but, sadly, he died in May 1940 after only a few months of membership.

Even a cursory examination of the Club Register indicates the extent of the struggle the Stone Club must have had to fulfil so well its commitments during the first few years of the Second World War. Membership remained stable at fifteen until the middle of 1943 but then four other founder members felt obliged to leave because of the sheer impossibility of maintaining their attendance. Only one new recruit came in during that year and membership stood at an all-time low of twelve. It was only in 1944, the tide of war having turned, that things began to improve. Undoubtedly, if it had not been for the dogged hard work and loyalty of a small band of Rotarians, who kept the club going through those difficult years as a lively and valuable — though very small — entity, we should not be celebrating our fiftieth anniversary to-day.

News items in the local press throughout 1940 reflected the adaptation of both the club and the town to wartime demands. There had been a "remarkable response" to the appeal by Anthony Eden for men to enrol in the Local Defence Volunteers, the forerunner of the Home Guard. Dances were being organised regularly for the Forces in St. Joseph's Hall. Blackout offences were being frequently reported in the press: for these the original fine of 10/- seemed soon to be raised to £1. It was not however a time of unrelenting gloom, and it is interesting to note that in a year that saw the fall of France and, for a time, Britain standing alone and perilously on the brink of being invaded, the club still managed to find time for a talk on "South Staffordshire Enamels" and the showing of home-made films on the meets of local hunts. The whole nation, however, had been inspired by the heroic efforts of the Royal Air Force during the summer of 1940 and in August of that year the club gave birth to the idea of raising money to purchase for the R.A.F. a Spitfire aircraft.

The matter of starting a fund to buy a Spitfire was first mooted at a meeting of the Rotary Club held on the evening of 21st August 1940, when members adopted a

resolution to inaugurate a fund for the purchase of a Spitfire by the town and its surrounding district. Within ten days, a preliminary meeting had been convened by the Club with representatives of the Stone Urban and Stone Rural District Councils in attendance. The Chairmen of both councils were asked to put the matter before their members, which they appear to have done without delay, obtaining their utmost support. At the Urban District Council meeting Councillor R. F. Goodill remarked that Stone had never lagged in its spirit of patriotism and thought that the council should make the greatest possible effort in support of the Rotary Club's welcome proposal.

On 20th September 1940 a public meeting was held to set up an organisation to raise the necessary £5,000 which was the cost of production of a Spitfire fighter aircraft. It is reported that there was a large attendance, which included members of many organisations and industrial concerns. The Member of Parliament for Stone, Sir Joseph Lamb, took the chair. It was moved and agreed that "the suggestion of Stone Rotary Club should be adopted and a fund started". The Directors of John Joule and Sons had met that day and had decided to start the fund with 100 guineas. A Spitfire Fund Management Committee was then elected with the following as officers:

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| President: | Sir Joseph Lamb, M.P. |
| Chairman: | T. A. Beardsmore, OBE. |
| Secretary: | S. C. Blood. |
| Treasurer: | Capt. P. Pollard, MBE. |

The two district council chairmen were to be joint vice-chairmen of the committee. It will be noted that the chairman, secretary and treasurer all held equivalent offices in the Rotary Club of Stone.

It should be remembered that the sum of £5,000 was a very considerable one to raise in those days. It represented ten times the annual salary of many professional people and would have purchased a whole row of semi-detached houses! The appeal got off the ground quickly. The Rotary Club, small though it was, gave an initial donation itself of £100. The Rural District Council Chairman donated a set of silver maundy money to be sold in aid of the fund. Lotus Ltd gave £100, plus a promise to back every £1 raised by its employees with a further £1. Within a month the fund had passed the £1,000 mark. Area sub-committees were set to work to raise money in the rural parishes, including the four ward committees that were formed in Eccleshall. Sports clubs too arranged events to raise money. There was even a "sherry dansant" in aid of the fund at the Crown Hotel. Schools joined in. Musical and dramatic performances were organised. An auction alone raised £250 and, in due course by the end of the summer of 1941, the target of £5,000 was achieved with a final donation from a generous anonymous donor.

At the final meeting of the Spitfire Management Committee it was decided that the aircraft should be named "Star of Stone". The cheque for £5,000 was handed over the following week to Sir Joseph Lamb M.P., representing the Minister for Air, by the chairman of the Spitfire committee and President of Stone Rotary Club, Mr T. A. Beardsmore. An R.A.F trumpet fanfare was played to mark the opening of the presentation ceremony at which Sir Joseph Lamb uttered a warning against wishful thinking in regard to the war and eulogised the Russian army and people for the magnificent stand they were making. Two months later an Anglo-Soviet Friendship Committee was formed in Stone

The end of the story of Stone's Spitfire was however to be a sad one. In September 1942 a plaque was presented for display in the Stone R.D.C. offices, on behalf of the Minister for Aircraft Production, to commemorate the raising of the money, but the occasion was tinged with sadness, for news had been received only on the previous morning that the Star of Stone had failed to return from a sweep over occupied France and that the pilot, a Norwegian, had been killed.

With its small band of members all individually involved in various capacities in the war effort, the Rotary Club managed to keep going quietly but purposefully throughout 1942 and 1943 — perhaps by now beginning to think about what would lie ahead when peace returned. In the meantime the many changes brought by the war were increasingly apparent in the Stone area. War casualties were now being reported more frequently and several local families, including those of Rotarians, were being touched by those resulting from the increased scale of the fighting, especially in North Africa, Italy and Burma. The town itself was now much more affected by the growing concentration of United States troops in nearby camps, especially in the Swynnerton — Yarnfield — Eccleshall area. Rotarians were personally involved in offering hospitality in their homes to American servicemen. In 1942 it was reported that a United States padre had joined local clergy at the annual Remembrance Day service, while at Christmas U.S. Forces entertained local children at Christmas parties in their camps in return for the hospitality extended to them by local people. An innovation of a different kind was the opening in the Market Square of a "British Restaurant" where cheap simple meals could be bought. It was opened by the Chairman of the Urban District Council and was to be operated by Lady Johnson's band of volunteer helpers. There was again no increase in Stone's rates in 1942, apparently because of a profit from the sale of iron railings to the Ministry of Works, but the local press reported a financial crisis at Port Vale Football Club which was said to be in danger of being disbanded.

T. A. Beardsmore's two-year tenure of office as Club President (1940-42) was followed by another two-year stint by Mr Robert H. Carr. Under his leadership the club made a special effort to increase its membership, and this it did very significantly during the Rotary year 1943-44, when no fewer than twelve new members were introduced, virtually doubling the club in size. By the time Mr Carr handed over to Mr L. C. Pitts in mid-1944 the membership stood at a much healthier twenty-four. As a result, the club was now able to organise itself more meaningfully on a committee basis and to begin to plan for its post-war future, though two hard years of world conflict had still to run. One local committee, not organised by Rotary but viewed with much sympathy by

the club, concerned itself with local North Staffordshire boys who were prisoners of war: by the end of 1945 there were no fewer than 45 of these — 36 in Germany and 9 in Japanese hands (according to a report at that time in the Staffordshire Advertiser).

By late 1944 however it became apparent that the end of the war was at least on the horizon, and local news items reflected the fact that people were becoming more and more involved in planning for peace. Education was about to undergo a great upheaval, following the passing by parliament of the 1944 Education Act, and it was in September 1944 that girls were admitted for the first time to Alleyne's Grammar School which, thereby, doubled its number of pupils on roll. In November the Stone Gramophone Society held its first meeting, while during the following month occurred the foundation of the Stone Music Festival.

The ending of hostilities in the summer of 1945 roughly coincided with the beginning of a new Rotary year, and Mr Stanley Blood took over from Mr Louis Pitts as our first peacetime president for over six years. The club set about concerning itself with the welfare of the youth in the area and joined in an effort to form a Stone Central Boys' Club that was being supported by leaders of the churches, schools and community centre, as well as by Rotarians.

At the end of May 1946, a year after the end of the war in Europe, the Club, as usual held its Annual General Meeting at the Crown Hotel and elected the following officers for the following year:

President: Pedr Pollard; Vice-president: W H. Griffiths; Hon. secretary: C. J. Parsons; Hon. treasurer: G. D. Insley. The club council's six additional members included four of the club's original founders. No fewer than four Honorary Members were elected: the Hon. Hugh Fraser M.P., Sir Ernest Johnson, Mr R. F. Goodill and Mr L. Jones. One of the first acts of the Club in this new Rotary year was to assist with and support the setting up of an Inner Wheel Club in Stone.

In December 1946 the Stone Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs held a joint Dinner at the Crown Hotel. There was almost a full attendance of members of both clubs and among the guests were Mrs Louis Taylor (Chairman of No 6 District, Inner Wheel) and members of the Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and Uttoxeter Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs. During the evening a badge of office was presented to Mrs L. C. Pitts, Founder President of the Stone Inner Wheel Club. The badge, which was the gift to the Inner Wheel Club of the Stone Rotarians was presented by Club President Pedr Pollard. Both clubs were now well and truly launched to face the challenges of the post-war years and to begin the happy partnership that has continued so smoothly and efficiently to this day.

Mixed Fortunes: A Trough and a Recovery

The minutes of Club Council meetings in November and December 1948 were largely taken up with worries over attendance. Certainly there was some talk of a social function but it was felt that, because dances were, at the moment, poorly attended in Stone, it would be better to have a Get Together with Inner Wheel sometime in the new year; but attendance and membership were far more pressing matters.

The list of members attached to the above minutes shows a membership of twenty-six, only thirteen of which have the required attendance of 60% or more — and six of whom are down to 30%; so it is easy to see the cause for concern. Yet in July the new Rotary year seemed to be an optimistic time and there seemed to be a vigour about the club. The conduct of weekly meetings was carefully set out in detail. Thus, lunch was to conclude at 1.15; business to take five minutes; the speaker's host was to be named one month in advance and to sit on the speaker's right. The charity box was to be passed round to members only. It was also decided that the club business should be conducted at Club Council meetings which would be held bi-monthly

It is surprising, then, to find that five months later, the club was in despondent mood with things apparently getting worse. There had obviously been an upsetting discussion over the resignation, because of their attendance, of two long-standing Rotarians, who were practically founder members. To make matters worse, the meals at lunch-time were being criticised and the club seemed to be carrying out little in the way of charity work. However, by June 1949, a new charity box had been provided, a levy made on the members to meet the club's contribution to the £10,000 needed by Rotary Boys' House at Weston-super-mare. Even the lunches had improved and the winter of gloom had turned into a summer of gladness.

When reading minutes of long ago, we are, of course, very much in the hands of the secretary. He is not giving a verbatim report, but a short report on each important matter raised at the meeting. Moreover the main aim at the time of writing was to jog the memories of members at the next meeting, rather than to write a flowing historical record for the benefit of future readers. It is therefore possible that the wrong interpretation could be placed on the minutes relating to a visit by the R.I.B.I. President, which seems to have taken place in December 1949. There must have been some pleasure in hosting the R.I.B.I. President and his entourage, but it is not recorded. The only matters that the club seems to have discussed were:

- (1) They had a deficit of £17 as a result of the visit;
- (2) there had been some confusion in seating visitors, which had been caused in part, it was said, by the Inner Wheel inviting clubs when they should not have done so!
- (3) The Rotary Clubs of Uttoxeter, Stafford, Rugeley, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Cheadle (newly formed) and Tamworth were represented, along with the Inner Wheel Clubs of Cannock, Stoke-on-Trent, Uttoxeter and Stafford.

At the same meeting of Club Council it was agreed that the club should make no resolution at the Bournemouth conference concerning the decision to separate the Inner Wheel and Rotary conferences.

Most of the year 1950 was taken up by club domestic matters. The £17 deficit of the R.I.B.I. President's visit helped to cause a debt at the Bank in the general account of £23.15.9. The club therefore arranged an overdraft of £50 and remained in debt until April 1951. Subscriptions were raised to three guineas in July 1950 to help to clear the debt.

At this time meetings were held on Wednesdays but this was proving to be unsatisfactory for many members. After discussions over a period of two months the decision was made to hold meetings on Mondays and to move from the Crown Hotel, whose revised quotation was regarded as too high, to Thomson's Half-way House Café. This arrangement began in July 1950 but by January 1951 complaints were being made about the change. In response to further complaints the Club Council held special meetings in July and August, 1951 and arrangements were subsequently made to return to the Crown Hotel, where the charge for luncheon was to be six shillings. Some Rotarians felt that they could not afford this and it was therefore decided to hold luncheon meetings on the second and fourth Mondays in the month only, the other meetings being timed to start at 7.30 pm. It was not stated what form these evening meetings were to take. At the time of this confusion it was also decided to hold the Annual Dinner at the Filleybrooks Hotel at a cost of 10/6d.

This half-and-half arrangement for meetings did not last very long. In April 1952 the meeting arrangements were changed so that the first Monday in every month should be an evening business meeting and the rest held at lunch-time. It was at this time that the decision was taken to hold Club Council meetings on the last Tuesday in every month. From now on there are two sets of minutes every month — council and business meetings — and they are largely a duplication. It is important to note that the change was brought about by a feeling of pessimism in the club about its lack of direction and activity — a feeling which had caused it to invite the Vice-Chairman North to a meeting. He is reported as saying that things were not as bad as the Rotarians thought, but it was from this meeting that the meeting pattern was changed, the hope being that a greater involvement by members would lead to greater activity.

During the period 1949-52 the club had, of course, engaged in numerous activities worthy of report: the regular toasting of overseas clubs, the hosting of overseas students at luncheon meetings, help with the British Leprosy Fund Appeal and assistance with the establishment of a chapel at the Kibblestone Scout Camp. But, at the same time, we read reports of Stone having the poorest attendance in the District, that inter-club visiting was regarded as difficult because of the shortage of petrol, and hear of at least one unsuccessful attempt to arrange a "social function". It does not seem surprising therefore that the Vice-Chairman North should have been called in to give advice: his restrained comments might seem to have been tactful, to say the least.

There was a flurry of activity following the changed format of the meetings, and in many ways this would seem to have marked a change in the fortunes of the club. From now on the overall trend was to be upward.

Interesting minor domestic considerations continue to appear in the minutes. The luncheon table was to be set in a T shape and members, in an attempt to facilitate business, were to experiment by paying beforehand for lunch at the hotel cash desk.

By November 1952 support had been given to Rotary Boys' House, a collection had been made for the Lynmouth Disaster Fund and further support extended to the British Leprosy Fund. A Fellowship student was invited to the Annual Dinner and the international committee would invite other foreign students in the area to attend meetings of the club. President C. E. Calveley said, however, that he was concerned about a comparative lack in community service and it was arranged that the club should visit patients in Trent Hospital on a regular basis and to help with the Old People's Birthday Party.

The visits to Trent Hospital, which had featured in varying degrees in Stone Rotary Club's community service since its foundation, now continued with efficiency and smoothness and worked well for Trent Hospital, as it did for Stone Rotary, despite problems with a few Rotarians who found visiting on a rota basis difficult. Money was allocated to provide cigarettes and sweets which, early in 1953, cost £2 per month, recorded in the accounts as "comforts for Trent". A piano was transferred to the hospital from Alleyne's Grammar School and in March 1953 it was decided to send birthday cards to all patients (cards were then purchased from Lewis's in Hanley at 6d each). Some help was also extended to Groundslow and Standon Hospitals, though they were regarded as being "rather far away to help", but Trent Hospital remained favoured and, in due course, it was to be on Rotary's initiative (as will be recorded in our next chapter) that the League of Hospital Friends was set up in Stone.

On, perhaps, a lighter note, it has to be recorded that a dance at that time, organised jointly with the Inner Wheel Club, ran into a few problems. By November 3rd 1952 the Inner Wheel had sold 70 tickets for the dance, which was to take place later in the month, and the Rotary Club only two. Even worse, no Rotarian would volunteer to blow up the balloons! One gets a feeling that relations between the two clubs had become strained, though the Rotary Club duly received its share of the profit — the sum of £24.10s. At a later meeting the proposal that a letter of thanks be sent to the Inner Wheel Club was first met by the question, had Inner Wheel written a letter of thanks to Rotary. The proposal was then half-heartedly passed by nine votes to six with seven members abstaining. (We rejoice in the excellent relations with Inner Wheel of to-day!)

It is interesting to see how the club responded well to incidents and events of the moment. A donation was sent in January 1953 to the Stone U.D.C's Coronation Appeal while the following month a similar response was made to the East Coast Floods Disaster Fund. The latter was then followed up in March by an imaginative idea. It was then proposed to host a party of Dutch boys whose lives had been affected by the gales and storms and to give them and their families some respite from difficult times. It proved very easy to raise the money for their entertainment. One generous donation quickly arrived from the staff of the Lotus shoe factory and during Coronation week the Lotus staff were out and about with their collection boxes. There had been whist and bridge drives (held at the District Bank) and dances: the result was a sum of £100 very soon collected in.

In fact the major difficulty had been to get hold of some Dutch boys. The machinery of Rotary clanged and clanked and finally introduced Stone to the Rotary Club of Goes in Holland. In due course the Dutch club sent a party of twelve boys to Stone. A grand lunch was held in the Harding Room at the Crown Hotel at which officials from Lotus, members of the teenager club at Beatty Hall, the Boys' Brigade, the Head Boy and Head Girl from Alleyne's, and of course the members of Stone Rotary Club, met the Dutch boys — on 20th July 1953. There is no record in the club minutes of the entertainment provided for the boys. Indeed the only item commented on was a proposal to take the boys on a visit to London on the Sunday (Rotarian Reg Bassett had, very typically, offered to do this free of charge) on their journey home. However, the Dutch boys were strict sabbatarians and did not wish to do this. The visit by the Dutch boys was certainly a success — and the memory of it seems to have stayed with the club. The efficiency of the planning and of the hosting of the boys owes much to the hard work of Rotarian J. A. Britton then chairman of International Service in the club.

In June 1955 an exchange of boys from Stone was arranged with Liverpool Rotary Club. Thirty boys and two teachers from Liverpool, accompanied by four Rotarians, visited Stone and were paired off with fifteen boys from St. Dominic's R.C. School and fifteen from the Stone Secondary Modern School. Rotarian Tom Wilson, on whose initiative the exchange visit took place, and Rotarian R. Hazell accompanied the twenty-nine boys from Stone on their visit to Liverpool, which was to include a tour of a ship.

At this time the concept of youth exchange as a way of spreading international understanding was certainly in the air. A Rotary international youth camp at Nash Court, near Tenbury Wells, was held in the summer of 1955 and proved to be such a success that it was decided by District to make it an annual event. The Stone club supported this venture wholeheartedly and annually sponsored a Stone boy at the camp (usually the Head Boy at Alleyne's: this was in the age range favoured by the organisers) and also offered each year hospitality to boys from abroad (usually for a week or a fortnight prior to the camp) — an arrangement that continued until the camp ceased to be held many years later.

In 1955, at the beginning of Tom Wilson's first stint as President (he was also to be club president in 1973-74), the club's international service committee announced that its major effort would be the hosting, in the summer of 1956, of a dozen or so Danish boys (in the fifties there was no confusion about sexual equality!) Dances, whist drives, jumble sales and another bridge drive at the District Bank house, as well as a generously supported collection among the Lotus factory staff, brought in the money needed for the project, and there certainly does not appear to have been any difficulty in obtaining the required number of Danish boys. The club seems, however, to have made life more difficult for itself by trying to work with other Rotary clubs. It invited clubs from quite far afield in Merseyside and the Midlands to join with us in the project but most of them indicated little or no interest. Nevertheless, in the end, Liverpool, Whitchurch and Leamington helped us with the entertaining and hosting of the twelve Danish boys, who arrived in July 1956 for what turned out to be a very enjoyable visit.

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The success of the Danish boys' visit was yet another example of the club's ability to respond to a worthwhile challenge or project, and is further evidence that by the mid-1950s the club was recovering from the trough in which it found itself in the early part of that decade. Yet only a short time previously, at the October business meeting in 1953, after club attendance had sunk to a miserable average of 58%, the Club Council had felt it necessary to put before the club the following resolution: "that the Council is deeply concerned with members' attendance record and the continued reduction in membership, and proposes that ways and means of promoting Rotary in an effective and positive manner should be the chief item for discussion at the next business meeting". The discussion took place and some frank comments were made, one Rotarian being particularly outspoken in reminding fellow members that "Rotary is a service organisation and service sometimes hurts". In studying the minute-book one does come to the conclusion that from that time on, and especially following the recruitment of some new members, the re-emergence of a lively and quite remarkably active club commenced.

By the Spring of 1954 the club had organised a highly successful Stone and District Craft and Careers

Exhibition, which resulted in a profit to the club of £63 and had 2,153 visitors over two days. At its annual meeting in May of that year the President felt that the club had had a good year and made special mention of the work of Rotarians Wilford and Britton. But, even so, the club remained at the bottom of the District Attendance League!

In view of this poor showing in its attendance record, one can therefore imagine the delight felt by members of the club a year later, when it heard that it had been runner-up in 1955 for the Elkes Cup, the trophy awarded by the District for the most improved attendance. Things were really getting much better!

So now the pressing problem seemed to be the need to increase the club's membership. In June 1956 the Vice-Chairman North, on a visit to the club, said that the District was still concerned about Stone's small membership, but he appears to have left convinced of the enthusiasm of the club's existing members.

Soon, however, Stone Rotary Club was to be called upon to respond to an international crisis — and this it did magnificently, as will be told in our next chapter.

The Club Comes of Age

By 1957, despite the problems of immediate post-war years, the Rotary Club of Stone had undoubtedly established itself well in the eyes of the Rotary District, of neighbouring clubs and — probably most important of all — in the eyes of the local community. It had now again become a remarkably active club, considering its continued small size, and seemed more than willing to accept the challenges of the time. Sometimes it expressed its ideal of service by taking direct action to help when needed, but from time to time it felt that it could act more effectively by “priming the pump”; thereby encouraging a continuity of help that might otherwise have been beyond the club’s resources. A good example of this latter course of action was to be seen in the setting up of the League of Hospital Friends, which in its early stages concentrated on giving help to Trent Hospital but also later embraced St. Mary’s Home in Stone.

The club, ever since its foundation, had been active in its service to Trent Hospital, particularly following the development of Trent as a geriatric hospital providing residential and day care. Monthly visits to patients, regular gifts of “sweets and smokes”, birthday cards, the provision of extra comforts, help with Christmas parties, outings and other similar activities had all been features of the club’s community service programme for years. In October 1956, however, a new League of Hospital Friends was formed with its own committee drawn widely from the Stone community, to take over and coordinate many of these interests in the interest of the patients and of the staff who cared for them. Undoubtedly Rotary had played a big part in the initiative that led up to this development, and here one must make particular mention of Stone Rotarian L. J. Broster, then welfare officer at the Post Office College at Yarnfield and chairman of the club’s community service committee. In due course, following Mr Broster’s retirement, it was his successor at the college and a later club president, Charles Pilcher, who continued to be similarly active on Rotary’s behalf in this field. It has subsequently been rewarding to see the League flourish and for us to recall that Rotary played an important and significant part in its formation. Incidentally within three months the newly-formed League had installed three television sets at Trent Hospital, a first stage in its objective of equipping all wards and day rooms in this way. At this time also, and in conjunction with the Inner Wheel, the Rotary Club also provided another hospital, Standon Orthopaedic, with a portable altar for religious services.

Following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal by President Nasser of Egypt, and the subsequent Franco-British intervention in the area in 1956, a large number of Anglo-Egyptian evacuees arrived in England and were housed temporarily at Drake Hall near Eccleshall and within the area served by Stone Rotary Club. This posed an immediate and urgent problem for the club and caused it to set up a special committee of its own, chaired by Tom Wilson and generally referred to as “the evacuee committee” in the club’s minutes. One of its first acts was to provide the evacuees with a television set, important as a means of keeping the evacuees informed about events in what to many of them was very strange environment, as well as being a source of entertainment. The provision of items of clothing, other help in kind, hospitality, advice on educational matters and job

opportunities all caused strain on the resources of the club which consequently decided to set up its own special appeal fund for the evacuees. News of this appeal seems to have spread far and wide for, in the Stone Guardian of 25th May 1957 Sirius was able to report that the club had received two surprising gifts: one from the Rotary Club of Weymouth “with no strings attached except the strings that bind us together in Rotary”; and one from the Weymouth Inner Wheel Club “because the news had spread about Stone’s appeal”. It was reported in the press by the end of September 1957 that Drake Hall was empty of evacuees from Egypt but some appear to have remained, housed at Frobisher Hall in Swynnerton.

The needs of the Egyptian evacuees, pressing though they were, do not however appear to have deflected the club from coping with its other and recurring service demands. Indeed, reporting on a Rotary Dance held in March 1957 at the Lotus Hall in Stone in aid of “club charities” (and incidentally with music provided by Rotarian Reg Bassett and his Band), the Stone Guardian stressed that “although the club is devoting a considerable amount of time at the moment to assisting evacuees from Egypt, the normal activities are not being neglected and plans are already being made to send four boys from the town, who would not normally get a holiday, to the seaside for a fortnight.” The reference was, of course, to the Rotary Boys’ House at Weston-super-mare.

On a lighter note, it is interesting to see that in 1957 the club was indulging, yet again, in one of its perennial discussions about meeting times and arrangements. The minutes, unfortunately, are ambiguous about what was actually being proposed, but it is clearly recorded that the resolution — whatever it was — was defeated by 12 votes to 5! One rather extraordinary press report in March 1957 records that the club had had a luncheon speaker who had lived in China “as a Chinaman, even eating the same food as the natives”: obviously the present day popularity of Chinese food in this country had not been foreseen at that time.

Some interesting aspects of International Service were reported in 1957 in addition to the assistance extended to the evacuees from Egypt already mentioned. Regular correspondence with overseas clubs took place following the custom, which seems to have continued for almost two decades well into the 1970s, of toasting a Rotary club abroad, the selection being made each week by individual members on a rota basis. An international luncheon was held, the six overseas guests being students at the Post Office College and the Malayan Teacher Training College. Two teenage children of Stone Rotarians went on visits to Denmark in August — a reciprocal visit for that involving the hosting of twelve Danish boys by the club in June 1956. Probably the most enterprising project of all however was the making of a film to depict the life of Stone and its surrounding area with a commentary on tape, the script for which was to be written by Tom Wilson. Reg Palmer, chairman of International Service, was in charge of the project with Dr Lew Warren and Bill Wainwright as photographers. In the event it transpired that a collection of colour slides was easier to produce and these were sent abroad, with the commentary, to be circulated among Rotary clubs,

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especially in North America. From time to time, well into the 1960s, letters came back to Stone from the recipient clubs, expressing interest in and appreciation of the project. Eventually however the correspondence stopped and we had to assume that the slides and tape had been lost somewhere in transit. Even so, many overseas clubs learned quite a lot about our town and its Rotary Club, and it was generally agreed that this had been a thoroughly worthwhile project.

Soon after his year as president, C. M. Wilford (generally known as Mac) announced that he would be leaving Stone on his retirement as transmission section engineer at Meaford Power Station. The son of a former New Zealand High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, he decided to live in the West Indies where, he hoped that he might be able to encourage the development of Rotary. As will be reported later in this chapter, he was able to play a significant role in this.

Mac Wilford was succeeded as president by Len Harvey. The great activity of the previous Rotary year had made heavy demands on him as Mac's vice-president but his own year continued in the same busy way. It was his pleasant duty also to represent Stone Rotary Club at the Charter Night in the autumn of 1957 of the newly formed Round Table. It was his privilege to toast the National Association of Round Tables, to which the President of Stone Round Table, Peter Boden, replied.

At its pre-Christmas luncheon meeting in 1957 the club's guest speaker was Norman Wainwright, the Olympic swimmer. Councillor Frank Jordan, Chairman of the Stone Urban District Council, also attended. Inevitably the matter of the provision of a swimming bath for Stone again cropped up. Mr Jordan said the matter had been discussed but shelved for the time being by the Council. Mr Wainwright urged the provision of a 25 metres indoor heated pool: anything else would be unsatisfactory and at all costs an open-air pool should be resisted. A dozen years later the type of pool he suggested was to become a reality with the provision of such a swimming bath in the new sports centre at Alleyne's when the school was recognised as comprehensive high school.

Stone Rotary Club also engaged in a very useful piece of vocational service in 1958 by sponsoring and arranging an ambitious Crafts and Careers Exhibition at Alleyne's Grammar School which, incidentally, celebrated that year the four hundredth anniversary of its foundation. At that time, mainly because the club's membership was so small, community service and vocational service were combined in one committee but that did not mean that the club was in any way inactive in either field. Also in 1958 two Finnish boys and one from the Irish Republic were received for a week of pre-Nash Court hospitality and arrangements were in hand to welcome a party of German girls. As usual four local boys were sent for a holiday at Rotary Boys' House.

Stone, as a town, changed in one fundamental respect on 1st February 1958 for it was on that date that Wednesday became our early closing day instead of Thursday.

Club Assembly appears to have been held unusually late in 1956 in October. Membership was continuing to present a real problem because of low numbers, records showing the following figures:

1957: 19 members (16 active, 3 additional active) plus 1 honorary member.

1958: 18 members (16 active, 2 additional active) plus 1 honorary member.

It is no wonder that Ted Pearse, the new president, launched a membership drive at his club assembly, setting a target of thirty members — a figure that was in fact not to be reached for many years.

One rather cryptic entry in the minute book made on 1st September 1958 reads as follows: "Mr President reported that the club's Charter had been found and was undergoing the process of reglazing". There must be a story behind that one!

At its business meeting at the beginning of March 1959 it was reported that "a reply had been received from District regretting that they did not feel able to accept our resolution re extension work in the West Indies but suggested that we forward a resolution direct to Rotary International on the subject". It was decided to adopt this course of action and that a copy should be sent to Mac Wilford. The quick response that we received to our letter to R.I. is impressive for, by the end of the month, the President was able to report the receipt of a letter from Rotary International acknowledging our resolution and stating that an extension officer had been appointed for the British West Indies. It appears that there was also another Rotarian, beside Mac, in Bridgetown, Barbados who was interested. R.I. also enclosed a copy of a letter from themselves to Mac Wilford asking him to take certain steps in the matter. It was noted with pleasure that our own small effort, in support of all that Mac was himself doing, was receiving some measure of success.

Nearer home the club was giving consideration to extending its community service into some new areas of need: the solitary elderly, the needy in outlying rural areas and the blind (especially those in the Barton Land Home for the Blind in Barlaston). By middle of 1959 the League of Hospital Friends had decided definitely to extend its work to include St. Mary's Home though the club felt that it should continue with its assistance to that particular residential home for some time to come. The club also began to think of ways in which it could lend support to World Refugee Year in 1960: but perhaps this will make a more appropriate beginning for our next chapter?

In fact 1959 did see a modest increase in membership which, by the end of the year had increased to twenty-two. It was during this year that three of our present members joined the club, namely Past Presidents Geoff Leese, Albert Holmes and Alan Woods. Consequently in this our 50th Anniversary year, they clock up ninety years of membership between them!

It was also in 1959 that the club decided to celebrate its Coming of Age. One could argue that its 21st Birthday did not really take place until 1960 but, influenced no doubt by some very senior members, it chose instead to celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of the interim club in 1938. This appears to have been done in some style with a Club Barbecue in Doc Warren's garden on 23rd May 1959 and a 21st Anniversary Dinner two days later at the Crown Hotel with the District Chairman, John Bowman as guest of honour. The decorative key from the birthday cake was very appropriately presented to Archie Beardsmore who retired that summer as headmaster of Alleyne's Grammar School and who, to date, is still the only Stone Rotarian to have had three terms of office as Club President.

The Middle Decade: The Sixties

The efficient dissemination of information is essential within a good Rotary Club. It is therefore important to record that it was during the presidency of Reg Palmer, Principal of the Post Office Telecommunications College at Yarnfield, that the Stone club began in 1959 its production of a monthly bulletin with Reg himself as its first editor. So began the tradition and continuity and excellence that has continued ever since.

Undoubtedly the official designation of 1960 as World Refugee Year tended strongly to influence the pattern of the club's activities during Reg Palmer's year, leading to a particular emphasis on international service. In January 1960 a meeting was held in the old Town Hall, instigated by concerned local persons, notably Mrs Jane Waley of Oulton Rocks, with the strong support of Rotary, to discuss plans for local action in support of World Refugee Year. At the meeting a Stone and District Refugee Committee was established "with the immediate project of housing a refugee family in Stone". President Reg Palmer, Laurie Harrison and Alan Woods joined the committee as representatives of the Stone Rotary Club.

With the helpful support of Stone Urban District Council a council house was earmarked for the refugee family, and a concentrated effort began to gather together furniture and other household equipment. By the end of June 1960 most of the furniture needed had been collected and placed in temporary store. On 10th December 1960 the family arrived and moved into its new home. This did not mean that the work of the committee was at an end however, as there were other tasks to be attempted in helping our family to settle — not least our gallant efforts to teach rudimentary English to older members of the family, who spoke only Polish and Lithuanian. We quickly found that we had received in Stone a very likeable and friendly family that deserved to be made welcome in its new home: we hope and believe that we succeeded in our aim.

Other interesting aspects of international service were also recorded during 1960. One was a marked improvement in the number of replies from overseas clubs in response to our weekly international toasts. This was greatly helped by our use of the club's resources to write our letters in the recipient club's own language whenever we could. Among the many interesting and appreciative letters were those from Sétif (Algeria), Stoneville (South Africa), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Benavides (Texas, USA), Asti (Italy), and Västervik (Sweden), which indicated that we were certainly wide-ranging in our choice. One of the strangest events was when one Rotarian, intending we thought, to toast the Rotary Club of Monte Carlo (Monaco), decided somehow to toast instead its namesake, the tiny club with only fifteen members of Monte Carlo in the remote Gran Chaco region of Argentina. They must have been astonished to hear from us but responded magnificently by sending us, along with their friendly and warmly phrased letter, a box of yerba mate (Paraguayan tea), their chief local product. This the management of the Crown Hotel agreed to brew for us instead of our customary coffee after lunch: there cannot be many Rotarians in R.I.B.I. who have gone back to work in the afternoon on a "cuppa yerba mate". 1960 also saw two daughters of Stone Rotarians visiting Finland on youth

exchange while, later in the year, our Past President Ted Pearse visited the Rotary Club of Big Flats, New York, only to discover that they had seen and much appreciated our slides and tape on Stone.

Harry Hammersley's year as President (1960-61) saw the club carrying out a wide range of its traditional activities. At Christmas Rotarians arranged social evenings and drinks at Tittensor Manor and the Barton Land Home for the Blind, and a gallant group of members spent a memorable time distributing thirty Christmas parcels in outlying parishes during a snow blizzard on what was undoubtedly the worst night of the winter. Youth exchange continued to be active, two daughters of Rotarians visiting Denmark, while a party of six Swedish youngsters spent five days in Stone in July. The club minutes also reveal that there were some interesting minor domestic decisions made in 1961, including the following: menu cards for Ladies Evening were to be printed for the first time; the charge for the Dinner on Ladies Evening was to go up to seventeen shillings per head; Rotarians were to be invited to pay twelve shillings per head in addition to their annual subscription in order to provide their wives with birthday flowers — and it was decided to continue to meet at the Crown Hotel despite the allegedly inadequate ventilation of the old Oak Room (too much hot air, possibly?).

At the beginning of the 1961-62 Rotary year in July Dr Lew Warren was installed as President and immediately announced that there would be a drive to improve attendance. This was certainly to be successful, for, a year later, we were again awarded the Elkes Cup for the most improved attendance in the District. At the same Assembly the club accepted with regret the resignation of Edgar Elphee, secretary for the past four years, who was moving from Stone. Laurie Harrison (1961-63) and Sid Moorhouse (1963-64) succeeded him, but it was Edgar's successor as Postmaster in Stone, George Wilson who, in due course, was to take over the secretaryship for a record continuous spell of seven years (1964-71) before we lost him to the Cannock club. (Paddy Pharaoh holds the overall record of nine years as club secretary but he enjoyed a break of five years between his two terms of office). It was also at this time that Charles Pilcher was nominated to be a member of the District Community Service Committee — a membership of District committees that he retained for many years.

Lew Warren's year was a dynamically busy one, with involvement in a wide range of projects, including help with the setting up of a physically handicapped club in Stone, transporting visiting relatives to see patients at the City General and North Staffordshire Hospitals, distributing parcels and coal to the needy elderly, as well as active support for the swimming bath project (which had again reared its head) and for the Meals-on-Wheels service. There were numerous money raising efforts: a Bring and Buy sale in October, a Fur and Feather whist drive at Tittensor, dances in the Tittensor village hall and at Drake Hall Prison (for the prison officers and their friends, organised by Rotarian Glyn Griffiths, the Governor) and a very successful fashion show at the Lotus Hall attended by 350 people. "Blaster" Bates was the guest speaker at Ladies Evening, the price for which was reduced by one shilling to 16/-

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this year (oh, for the return of nil inflation!) Club members and their ladies had a summer evening outing to see the "new road" (i.e. the M6) and another to tour the now-vanished Shelton Iron and Steel works. Three children of Rotarians went abroad on youth exchange. Another Anglo-Malayan luncheon was held. Three Rotarians hosted overseas boys attending the Nash Court camp. And attendance in May soared above the 91% mark!

The clubs minutes in 1961-62 contain two particularly interesting references:

"Letters were read from Marksville and Arlington Rotary Clubs in the U.S.A. in response to our international toasts. Arlington goes on record as saying that the letter from Stone had been sent to Colonel John Glenn for his files".

"The Blackpool Conference: the feeling among members who attended was that it was a splendid week-end, the hotel had been excellent but the speeches mediocre." (The writers of minutes pulled no punches in those days!)

Some minor domestic matters cropped up early in 1963. The club moved from the old Oak Room into the Jervis Bar at the Crown for its luncheon meetings; the circulation of a charity box at luncheon was discontinued, and the proposal to raise the annual subscription to six pounds was defeated, five guineas being accepted as adequate.

R. A. Smith (Reg) began his presidential year in July 1962. Hardworking and charmingly unassuming, he quite typically placed his emphasis on a wide ranging service to the community to which the club responded well. Reg's wife Gladys was also President of the Inner Wheel Club at the same time and their joint term of office began with a church service at the Congregational Church in Stone, conducted by the minister, the Rev Gwylim Williams, himself a Rotarian and a member of the Stone club. This appropriate act of dedication at the beginning of the Rotary year, in conjunction with the Inner Wheel, has continued annually ever since. Club minutes indicate a great diversity of activities: continued support for Rotary Boys' House (four Stone boys sent in 1962-63), parcels and coal for the elderly, help with the old folks' parties, a drivers rota of Rotarians for the physically handicapped, the provision of easy chairs for the patients at Yarnfield Hospital, the collection of books for the English Speaking Union to send overseas, a carol concert for the elderly at Christmas. The club embarked on a series of industrial visits — to the Shell Oil Refinery, Stourbridge Glass and Joules' Cellars. Nor was international service neglected, the club extending pre-camp hospitality to four Nash Court boys from abroad, sending three Rotarians' daughters on youth exchange to Norway and Finland, and also holding the now customary annual Anglo-Malayan luncheon. A dance in aid of Rotary Boys' House was organised and money was also raised for World Hunger Year. Furthermore £100 was set aside for the Stone Swimming Bath Fund — an effort which was made redundant in due course by the swimming provision at Alleyne's. In January 1963 attendance to date was reported as being 2.4% up on the previous year, when the club had won the Elkes Cup.

In the winter of 1962-63 the club again showed its ability to respond and effectively to urgent need. The plight of a destitute family living in near-Dickensian conditions of great privation in a nearby rural parish was brought to the club's attention. Blankets, groceries, coal, wood and a water supply were arranged immediately;

work was found for one of the older children and, when a council house was provided by the local authority for the family, the club helped to provide the necessary furniture.

It is not surprising that, when Charles Pilcher, a welfare officer by profession, became president for 1963-64, the club's wide-ranging community service activities continued. Club minutes show however that new ventures in international and vocational service were also tried. As part of R.I.'s world-wide club twinning initiative Stone was to be teamed up with the club at Scotsdale in Tasmania. Rotarian George Scott was appointed contact man, and a greetings cable was sent to Scotsdale for its Charter Night in September 1963. Alas, distance proved too great an obstacle for us, though some individual members did make contact with their opposite numbers in Tasmania. Much nearer home the club ran a very successful essay competition for children in local schools. There were 224 entries in the three age groups and judging was carried out by Ron Sutton, vice-principal of the County of Stafford Teacher Training College at Madeley, who commented on the high standard of the entries. Prizes of book tokens were presented to the winners by the club's vice-president Geoff Leese at a special ceremony at the Congregational Church Hall.

In the later part of 1963 the club again indulged itself in its perennial debate about meeting times and arrangements. Under the heading of Club Service the minutes of Club Council for 1st October recorded: "Geoff Leese, reporting on the suggestion of a change in the club's meeting times, said that this matter had now been discussed by his committee. The Attendance Officer had shown by statistics that evening meetings had always been badly attended pro rata, and that this together with the added cost of an evening meal, precluded their recommending any change at this stage. There appeared to be a 10% lower attendance at evening meetings compared with luncheon meetings." However, at the club's business meeting the following week, members do not seem to have been entirely satisfied and the minutes stated that "upon discussion and following a proposal by Tom Wilson, it was decided that further thought by all members should be given to this subject, and that the Hon. Editor should publish alternatives, together with pros and cons in the next Bulletin." Despite all this the club passed a resolution "to keep meeting times as at present" a month later, though it is recorded that "Reg Smith asked that our normal luncheon meeting should be conducted more strictly on time."

"Reg Smith also featured in a fascinating short comment by Sirius in the Stone Guardian in January 1964:

"Christmas has come and gone, with Stone Rotary Club having involved itself in its usual round of social service — parcels, coal, cakes and carols and so on. But one good deed has had a curious rebound. The Rotary Club donated three guineas to the Lotus Club as a "thank you" for their frequent help in Rotary's community service. This sum was passed on to Reg Smith, head of the Lotus reconditioning division and last year's president of Rotary, to apply to some charitable fund. With his usual indefatigable energy, Reg, with the generous help of Lotus workers, turned the three guineas into £40 and sent it back to the Rotary Club with the request that it be used for old age pensioners in Stone. As the Editor of the Rotary Club Bulletin neatly puts it — how about that for inflation?"

By this time Stone Rotary Club's revival in the esteem of R.I.B.I. and of District 106 in particular seemed to be complete. At Ladies Evening, held at the Crown Hotel in March 1964, District Chairman Bernard Morris expressed the view that "although Stone Rotary Club has only 27 members, and is one of the smallest in the District, it does a magnificent job of work and is more active than some of the much larger clubs."

The Club now embarked on a series of highly successful money raising years, which not only reflected the purposeful nature of its activities but also, no doubt, the general affluence of the nineteen-sixties.

President Geoff Leese (1964-65) began his year by setting an awesome target for a small club: the raising within one year of enough money to purchase a minibus for the Stone Physically Handicapped Club. To this challenge the club responded magnificently. Record takings of over £200 came in from the first effort of the Rotary year — the Annual Bring and Buy Sale — and this despite its being held on Friday the 13th of November. Early in 1965 a Cheese and Wine Party at the Crown (to which we were pleased to welcome visitors from at least six neighbouring clubs) raised nearly the same amount. The Chairman of District 106, Percy Cuming, was guest of honour at Ladies Evening in March, an event which was quickly followed by a party, given by the club, for 250 old people at the Filleybrooks Hotel and at which the main feature was a concert by the Burton Police Black and White Minstrel Party. Next came a Charity Ball at the Crown Hotel, attended by 150 people, which raised a further £130 for Rotary Boys' House (the club had raised over £400 for this particular good cause in only two years). During the same month the club organised a Fashion Show at the Lotus Hall which was attended by a crowded audience of 250 ladies. Fashions were displayed by Marsden Bros. of Newcastle and Longton; there was also a display of floral art between the fashion parades. (Prices, incidentally, seemed amazingly low by to-day's standards: low budget dresses were quoted at under £4, while designer labels — Fenez and Madison Avenue were more expensive at around the £7 mark). Immediately after the fashion show it was announced that we had achieved our target and that the minibus was being purchased.

On 3rd May 1965 the vehicle, a twelve seater minibus, which had been on display in the Market Square all day on the previous Saturday, was duly presented to the Physically Handicapped Club's chairman, Ted Pearse (president of Stone Rotary Club 1958-59) by President Geoff Leese on behalf of the Rotary Club. It was stressed in the press at the time that this provision by the club had been regarded by the Rotarians as a separate project, and that their normal charitable work had not suffered in any way. As the Stone Guardian reported, during the year the twenty-five members of the club had raised over £1,000 for various charitable efforts.

Albert Holmes was installed as President in July 1965 and, at the same time, by a happy coincidence, his wife Evelyn became President of the Stone Inner Wheel. At the joint service at Tittensor Church, conducted by a fellow Rotarian, the Rev Jim Duxbury, the lessons were read by the two presidents. Despite the hectic activity of the previous Rotary year, at the Club Assembly Albert persuaded the club that its members still had enough energy left to raise money for another vehicle — this time an urgently needed new van for the Meals on Wheels

Service, to be presented jointly by Rotary and the Inner Wheel. Again a good start was made in the November at a well attended Bring and Buy Sale, features of which included a huge toy stall run by Rotarians Ray Hodgkinson and Alf Purton, and a bumper tombola with over 350 prizes organised by Lew Warren. Even the previous year's record takings were exceeded. Early in December a Fur and Feather Whist Drive was held by the club at the Tittensor Village Hall (an event that the writer, who was Albert's vice-president, will never forget!) Buses were provided to bring clients from Stone and other places: consequently it was extremely well attended. When the hall seemed absolutely full, yet another busload of people arrived. Even the stage and the kitchen were filled with players. Movement between hands in the game became something of an athletic feat, and supper was passed on plates over people's heads to the tables. But those attending appreciated the prizes that had been generously donated — turkeys, ducks, pheasants and chickens — and we were delighted with the takings.

In the New Year of 1966 the three main events were undoubtedly a Grand Charity Dance, held by the club in the ballroom at Trentham Gardens, with dancing to Reg Bassett and his Band, the usual Cheese and Wine Party (held jointly with the Inner Wheel) at the Crown Hotel, and Ladies Evening at the Crown at which the chief guests were Rotarian Don Pryor, vice-chairman North, and David Lockhart, a Rotary Foundation Fellow studying for the year at the University of Keele. The club also held a pleasantly informal function entirely for its own members, their wives and friends, which took the form of a Supper Dance in the Tittensor Village Hall which was gaily decorated with tables covered by coloured umbrellas.

The Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs achieved their joint target with time to spare. Albert and Evelyn were therefore able to make their final task, at the end of their year in office, the presentation of a new van to the Meals on Wheels Service Chairman, Councillor Phyl Hawley. Mrs E. Chamberlain, WRVS organiser and Councillor Frank Jordan, Chairman of the Stone U.D.C., were also in attendance. As he and his wife jointly presented the log book of the vehicle to Mrs Hawley, President Albert Holmes doubtless captured completely the meaning of the occasion in his brief speech, when he said:

"Some people regard charity as a thing of the past. They may feel this to be true and the joy of living and the joy of giving is lost on many people. But this is not true of the people of Stone and district who, by their support, time and effort, have enabled Stone Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs to make this presentation possible."

Yet again, "Sirius", writing in the Stone Guardian, turned his attention to the Rotary Club at the beginning of the new Rotary year in the summer of 1966 when he wrote:

"With the election of Alan Woods, headmaster of Alleyne's Grammar School, as President of the Stone Rotary Club for 1966-67 and George Scott, headmaster of Christ Church School, as vice-president, members of the club look as though they are in for an educational year. It is a long time since the club had a headmaster as president: never before have the two senior offices been filled by scholastic gentlemen.

Stone Rotary Club has a reputation for being one of the most lively and go-ahead clubs in the Midlands. It also

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has a reputation for being unpompous in a movement which sometimes tends to pomposity and stuffiness in spite of the tremendous good emanating from Rotary as a whole throughout the world. Perhaps this year the Stone club will have the distinction of the President administering six of the best to the more recalcitrant members, while the vice-president dishes out lines to the late-comers."

The 'scholastic partnerships' referred to above, continued during the presidential years of Alan Woods (1966-67) and George Scott (1967-68) in a somewhat novel way. Both felt that the club needed a little relaxation after its remarkably successful but demanding effort in providing two vehicles in successive years. Therefore, they decided to set a joint objective over a two-year period — to raise the money to finance the sending of a young person to work abroad under the Voluntary Service Overseas scheme. In 1965 the Head Boy at Alleyne's Grammar School, on leaving from the sixth form, had gone abroad for a year with V.S.O. to serve as a volunteer in the Solomon Islands. On his return the young man (Christopher Liley, now an Anglican clergyman) had addressed both the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs and impressed them greatly. With his example in mind, the club agreed to sponsor a volunteer to depart in 1968. The young man selected was another former Alleyne's boy, John Berrisford who spent his year on voluntary work in Pakistan. In those days the developing countries were keen to accept bright, mature eighteen-year old students, but in later years V.S.O. decided to take only the older graduates and skilled technicians that the third world countries by this time preferred.

Following his own vocational leanings, Alan Woods placed stress on youth during his year, paying particular attention to Rotary Boys' House and to children, as well as to the V.S.O. project. The Rev Arthur Jackson, a member of the Stone Rotary Club, conducted the joint Rotary and Inner Wheel service in July at Christ Church. A full year of activities followed, many of them being our now customary annual events: the Bring and Buy Sale at Christ Church School; an informal dance at the Filleybrooks Hotel in aid of Rotary Boys' House; entertainment evenings at Tittensor Manor and the Barton Land Home; monthly visits to Trent Hospital; a Cheese and Wine Party at the Crown in February, followed by another Charity Ball, mainly in aid of Rotary Boys' House, at Trentham Gardens in March — as well as Ladies Evening at the Crown Hotel on 10th March, at which the main guest speakers were the Bishop of Stafford, the Right Reverend R. C. Clitherow, and Rotarian Bernard Morris, Past Chairman of District 106 and an old friend of the Stone Club.

In autumn of 1966 President Alan Woods was approached by Mrs Mary Wenger of Aston to ask if the Rotary Club would assist her in carrying out a plan, that she had in mind, to take a large party of deserving children from Stone and district to a pantomime in Manchester early in the New Year. This became known, perhaps rather inevitably, as "the Pied Piper outing". When the club agreed to assist, Mrs Wenger kindly offered to hold an "at home" evening at Moat House, her Aston home, in aid of the outing and other Rotary charities — a delightful occasion that was held early in December 1966. On 10th January 1967 the scheme was put into effect, when 86 children left Stone to attend a performance of "Babes in the Wood" at the Palace

Theatre in Manchester. Mrs Wenger herself led the party and several Rotarians and their wives accompanied the children as 'sheepdogs' (for we had quickly realised that 86 children need careful shepherding). Rotary provided the coach transport; the cost of the tickets came largely from the proceeds of the 'at home' evening; Bents' Brewery provided sweets and lemonade; Woolworth's also gave the children sweets and chocolate — and a real and unexpected surprise awaited us at the Knutsford Service Station restaurant on the M6 on the return journey. There we found a reception party had been arranged for the children, who were provided with a meal of pie and chips, the cost of which was borne by the management and staff at the Knutsford Service Station who had taken a collection among themselves: a touching act of generosity that was much appreciated.

George Scott (1967-68) commenced his year of office, like his immediate predecessor, with the customary service of dedication, again to mark the start of a very busy Rotary year. The — by now — traditional fund-raising events included a Cheese and Wine Party at the Crown (these had become very popular functions in the 'sixties) and a bumper Bring and Buy Sale, held at the president's own school. By the end of George's year of office the club had easily achieved its two-year target needed to send a young man on Voluntary Service Overseas and, as planned, John Berrisford was able to leave for Pakistan. He gave a good account of himself when he came to address the club on his return; he had contributed much while he was abroad and had obviously gained in maturity and stature. In due course he forged a good career for himself in television and broadcasting with the B.B.C.

In scanning the records of George Scott's year, one is struck by the aptness of the speakers, slotted in by an efficient speakers' secretary (Jim Duxbury) at exactly the right time in the year. For example, we had a talk on the Staffordshire County Show just before it was held in May, a briefing on Christian Aid in Christian Aid Week, a talk on the Holy Land just before Easter and, particularly interesting in our recent local history, a talk by Mr. Harold Williams, Manager of Radio Stoke, a week or so before our local radio station went on the air for the first time in February 1968. We held another much appreciated "Black and White Minstrel Show" given by the Burton Police Concert Party at the Filleybrooks Hotel in March 1968, and this prompted a letter to the Stone Newsletter from the Chairman of the Stone Good Companions expressing "thanks to the Rotarians for giving so much pleasure to so many people". Also in March, Ladies' Evening was held at the Crown Hotel with dancing to Rotarian Reg Bassett and his Band. George Scott's chief guest speakers were Dr. Edwin Lewis, Principal of the North Staffordshire College of Technology (and later Deputy Director of the Polytechnic) and our District Chairman Ted Whitehouse.

One remarkable feature of Stone Rotary Club in the nineteen-sixties was the short time that some members enjoyed before they became club president. This reflected not only the continued small size of the club, and losses through Rotarians leaving after a short period of residence in the Stone area, but also some reticence on the part of some members about taking on the club presidency. Vernon Hall, however, was a natural choice to lead the club: a well-known local man who had distinguished himself as a sportsman (earlier in 1968 he had been the subject of a biographical

article in the Stone Newsletter) — and so, barely five years after entering Rotary, Vernon was inducted as President in July 1968. He proved to be an excellent and wise choice, one who followed up his presidency in the early seventies by taking on the duties of club secretary, until his untimely death in October 1973. Appropriately we marked the beginning of his presidential year with a service in his own parish church in Oulton. Subsequently his year followed what had now become a well-trodden path — a happy blend of social and money raising activities, all of which were designed to reflect various aspects of Service.

Perhaps, bearing in mind Vernon Hall's classification as "wine distribution", we worked hard to make the Annual Cheese and Wine and Party a particularly special event. President Vernon and the Inner Wheel President (Margaret Woods) had certainly much handshaking to do, as they welcomed over two hundred guests in the Crown Hotel ballroom. A press report at the time stressed the excellent quality of the wines "specially selected by Joules of Stone"; but there was also mention of the cheeses from the Milk Marketing Board (by courtesy of Rotarian Les Watson) and the Walton Supermarket.

Another interesting aspect of service, that is recorded as having taken place early in 1969, was a series of "Preparation for Retirement" talks, "designed to assist people who may be retiring during the next ten years". The talks were followed by discussion sessions and covered matters such as health, finance and hobbies.

On 11th April 1969 President Vernon Hall's Ladies Evening was held at the Crown Hotel, with District Governor Luke Fletcher as our guest speaker, while Vernon's wife, Irene, charmingly replied to the toast to the ladies.

The decade of the sixties concluded with the much-enjoyed presidential year of Eric Whitehead (1969-70). It was a year in which everything seemed to have a little extra touch of good fortune and grace, right from the service of dedication at the beginning of the Rotary year, held at Tittensor Church and conducted by the vicar, Rotarian Jim Duxbury — his last, for Jim moved on early in 1970. Even the annual Bring and Buy Sale attracted more customers than ever, and it is recorded that there was a queue in pouring rain outside Christ Church School for over half an hour before the opening. Furthermore the Cheese and Wine at the Crown Hotel in February 1970 was a particularly elegant affair with some young ladies attending in Victorian dress. We had a distinguished member of the legal profession as our main guest speaker at Ladies' Evening in Brian Gibbens QC, Recorder of Oxford, while Eric's wife Brenda eloquently replied to the toast to the Ladies.

A period of indifferent health in 1988 caused Eric Whitehead to come to a decision to resign from his

membership of the Stone Rotary Club. Happily he is still with us, for the club responded by according to him the distinction of making him an Honorary Member. On 20th March 1989 the club held its annual Past-Presidents' Evening and Eric seized on this occasion as an opportunity to make a moving and impressive short speech about what Rotary had meant to him. The following quotation from it would seem to the writer to be an entirely appropriate way to end this chapter and also a fitting tribute to Eric:-

"My decision to resign caused me a great deal of heart searching. It was a decision which members here tonight may yet have to make. When it does happen, I feel sure you will realise just how different is a Rotary Club from any other club of which you may be a member. It is not a Golf Club to which you cancel your membership subscription because arthritis prevents you from swinging a club, and you feel you must seek a nineteenth hole a bit nearer home. Nor a Darts Club, because your eye has lost its keenness and no longer enables you to be competitive. Nor yet a Snooker Club, because your skill and judgment let you down. The list is enormous but I feel sure you have the message. When you leave Rotary you give up not just an interest or hobby but part of your life style. You no longer belong and the thought frightens you.

The operative word is *belong*.

But you see, fellow Rotarians, this did not happen to me. I am still here and I *belong* to the Rotary movement and to the Rotary Club of Stone and District. And I belong, not because I courted any favours but because you chaps made it clear that you wanted me to belong. It is a wonderfully sustaining thought, and I should like to see the word indelibly emphasised to every new member on joining.

It is very fitting Mr Acting President that I metaphorically kneel before you tonight as I did on the 5th October 1964, when you initiated a bewildered and slightly frightened novice into the Club.

I wonder if you remember the first job you assigned to me?

I will jog your memory. Inner Wheel was staging a fashion show and our club was supporting. As the newest member of our Club I was detailed to mount the cat walk and present some half dozen of the loveliest ladies with bouquets.

I have carried out some very happy duties since then but don't think any have pleased me more. What I can never fathom is why I was never asked to do it again. The wheel has gone full circle now, and I look back to the night of my initiation nostalgically, a much older and, I hope, wiser man — with a million happy Rotary memories."

(On 20th March 1989 Rotarian Geoff Leese was temporarily assuming duties as Acting President at Past Presidents' Evening. By coincidence, it was during Geoff's presidency of the club in 1964 that Eric Whitehead was inducted as a member of Rotary.)

The Seventies: Steady Success

Although the nineteen-seventies are comparatively recent years, a chapter on this particular decade has proved to be unexpectedly difficult to write. Not only have some vital club minutes and bulletins for this period been mislaid, the local newspapers also changed their character in several relevant ways as the result of press mergers and ceased to be so deeply concerned with the minutiae of local events. Perhaps the detailed reporting of such matters as attendance at funerals and tedious annual general meetings is no longer what the modern reader wants — but, how helpful the old style of local newspaper was to compilers of local history!

Furthermore, for the Rotary Club of Stone and District, the decade of the seventies was not one of very significant change. Rather it was a time of consolidation built on the considerable progress of the sixties. Membership fluctuated only a little, around the mid-thirties in number. Innovation was not often in evidence for, after all, the club had found its well-proven programme of past years to be a successful one, and a whole succession of years understandably followed it. As repetition can become tedious, this account will therefore attempt to concentrate on the more special or unusual happenings: and the decade of the seventies which saw, for example the foundation in Stone of both the Rotaract and Probus Clubs, was certainly not devoid of these.

Rotarian Alf Purton was President for 1970-71. Records for the year show the club's activities following, very successfully, a now familiar pattern: a Bring and Buy Sale in November (at Christ Church School for the last time, as the school was soon to be moved to the former Granville School site in Old Road), a well attended Cheese and Wine in February, run jointly with the Inner Wheel (president: Irene Hall), and in March 1971 a bumper concert organised by our community service chairman Les Watson who was himself much involved in work for the handicapped and the elderly. This was again given by the Burton Police Concert Party at the Lotus Hall and was attended by over three hundred handicapped and elderly people. An innovation during this Rotary year was the decision to broadcast on Radio Stoke the former "Hospitals Quiz" in which the Stone Rotary Club regularly took part. An unfortunate consequence of this was, of course, the fact that everyone at home could hear the broadcast (and our lapses!), but the club's team acquitted itself well and progressed to the semi-final round.

In March 1971 an old friend, Rotarian Don Wood, 106 District Governor, was the main guest speaker at Ladies' Evening, while in May President Alf represented Rotary at the Stone Inner Wheel Club's 25th Birthday Fellowship. A Barn Dance, the first of many, was held at Tom Ball's farm and, not unexpectedly (for Alf was one of the active promoters and leaders of the Stone Festival), many members of the club found themselves involved in duties during Stone's third Festival Week.

Alf Purton died in March 1976, much mourned in the town as a civic leader and by us as a very good Rotarian.

Dr Philip Bray, Principal of the Post Office Telecommunications College at Yarnfield, was our President for 1971-72. Philip was in constant demand as a speaker and consultant on telecommunications in

many parts of the world, and he was apprehensive about becoming president in case he found himself frequently absent at conferences in far away places such as Brazil and West Africa. In fact he led the club most efficiently and only occasionally was his vice-president, Harry Holroyd, called upon to take charge in Philip's absence.

In November 1971 the Charities Bring and Buy Sale was held at the St. Dominic's Social Centre for the first time when, according to the press, even larger crowds than in previous years attended. Records in the local papers also show that club members still volunteered for the rota to ferry relatives to visit hospital patients on Christmas Day when no public transport was operating. This was not the most popular aspect of service, for the call of the home fireside is particularly strong on Christmas Day, but it filled a need that we felt bound to acknowledge. Perhaps, in the 1980s, there are now few families without access to a car — but ought we always to assume this?

At Philip Bray's Ladies' Evening in April 1972 the toast to Stone Rotary Club was proposed by Rotarian L. M. Homer, vice-chairman North, while Rotarian B. Aston, President of Uttoxeter Rotary Club, replied to the toast to the guests.

Dr Bray, who retired in the summer of 1973, is still an active Rotarian and now resident in New Zealand. It was a pleasure to receive a visit from him in 1988.

Harry Holroyd succeeded Philip Bray as Rotary President in the summer of 1972, at the same time that his wife Dorothy became President of the Inner Wheel. The occasion was marked by a joint service conducted by Rotarian the Rev Charles Bruford at the Congregational Church. Harry, District Manager of the Halifax Building Society, was well known to be a fit and energetic man, and this characteristic seemed to express itself in his conduct of Rotary meetings. If Harry wanted to speak to a particular Rotarian, he would get up from his presidential chair, even in the middle of a meal, and go over to speak to him. Often his chair would be seen to be vacant, prompting the members to ask "Where's Harry now?" He would be found seeing personally to some aspect of club business and exercising his legs at the same time. He was a popular president — and certainly not a sedentary one.

Early in Harry Holroyd's year the club was called upon to help with an influx of refugees into the area with arrival of the Ugandan Asians at Raleigh Hall. The main call was for warm clothing with the onset of winter and the public was generous in its response to the club's appeal.

In December 1972 the club acted as hosts for District Assembly in the recently opened theatre at Alleyne's School. At this meeting District Governor Ron Statham reported that the clubs had between them raised enough money for the provision of a new relief lifeboat for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, to be called Rotary Service.

Local government reorganisation in 1973 saw the old Stone Urban District Council replaced by Stone Town Council and the town itself becoming part of the larger District of Stafford Borough. The first Town Mayor was Councillor Frank Jordan who, although not himself a

Rotarian, was a great supporter and friend of the club, and his election was a popular choice. On Rotary matters the local press reported that Rotarian Bernard Morris, attending R.I. Assembly at Lake Placid N.Y., was the only district governor-elect to be there for the second time (out of 345 from 149 countries). He had been re-elected for 1973-74, having formerly been District Governor in the mid-sixties.

Harry Holroyd held his Ladies' Evening on what had become the traditional "first Friday in March". His main guest speaker was a colleague, Mr F. G. Sykes while his wife Dorothy, Inner Wheel President, responded to the toast to the Ladies.

Albert White, who had been vice-president and club service chairman during Harry Holroyd's year, decided to retire in 1973 and to move away to run a country pub in the idyllic setting of the Shropshire countryside beyond Cleobury Mortimer. This meant that the club had, unexpectedly, to find at short notice a president for 1973-74. Tom Wilson, who had previously been president for the year 1955-56, volunteered to take on a second term of office and this event was recorded as follows in the Staffordshire Advertiser:

"The man who in 1955 was the youngest ever president of the Rotary Club has now been made president of the Stone Club for the second time. He is Tom Wilson of Stonefield House, who was first senior reporter and later the first editor of the Stone Guardian. . . . He has been in the club for 21 years and was only 35 years of age when he first became president. The Stone Club is one of the smallest Rotary Clubs in the Midlands but has the reputation of being one of the happiest and one of the most active."

One of Tom Wilson's first tasks was to receive four Norwegian girl students who were being hosted by the club under the Rotary study exchange scheme. The itinerary for their visit included a tour of Derbyshire, guided tours of the Wedgwood and Lotus factories, and a day attached to sixth form students at Alleyne's. International service and the interests of youth were always particular concerns of Tom, and it is fitting that his second presidential year began in that way. As expected, Tom led the club in a most able manner and, it would seem, he 'got his own back' on Albert White by inviting him to be his main guest speaker at Ladies' Evening on 8th March 1974, when the toast to the Ladies was responded to by the Inner Wheel President Rita Lockley. In fact the club retained for many years close and friendly links with Albert White, his country pub being the venue for a club outing on more than one occasion.

In President Les Watson (1974-75) Stone Rotary Club had, as its leader, one who was also busily involved in civic duties and indeed was destined to become Town Mayor in 1977-78 (subsequently two other club members have held the office of Town Mayor: John Allbut in 1982-83 and the late George Lane in 1983-84, while John Ferrie has been one of the town's longest serving councillors as well as being an exemplary Rotarian). Les was also chairman of the Stone Physically Handicapped Club, a group that he constantly kept in mind during his year as Rotary president.

Cash flowed fairly freely during the mid-1970s, and it is perhaps not surprising that another "Race Nite" in November 1974 was a roaring success, attended by over 300 in the Crown Hotel Ballroom and reported in the Stone Newsletter "all good fun with all the cash going to

charity". Again the money poured in at the traditional Cheese and Wine Party in February, hosted jointly by the Rotary and Inner Wheel Presidents, Les Watson and Lois Bostock. Formal occasions included a Civic Luncheon to which our ladies were invited, the guest of honour being the Town Mayor, Councillor Margaret Kennedy. At Ladies' Evening on 7th March 1975 our principal guests were the Mayor of Stafford, Councillor Ruth Dickson JP, and Rotarian Ron Brookes, 121 District Governor. The president's lady, Beryl, replied to the traditional toast to the Ladies.

One particular highlight of Les Watson's year was a mammoth party in March 1975 for the elderly and handicapped. 250 people attended the event which was held in the Lotus Hall. Entertainment was provided by the Stone Town Band, the Stonefield Singers, the Walton TWG Choir, the St. Dominic's Primary School Choir and the Barlaston Proscenium Players. Our chairman of community service, the Rev Harri Davies, vicar of Barlaston, acted as compere.

Tom Ball became president in July 1975. In fact he was to do two stints as president during the 'seventies, in 1975-76 and again in 1978-79. His second year of office was occasioned by the sad and sudden death, less than two months before he was due to take up the presidency in 1978, of the club's vice-president Alex Dofsky, reference to which will be made later in this chapter. Consequently, for two out of four years in the late 1970s the club was led by Tom Ball who undoubtedly had a great influence on its development at that time and who became closely identified with Rotary in Stone and District and in R.I.B.I. circles.

Known to be reliable and conscientious almost to a fault, Tom also revealed many other qualities during his years of office, including a remarkable versatility and adaptability. One recalls him taking very seriously his duties as a judge in the Stone Festival Queen contest and also the very persistent way in which he brought his dogged enthusiasm to the efforts to form a Rotaract Club in Stone. One other well remembered highlight of 1975-76 was a crowded Stone Cinema where the club put on a concert, again with the help of the Police Concert Party, as well as the Gnosall Handball Ringers, for the elderly and handicapped of Stone and district. At the time the community service chairman Frank Lockley was reported in the local press as saying that the concert was "part of the pay-off for the people of Stone who have given so generously to Rotary projects".

At Ladies' Evening, attended by over 130 people at the Crown Hotel on 5th March 1976 Tom Ball's chief guest speaker was Rotarian Adam Middlemass, Immediate Past District Governor of District 102, while Mrs Mary Cross, Inner Wheel President, responded to the toast to the Ladies.

Former Stone Rotarian the Rev Harri Davies came back to his former church at Barlaston to conduct the annual Rotary and Inner Wheel service early in July 1976, when Geoff Leese, also for the second time, assumed the presidency of the club. (Geoff had been senior vice-president to Tom Ball in 1975-76 with Michael Cross, who had agreed to become president in 1976, as junior vice-president — the first time in fact that records show the club as having two vice-presidents. In the event, Michael Cross left the area on his appointment as regional manager of the NatWest Bank and Frank Lockley became senior vice-president for 1976-77).

Fifty Years of Rotary in Stone

Early in Geoff Leese's second term of office the Rotaract Club held its first formal meeting and its first social event, a treasure hunt in the town area of Stone. The Rotaract Club's initial membership stood at only ten. Tom Ball's younger son Robert was elected president of the interim club. The Charter President of Rotaract (1977-78) was Phil Leason (Councillor Philip Leason JP, Town Mayor of Stone 1987-88). Details of Rotaract's Charter Night on 12th December 1977 are included as an Appendix to this booklet. It was also during the 1976-77 Rotary year that steps were taken and arrangements finalised to establish a Probus Club in Stone, though the actual launching of the club took place early in July 1977 at the beginning of Frank Lockley's presidency.

District Governor Norman Purshouse was chief guest speaker at Ladies Evening early in March 1977 with Inner Wheel President Brenda Whitehead replying to the toast to the Ladies. A Civic Luncheon, also attended by the ladies, and held during the previous November, had been graced by the presence of both the Stafford Borough and Stone Town Mayors.

1977 was the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, which the club marked by organising a Silver Jubilee Essay Competition open to all children in Stone and district. The Silver Jubilee itself was the underlying theme of the competition but the terms of reference for the older pupils were broadened to include Britain's role as a nation at the present day. The three winners were Ailsa Holland (aged 8) of Christ Church First School, Brenda Johnstone (aged 12) of Walton Priory Middle School and in the "open" class Bernard Leak (aged 15) of Alleyne's School, who won despite strong competition from older sixth-formers. The judges were Mr and Mrs Ronald Sutton, former vice-principals of Madeley College of Education. Presentations were made at the end of the Summer Term 1977 in the library at Alleyne's School.

It is also recorded that in June 1977 two present members of the club, Ken Rogers (as Chairman of the Stone Jubilee Committee) and Jim Hawkins (as Secretary of Stone Jogging Club), were involved in the arrangements for conveying a loyal message to the Queen by relays of runners. The message was kept clean and uncreased on its journey of 150 miles in a container specially made locally by Comings Glass.

The inauguration of the Stone Probus Club was undoubtedly the most significant event in the early part of Frank Lockley's presidential year. Basically a club that brings together retired business and professional people who might otherwise have joined Rotary — or who might even wish to hold membership of both clubs on retirement — Probus holds one luncheon meeting each month on the first Monday at the Crown Hotel. Any fears that there might not be a demand for such an organisation in the Stone area were soon put at rest, for the club has flourished, now has a membership of about fifty and, one hears, has a waiting list. The formal inauguration of the Probus Club at the beginning of July 1977 was by District Community Service Chairman Bill Mawman, accompanied by our club president Frank Lockley. Later, at the beginning of September, the first President of the new club, Mr Tom Pickering, received formally his chain of office from Bill Mawman. Rotary Past President Charles Pilcher became the Probus Club's first secretary.

In all respects Frank Lockley's year took the cheerfully

active course one would expect under his leadership. Race Nite (the spelling had by this time taken root!) was held at the Crown Hotel in October and was a lively affair: indeed the Stone Newsletter reported that "gambling fever took over the Crown Hotel". Frank Lockley's Ladies' Evening was held at the Crown on Friday 3rd March 1978. His chief guest speaker was Mr W A. Bloor, while Inner Wheel President Vera Ferrie responded to the toast to the Ladies. The following month the club hosted Staffordshire Night at the Crown Hotel at which Sir Henry Plumb, President of the National Farmers Union and of the Staffordshire Agricultural Society, addressed an assembly of 150 Rotarians.

Towards the end of his presidential year Frank Lockley became involved in a sad and unexpected task. Rotarian Alex Dofsky, who was due to become the club's president in the coming July, collapsed and died suddenly on 10th May 1978 while on a cruise on board the Queen Elizabeth II in the port of Copenhagen. Frank's response was to engage in an immediate effort to contact Rotary officials in Denmark to ask them to give support and any necessary assistance to Alex's wife Ada: a reminder to us all at the time of the world-wide unity of the Rotary movement.

Alex Dofsky was a popular member of Stone Rotary Club — an impressive man gifted with a kindly charm and good humour. His sudden death was a great loss to the club. Our sadness was however tempered by the news that Tom Ball had agreed to take over the presidency that Alex Dofsky had been due to assume. This was particularly important to us as 1978-79 was to be celebrated as our 40th Anniversary Year.

1978-79 was a year which, in a way that reflected the maturity we all hope to have reached by the age of forty, brought great credit to the club, perhaps not least in the 40th anniversary celebrations that culminated in our 40th Anniversary Dinner on 18th May 1979 at the Crown Hotel. For this formal occasion, which our ladies also attended, it would seem to be appropriate to quote here the Toast List in full:

Grace: Rotarian the Rev Raymond Swain

The Loyal Toast: Rotarian Paddy Pharaoh, Junior Vice-President

Speech of Welcome: Rotarian Tom Ball, President
Address and Toast to the Rotary Club of Stone: Mr Montague Moss of Moss Bros., London

Response: Rotarian Walter Zuber, Vice-President

The Final Toast: Rotarian Eric Ions, 121 District Governor

Toastmaster: Rotarian Past-President Geoffrey Leese.

It was the presidency of Walter Zuber (1979-80) that concluded the decade of the seventies. We expected a good year and we were not disappointed, for Walter, gifted with a pleasant speaking voice and good diction, can captivate an audience as a skilled raconteur. One hears that his reputation in this respect was enhanced by his engaging in a story-telling contest with a highly placed District officer at the Blackpool conference — in the early hours of the morning on one of that resort's piers (this may be apocryphal but the story was still being circulated quite recently in club circles!) Walter's year was also marked by an emergency that called for a rapid response from the club: the plight of the refugees from Vietnam, generally known as "the boatpeople", who were temporarily housed at Nelson Hall. That

building had been unoccupied for some time and, to make matters worse, the unfortunate refugees had virtually no possessions of their own to make life more bearable. Local response was however generous, not least that of the Stone Rotary Club. It was however a problem that was to continue into the early nineteen-eighties.

Walter Zuber's year saw, as usual, the club working hard to give its full support to many and varied charities. It also, not for the first time, allowed itself the luxury of impassioned debate on comparative trivialities. As Walter himself recalled only recently, "do you remember those long debates about the gifts of pot-plants or flowers for the ladies on their birthdays?" Details have no doubt long been forgotten but it is true that "pot plants" cropped up regularly at business meetings under AOB, much to the annoyance of those anxious to return home — or to retire to the Bar.

Ladies' Evening on 7th March 1980 had, as guest speaker Mr George Hancock, who looked back on his career as an opera-singer. His was an unusual speech, punctuated by arias from his repertoire. Mrs Iris Murdoch, President of the Inner Wheel, responded to the toast to the Ladies.

Memories tend to play tricks on us when we try to recall the past. It was easy to remember the unusual, the amusing and often the trivial. What one needs also to stress — and in concluding this chapter it is very important to do so — is that the seventies also saw the Stone Rotary Club working diligently and successfully for many, many causes at home and abroad. It also continued giving individual, compassionate and usually anonymous service to less fortunate members of the local community, trying in a true Rotary spirit to be "ever mindful of the needs of others".

The Recent Years: 1980-1989

Soon after the commencement of Rotarian M. C. (Paddy) Pharaoh's year as President in 1980, and the customary dedication service, held this year at St. Michael's Parish Church, the club received with great sadness the news of the death of Past President Tom Wilson. Tom, an ex-naval man and until quite recently proprietor and editor of the Stone Guardian, was a popular and much respected member of the club and of the local community. It is not therefore surprising that one of the first tasks to which the club applied itself, early in Paddy's year, was that of deciding on a suitable form of memorial to Tom. It was felt that this should be a living, on-going kind of commemoration, preferably connected with young people, and consequently the club settled on an award — the Tom Wilson Award — to be presented annually to the winner of an essay competition among children in schools in the area served by Stone Rotary Club. This link with the art of writing was thought to be a particularly happy one, in view of Tom's own mastery of the English language. The award was to be competed for on a three-year cycle: senior, intermediate and junior age-groups in successive years. The first winner was Catherine Potts of Alleyne's School, who received her award on 15th June 1981 at the club's luncheon meeting, which was also attended by her parents and her teacher.

One event in the 1980-81 Rotary year that gave special pleasure to the club was the acceptance of a local young solicitor, John Telfer, for Group Study Exchange. He brought much credit to himself, to the club and to the local community: needless to say, he found himself in demand as a speaker both before and after his time in the United States.

Because of less happy circumstances the club became concerned about unemployment locally, and both President Paddy Pharaoh and vocational chairman Neville Bramhall worked hard to see if the club could help. This proved not to be an easy task but some success was met with through working with the careers advisory service and with some local employers. By the end of the year it was believed that the club had been instrumental in placing ten youngsters on work experience schemes. This effort, albeit a modest one, certainly filled a need during the period when the government's youth opportunity and training schemes were still in their infancy and striving for recognition.

In the early autumn of 1980 the club ran into "a little difficulty" with one of its main money raising schemes, the proposal to hold a "Race Nite" at a local factory. Eventually a decision had to be made to cancel this project for that year and to substitute a Christmas Draw instead. Later in the year the proposal came up again, but this time it was to hold a joint function with the Lions Club — and this was done the following year. Despite this slight setback, the club continued unabated in its support of charities at home and abroad, some of the latter reflecting natural disasters, such as the Italian and Algerian earthquakes, and those that were man-made, such as the influx of Vietnamese refugees into our area, where they were temporarily housed at Nelson Hall. In Paddy's year too there seemed to be a happy knack of combining money-raising with some very pleasant social events, not least the joint Rotary and Inner Wheel Presidents' At Home at the Crown Hotel (a replacement, perhaps mainly in name, for the annual cheese and

wine party) and a similar event for Rotarians, wives and friends at the home of Dieter and Renate Anders in aid of international service charities and especially the Eye Bank Appeal. The club also assisted with the organisation of Staffordshire Night at the Crown Hotel, produced its usual cricket and quiz teams and, of course, thoroughly enjoyed the annual Ladies Evening on 6th March 1981 at which Rotarians Bill Mawman, Governor of 121 District, was a guest speaker.

To mark the 70th Anniversary of Rotary in Britain, a Civic Luncheon was held by the club on 27th April 1981, attended by the Town Mayor, Councillor Margaret Farmer, the Town Clerk, Chief Inspector Longmore of Staffordshire Police, and by representatives of the Alleyne's School Young Enterprise Group, who gave a presentation of their activities in running their own ceramics firm.

The club minutes also record that, at a business meeting held on 14th May 1981, a resolution was passed changing the name of the club, which was to be known as "The Rotary Club of Stone and District". Membership of the club during the Rotary year 1980-81 had gone up from 26 to 31.

Shortly after the beginning of Len Bassett's presidential year in July 1981, marked by Sunday service at Tittensor Church, the club addressed its attention to the arrangements for the postponed "Race Nite", now to be held jointly with the Lions at GEC Measurements. This took place in October and in some respects was disappointing, attendance and receipts being down on similar events run in the past at the Crown Hotel: some thought that the hall was too large and austere for the occasion. However, the profit from the evening was sufficient to enable us to reach our target and to purchase the lift-hoist for Trent Hospital, and this was duly presented, jointly with the Lions, early in 1982.

In addition to its annual charitable activities and recurring annual events, which now included the Tom Wilson Award, the club made another effort, as part of its vocational service programme, to help with youth unemployment problems. Two surveys, attempted by that committee, included one on Priorities in Prospective Employers, which at least yielded some useful and interesting information. Again the Young Enterprise Group at Alleyne's known this year as Glastics, received much encouragement from the club, not least because it was made the subject of a half-hour television programme by the B.B.C. This was to be transmitted during the evening of 2nd April 1982, but on that very day the Falkland Islands were invaded and transmission was delayed until midnight because of the extended news coverage: so it was seen only by late-night viewers and those with video recorders. Another interesting event in Len's year was a Group Study Exchange rally in May in Stone, which included a bowls match, buffet supper and entertainment by the Stonefield Singers. Support continued for the Rotaract Club, which was slowly increasing its membership and which had succeeded in raising over £100 for the Stafford Talking Newspaper for the Blind. The club also worked with the Inner Wheel in organising a Nearly New Shop in the High Street for three days in February: it raised over £800 but the Rotary Club gallantly insisted that, as the Inner Wheel had done most of the work,

they should have most of the proceeds for their charities fund. Ladies Evening — a great success, as always was held on 12th March with Bill Mawman and his wife again being our welcome guests. The club also, during the year, appears to have played snooker, cricket, chess, table-tennis and 'quiz-games' with teams in the District and Hospital Broadcast competitions.

Membership during 1981-82 increased again modestly from 31 to 34, and with effect from 1st January 1982 the club modified its meeting arrangements to those that have continued to the present day: luncheon meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays; evening meetings on the 1st and 3rd. At the beginning of the year, too, the members had received some good advice, for the minutes record that they were asked "not to sit in the same place every week".

Membership remained high on the club's agenda during Brian Hilton's year as President (1982-83). Brian made the issue a keynote theme at his club assembly in July, when his senior vice-president Neville Bramhall was asked to continue with the preparations for a membership drive, on which he had already begun to work during Len Bassett's year. All club members were asked to suggest names of people known to them and who might make good Rotarians, and there was an excellent response. Mere statistics might suggest that this concentrated attempt to increase the membership of the club was not successful, for the club began Brian's year with 34 members and ended it with the same number. It must be borne in mind, however, that during his year the club lost several members, two, sadly, through death, and others because they moved away from the area. In fact the foundation of quite a major expansion in numbers had been laid during this year: a year later membership stood at 39 and by 1987 had reached its peak (to date) of 46. The impetus of the 1982-83 membership drive played an important part in the club's recent history.

Two past-presidents died during 1982-83, Tom Ball and Charles Pilcher, losses which brought a real sense of grief to the club. Tom Ball, who died in November 1982 after a tragic and distressing illness, joined Stone Rotary Club in 1969 and immediately showed himself to be a first-class Rotarian. Twice during the 1970s (in 1975-76 and 1978-79) he was President of the club and also for some years did service as a committee member at District level. He will long be remembered for his warmth and generosity, his keen but humane efficiency, and his enormous affection for Rotary as a movement. He was the type of person who would have made a fine District Governor: it is a tragedy that his untimely death cut short the service of such a man in promoting the ideals of Rotary.

Charles Pilcher, who died in April 1983, was a member of the club for almost a quarter of a century and President in 1963-64. He too was able to serve as a District service committee member. He was a much loved buoyant character: tireless in service, everybody's friend — with a rich sense of humour that caused him to be addicted to puns and circumlocutions which stimulated much friendly leg-pulling. He was a fount of obscure knowledge, which made him a valuable member of the club's Quiz team and, when on a famous occasion Stone won the District Quiz in a needle final against Stoke-on-Trent, it was left to Charles to answer — happily correctly — the final question to decide the tie.

During Brian Hilton's year in office his declared aim of promoting both membership and fellowship led to a full programme in an enjoyable year. There were many highlights, including a new departure for the club, a Burns Night at the Crown Hotel, complete with haggis, whisky galore, a piper and eloquent Scots as guests, while later in the year came Ladies' Evening at which Mr Geoffrey Hopkinson, county inspector of schools, was guest speaker. There was also a joint Hallowe'en function with Rotaract, which club, incidentally, was experiencing a membership crisis and seemed in danger of closure, and again a very successful Community Day for senior citizens at Trentham Gardens. The Tom Wilson Award was contested by children in first schools (under nine years of age), thus completing our first three year cycle of age-groups. International Service "adopted" an Indian boy and supported generously the Eye Bank, Emergency Box and Tools for Self Reliance schemes. Hugh Kent was selected by District for Group Study Exchange. The Vocational Service committee's attempt to operate a scheme of mock interviews met serious teething troubles, very possibly because of a sense of despair among some youngsters who were worried by the employment situation, but also because, to be successful, the scheme needed to operate in future years earlier in the school's academic year. This was a pioneer effort and the club tried to build on it.

At this time the club engaged in a rather protracted debate with the higher echelons of the Rotary movement over the selection of candidates for Rotary Foundation. One of the club's nominees had received the support of District but, after a long delay, was informed that he had not finally been selected at Evanston. The issue was not so much the turning down of an excellent candidate (though we regretted this) but the inordinate amount of time that it took to process the application. Neville Bramhall raised the matter at District Conference but the reply received did little to overcome our misgivings on the subject. The eventual outcome was a decision by the club to withhold its contribution to Foundation for the following Rotary year in order to demonstrate our feeling on the matter, though we reiterated at the same time our continued support for Group Study Exchanges. Perhaps it was all a mere gesture on our part — but it was taken seriously and it reminded us all that individual clubs have the right, and indeed the duty, to express their views on something about which they feel strongly.

The joint Rotary and Inner Wheel service, to mark the beginning of the new president's year, held at St. John's Church, took place at the beginning of July 1983 and, as always, combined nicely the elements of dedication, fellowship and hospitality. At his first business meeting President Neville Bramhall found a somewhat confusing matter of a sporting nature on the agenda. The 1982 District Cricket Competition had extended itself into the summer of 1983 so that the two competitions were overlapping. Stone was in the final of the 1982 series and the match had still to be played. In due course it did take place and one might say that Stone was only defeated on a technicality! We scored 103 for 7 wickets, our opponents 103 for 6 — so we were deemed to have lost because one more of our wickets had fallen. Needless to say, largely because of the indifferent summer weather, the 1983 competition extended into 1984 — until the late summer of that year, in fact — when, very fittingly in Tony Cartwright's year we did win the trophy. It is later recorded that the 1984 competition had to be abandoned altogether.

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Important though cricket may be in fellowship between clubs, there were more pressing matters to be considered, not least that of membership. The loss of two further members at the end of June 1983 meant that we were down again to 32 members. Neville's previous spadework concerning recruitment now helped enormously, and by the end of his year we had earned a citation from District for our overall increase when our total reached 38, a net increase of six despite further losses to the club through death and resignations. There were, inevitably, caveats from members that the club must beware of taking in "too many new members too quickly" but the overall increase was generally regarded with great satisfaction. The club, at this time, decided to experiment by holding Club Council meetings on the same night as the monthly business meeting, immediately prior to it and with a restricted agenda. The club was again honoured by being asked to organise Staffordshire Night at the Crown Hotel. On a less happy note, our fledgling Rotaract Club had continued membership problems throughout the year, though it remained remarkably active, considering that so much depended on a mere handful of members.

In addition to its usual programme of service activities, the club found itself supporting some special appeals this year — Stone Scouts (about to refurbish the old pumphouse in Westbridge Park as its District headquarters); Walton Priory Middle School (which was acting as hosts to the national junior volleyball championship); holidays for one-parent families; the Stone Volunteer Bureau; the Friends of Lichfield Cathedral and the "Plant a Tree in 1983" campaign. It was decided also to support the St. John's Ambulance Cadets in their appeal for training equipment and it is recorded that the club purchased for them "a skeleton exempt from VAT". Mock interviews were again organised by our vocational service committee, while international service, in addition to generous donations to the Eye Bank, the emergency boxes and Father Anthony Fleming's adoption scheme, found that press publicity certainly pays when it received an excellent response to its appeal for "Tools for Self Reliance" to be sent abroad to third world countries.

Social functions, usually with money-raising aspects, were numerous and included a Barn Dance, whist drive, cheese and wine evening (jointly with Inner Wheel), a "wheeltappers and shunters" evening and, of course, Ladies Evening at the Crown, our chief guest being Mr W. P. Howells, an eloquent speaker and a distinguished figure in the ceramics field.

Early in the new year of 1984, we were shocked to hear of the death of yet another past-president, the very popular Frank Lockley (1977-78). The church at Aston-by-Stone was not large enough to cope with the great number of friends and colleagues who gathered to pay their respects at his funeral. He was a generous hearted, cheerful man who is still much missed by his many friends in the Rotary Club of Stone and District. In his memory a donation was made to the Post-graduate Medical School associated with the Staffordshire hospitals. The memory of two other former past-presidents, Tom Ball and Charles Pilcher, was also marked by the planting, during the winter, of trees suitably labelled with plaques in Stonefield Park. We were also informed that the rules for the competition within the District for the Tom Ball Attendance Trophy had been agreed and confirmed by the District 121

attendance officer. The first recipients were the Brownhills Club at a presentation ceremony held at the District Conference.

Finally in Neville Bramhall's year we must record the efforts of the club in connection with the Rotary International Convention in Birmingham early in June 1984. Despite distance, hotels as far away as Stone were being used to house overseas Rotarians and their families, and this called for close liaison by appointed members of the club with those staying at the Crown and Stone House Hotels. We were also able to take part in the home hospitality scheme and to welcome a coachload of American Rotarians, mainly from the Pacific States, for an afternoon and evening dinner in our own homes. Alan Woods, who had recently retired and therefore needed to be kept busy, was put in charge of the arrangements, which were not made any easier by the fact that our guests were not, after all, those who had been housed in Stone hotels but in one on the Warwick bypass — an hour and a half's journey by road. Even so, it was a highly successful operation that did much to forge new international friendships. The Convention itself was attended by half a dozen Rotarians from Stone and proved itself to be a superbly organised event — a credit to Birmingham and to R.I.B.I..

Tony Cartwright succeeded Neville Bramhall as President in July 1984 and marked the beginning of his year with the annual joint service, this time held at Eccleshall Church. As in the previous Rotary year, it was cricket that demanded his attention at the outset for, at the end of August the 1983 (much delayed) final of the District competition had still to be played. In due course a morning match (against Newcastle Rotary Club) took place at Swynnerton Cricket Club and, as was most appropriate for our cricket playing president, resulted in a resounding win for Stone — runners-up and then winners in successive years.

After its sporting interlude the club turned its mind to some interesting and quite important domestic matters. It was decided to discontinue the experimental arrangement for club council meetings and to revert to holding these on a separate evening during the week before the monthly business meeting. There was considerable discussion in October 1984 about responsibility for money raising: should this be left to individual committees or normally done by the club as a whole and mainly through the club service committee? No clear-cut decision is recorded in the minutes, though it was stated that "there was felt to be a need for a more general use of charity money rather than by specific committees". The club also turned its energies to organising Staffordshire Night at the Crown Hotel, and in due course was congratulated by District on the success of its efforts. Furthermore, one of the previous year's anxieties seemed to be receding: the Rotaract Club was successful in recruiting and able to report a membership of fifteen with four others in the pipeline by March 1985. The Rotary Club's own membership remained stable at 38 or 39 throughout the year.

In addition to our recurring community activities the club gave its support to the Youth Leadership Scheme, the Eccleshall Guides, the Stone District Scouts, the Stafford and Stone talking newspaper for the blind, Christian Aid, the National Children's Homes and the Police's SPACE programme. We were persuaded by our

international service chairman to grow sunflowers for sponsorship (with varying degrees of success) and received Joe Homan at a joint meeting with the Inner Wheel — an occasion, because of the touching account of our speaker's work that we heard, that was referred to in the club's minutes as "very good but very humbling". We entertained our M.P. John Heddle to lunch and, of course, had a full calendar of social events which raised a great deal of money for charity: the Cheese and Wine Party, Barn Dance, Christmas Draw, a very successful "Race Nite" at the Crown and an old time music hall and supper in the Salt village hall. Tony's Ladies Evening, held on 29th March 1985, was very well attended, the chief guest speaker being the Honourable Francis Fitzherbert (now Lord Stafford).

We returned to Swynnerton Cricket Club to mark the end of Tony Cartwright's year, but this time for a Rotarians versus ladies cricket match (or was it rounders — did anyone notice?). This was followed by an extremely convivial supper and social evening in the pavilion — a very happy and cheerful occasion, which is a phrase that could be used to describe Tony's entire year.

It is a matter of great good fortune for the Rotary Club of Stone and District that the German glass manufacturing firm, Schott Glass, sent to England in the mid-seventies to develop its market in the U.K. by setting up a branch establishment in Stafford, one who became one of our most popular and respected members, Dieter Anders. He and his wife Renate bought a house in Oulton, had their two sons educated at Stone schools (and subsequently at British universities) and quickly became active members of our local community as well as of the Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs. When Dieter was elected Rotary President for 1985-86, he was the first club president to hail from another part of the European Community and indeed from outside the U.K. When in 1987 he, along with two other Stone Rotarians, attend the R.I. Convention in Munich, other delegates at the conference expressed astonishment that Stone had a club member who spoke such excellent German! After the joint Presidents' Sunday service at Oulton Church we were not surprised to find some delicious German items of food awaiting us — and of course, much excellent German wine — at the nearby home of Dieter and Renate.

During 1985-86 the club made great strides with its membership, which increased from 38 to 45. Previous spadework in this field was now bearing fruit and, in addition, we had all been urged by the incoming president to think hard about the matter. Even the membership of the Rotaract Club had stabilised at about 14 and had raised £500 for charity during the previous year despite its small numbers. We expected some emphasis on international service during Dieter's year and were not disappointed, and at the end of it donations were made to Father Anthony Fleming, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Emergency Boxes, District 121's Youth Week and Calcutta projects, and to a brickmaking machine for the leper colony; and in addition 38 Rotarians grew sunflowers for sponsorship. Naturally a German link seemed particularly appropriate for this year: an informal contact was made with the Dreieich-Offenbach Club and this led to a visit to Germany by a group of Stone Rotarians and their wives in June 1986.

It was, however, in the field of community service that the club really distinguished itself in 1985-86. President Dieter Anders set the club the target of raising £3,000 to purchase a much needed ambulance for Trent Hospital and St. Mary's Home (in fact a suitable vehicle had been found to be available but its purchase could not be long delayed). There was a generous response to the club's appeal and to its other money raising efforts: consequently the target was achieved in time for the vehicle to be handed over officially at the end of the Rotary year. In fact the target was well exceeded: £3,800 raised with the surplus being handed over to the League of Hospital Friends towards the cost of the upkeep and maintenance of the ambulance. Despite this major project, other activities did not suffer, for there had been numerous money raising events including another barn dance, whist drive, Christmas Draw and music hall at Salt. In cooperation with the Lions we held a Drug Watch Day when an information van was stationed in the town, and we also took part in a Crime Watch leaflet drop on the subject of bogus callers and officials. Ladies Evening was held on 25th April 1986 when the chief guest speaker was Mr Peter Ziehe, representing an important German trade journal. We enjoyed it greatly and felt that Dieter Anders's year as our President had done much to cement a true spirit of international understanding in our club, and to make us appreciate more our common citizenship as members of the European family.

The club accompanied President Ken Stotesbury to morning service at Swynnerton Church to mark the beginning of the Rotary year 1986-87 — one of particular significance in Rotary, as later in this Rotary year we were to see the launching of its world-wide Polio-Plus Campaign which was to be officially inaugurated at the Rotary International Convention in Munich in 1987. For this the club was in due course to set itself the aim of raising a target sum of £5,000 to be achieved over a period of three years, commencing in 1987.

In fact three Rotarians from Stone and District, President Ken Stotesbury, and Past Presidents Dieter Anders and Alan Woods, and their ladies, attended the Munich Convention and so were able to witness the official opening of Rotary's drive to eliminate poliomyelitis from the entire world. They found the Convention, held at the Olympia park, scene of the 1972 Olympiad, to be impressive, splendidly organised and extremely enjoyable. There were, of course, lighter moments, not least when the Stone party organised its own "home hospitality" (at the Munich Convention European Rotarians were all regarded as home-based and not therefore included in the home hospitality programme). As it happened, Geoffrey Woods, Alan and Margaret's older son, is a chartered patent agent and was doing his stint of duty for his firm at the time in Munich, which is now the headquarters of the European Patents Office. He invited the party to hold a celebration at his firm's flat and the convivial meeting that ensued took on all the trappings of a mini-Rotary Club in exile: indeed we still refer to it as "the interim club of Stone-Munchen", but we have to record that it held only one meeting, albeit a memorable one. This turned out not to be Stone's only international visit during the year, for a party from the club also had a week-end in Paris in March and we also helped with the hosting of the GSE team from Argentina during the previous October.

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In addition to a sponsored walk in aid of Polio-Plus, numerous money raising efforts were held during the 1986-87 year. These included a highly successful Brass Band Concert in November 1986 by the Britannia Building Society Band (formerly Foden's), which raised over £900, a Casino Evening in February and the usual whist drive at Swynnerton. We organised, along with Mr Kim Jones, the Youth and Community Leader in Stone, a Leisure and Pastimes Exhibition, took fifty elderly guests to Community Day at Trentham Gardens, made a donation to the Newsletter Retinal Scanner Appeal, supported our regular charities at home and abroad and sponsored two worthy young people: a boy who had been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Australia and Simon (now Doctor) Bramhall, at that time a medical student, who planned to spend his "elective" period of study abroad in a leper colony in Nigeria (and who later, on his return, gave the club an impressive talk on his work out there).

In October 1986 the club achieved its highest membership total to date of forty-six. Furthermore in the first six months of 1986 eight members had achieved 100% attendance. It looked as though our membership and our attendance record were now both in excellent shape – but there are always recurring domestic concerns in Rotary. For example, there were complaints that at our luncheon meetings there were "too many speakers and not enough time for fellowship". There was also an almost unanimous vote for keeping an all-male membership of Rotary when the issue was put to the vote. The club was delighted to receive a visit from Past President Philip Bray, now a Rotarian in a club in New Zealand, where he now lives. Also – on a club note – no fewer than thirty supporters travelled to Shrewsbury to support the Quiz team which had reached the District Final.

Mr Andrew Heard, of the Telecommunications College and Rotarian George Sidebotham (vicechairman District 121 and District Governor nominee for 1987-88) were the chief speakers at a very enjoyable Ladies Evening on 24th April 1987. A year later Ken and Barbara Stotesbury moved to live in retirement in Sussex. We are sure they will retain many happy memories of their association with Rotary and Inner Wheel in Stone.

Barry Tunnicliffe (1987-88) was blessed with warm and sunny weather for his Service, this year at St. Dominic's R.C. Church, and this helped to make the reception afterwards at his home a leisurely and delightful garden-party type of event. We have not always been so lucky with the weather!

Two interesting aspects of membership extension were being discussed in 1987-88, one of a largely domestic nature but the other with wider implications. Past President Neville Bramhall was concerned to see a greater degree of informed criticism of the assumption, that occasionally seemed to be extant in Rotary, that all extension was good for it. He was asked to raise the issue at District Conference, which he subsequently did with some eloquence, and in due course he became prominently engaged in Membership Development matters at District level. At club level we decided to set up a small working-party to look into the principles and considerations we should ourselves adopt in expanding the membership of our own club. The minutes of 4th July 1988 (in fact at the beginning of President Ken Roger's year) report on the outcome of the deliberations of this working-party as follows:

"Brian Hilton presented a verbal summary of the report considered earlier by Club Council. He emphasised the quality of potential new members rather than the quantity; said that the club should have a minimum of 40 members and maximum of, say 45; stressed that recruitment was unlikely from Eccleshall, although it was a professional dormitory, because lunchtime meetings would be awkward and, anyway, it did not identify with Stone; said that new members should not themselves propose further members for two years; and emphasised the need to think positively about recruitment. The President (Ken Rogers) summarised Club Council's views, which mainly accepted the above, but felt that the proposed two-year arrangement should be policy, not rule; that the maximum number of members would emerge as an expression of the club's will and needs and it was necessary to lay it down rigidly; and that a proper ballot should be held, after a full debate, on the lunch versus evening issue".

It would seem appropriate the above minute in full here, as it is an important summary of our current policy – something that has rarely, if ever, been put down on paper in the past.

The discussion on membership issues during Barry Tunnicliffe's year were perhaps peripheral, compared with all the other activities in which the club was engaged – but they were important, particularly at a time when extension in Eccleshall was beginning to be considered as a possibility, and also if we bear in mind a few resignations in recent years of excellent Rotarians who had been unable to meet attendance requirements.

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the Autumn of 1987, and indeed of Barry's year, was the week-end return visit of a party of German Rotarians and their wives. Our Friends from Dreieich stayed at the Crown Hotel but also enjoyed hospitality from Stone Rotarians, many of whom by now had forged personal friendships with their guests. In addition to sightseeing visits to Lichfield Cathedral, Shugborough and Wedgwood, we held a tremendously lively and successful Barbecue and Barn Dance at the Pirehill fire service headquarters for our visitors. On the Sunday morning we saw them off in their coach (they were spending some time in London on their return journey): the sadness of parting was tempered only by a determination to maintain this much-valued international link. Our Rotarians also made an excursion – this time northwards for a weekend in Scotland, a kind of "home international" of conviviality and fellowship.

During 1987-88 we were, of course, concerned to press ahead with our efforts in aid of Polio-Plus. We had made a beginning during the previous year and also had received some helpful donations, including a rather surprise one from the Old Alleynians Football Club which was celebrating its 25th Birthday that year. And it was for Polio-Plus that our local singer, Clive Banks, and a group of his friends, gave for us a memorable concert at GEC Measurements, and again we enjoyed yet another music hall evening at Salt. Stone Town Band gave a concert to entertain senior citizens from the area, but that was to give our guests a treat rather than to raise money. The international service committee's annual drive for books for the Ranfurly appeal, and also for spectacles, had its most successful year ever in Stone, producing no fewer than

5,000 books and 2,000 pairs of spectacles (one of which turned out to be quite a rare antique and was donated to the Ironbridge museum). We also presented, on the Town Mayor's Sunday, a bell lyra to the Stone and District Scout and Guide Band.

Barry Iunncliffe's Ladies' Evening was held at the Crown Hotel on 18th March 1988, when his chief guests were Mr Peter Wilshaw, Director of Operations for the East Staffordshire Council, and Rotarian Brian Ball, then the 121 District vice-chairman and District Governor nominee. Mrs Carol Hammersley charmingly replied to the toast to the Ladies: the second occasion on which she had been called upon to do so, for this was her second consecutive year as Inner Wheel President

(1987-89).

In July 1988 our current President Ken Rogers assumed his leadership of the club. History now merges with current events but it is nevertheless appropriate to record here that 1988-89 is indeed proving to be a busy year. The club had the pleasure of hosting the 121 District Council meeting on 24th November 1988 in the school theatre at Alleyne's. We are busily engaged in our final round of Polio Plus money raising activities. (The club set its target higher than its actual membership demanded but decided to raise the money in a phased operation over three years). This year's efforts, already held or planned, include a Pig Roast and Barn Dance, a Palace of Varieties Evening, an open golf competition, a clay pigeon shoot and a "surprise" event at the County Showground during the Staffordshire County Show in May.

One interesting and quite fundamental change in the pattern of our monthly business meetings has been made this year. After initial formalities, such as the

recording of apologies, the reading of previous minutes, correspondence and financial matters, the club adjourns for short service committee meetings of approximately 20-30 minutes duration. After these the club reassembles in plenary session at which the committee chairmen make their reports, followed by discussion of matters arising from them. This innovation has certainly been helped by our meeting in a large room, usually the ballroom, so that we are able to disperse into committees and reassemble quickly. It also ensures regular, well attended service committee meetings, immediate initial discussion by the whole club on any major matters that have arisen, though many will, of course, be referred to club council for more detailed consideration. Furthermore, because meetings are of short duration, minds are concentrated, chairmen see to it that agendas are adhered to, and decision making is facilitated. There have, of course, been some criticisms, but generally club members appear to appreciate the effectiveness of regular scheduled meetings, the possibilities for better communication within the club, and enhanced fellowship within individual committees, provided by the system.

Socially we have enjoyed yet another combined Rotary and Inner Wheel Cheese and Wine evening, a Burns Night and a splendid Ladies' Evening on 8th April at which the chief guest speaker was Mr John Plant, the response to the toast to the Ladies being made by our current Inner Wheel President Bernadette Tunnicliffe.

The 50th Anniversary Celebrations on 16th May 1989 of the presentation of the Club's Charter will certainly be a milestone in our history. It will also, we believe, mark the beginning of a further half-century of warm fellowship and successful service in accordance with our Rotary ideals.

Stone Rotary Club: Principal Officers

| <i>Year</i> | <i>President</i> | <i>Vice-President</i> | <i>Secretary</i> | <i>Treasurer</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Founder Pres. and 1939-40 | E. Shufflebotham | | S. C. Blood | P. Pollard |
| 1940-41 | T A. Beardsmore | | S. C. Blood | P. Pollard |
| 1941-42 | T. A. Beardsmore | | | |
| 1942-43 | R. H. Carr | | | |
| 1943-44 | R. H. Carr | | | |
| 1944-45 | L. C. Pitts | | | |
| 1945-46 | S. C. Blood | | | |
| 1946-47 | P. Pollard | W. H. Griffiths | C. J. Parsons | G. D. Insley |
| 1947-48 | W. H. Griffiths | | | |
| 1948-49 | C. J. Parsons | | | |
| 1949-50 | Rev. J. H. Herbert | T. A. Beardsmore | B. H. Turpin and | E. W. C. Ford-Taylor E. L. Harrison |
| 1950-51 | T. A. Beardsmore | I. Bagley | W. H. Griffiths | C. B. Grundy |
| 1951-52 | T. Bagley | C. E. Calveley | I. E. Howell | C. B. Grundy |
| 1952-53 | C. E. Calveley | C. E. Norwood | I. E. Howell | C. B. Grundy |
| 1953-54 | Rev C. E. Norwood | C. Graves | I. E. Howell | C. B. Grundy |
| 1954-55 | C. Graves | T. P. Wilson | J. S. Baigent | C. B. Grundy |
| 1955-56 | T. P. Wilson | C. M. Wilford | J. S. Baigent | C. B. Grundy |
| 1956-57 | G. M. Wilford | L. Harvey | W. N. Burns | C. B. Grundy |
| 1957-58 | L. Harvey | E. S. Pearse | E. E. Elphee | C. B. Grundy |
| 1958-59 | E. S. Pearse | R. W. Palmer | E. E. Elphee | C. B. Grundy |
| 1959-60 | R. W. Palmer | H. Hammersley | E. E. Elphee | A. Holmes |
| 1960-61 | H. Hammersley | J. L. Warren | E. E. Elphee | A. Holmes |
| 1961-62 | J. L. Warren | R. A. Smith | E. L. Harrison | A. Holmes |
| 1962-63 | R. A. Smith | C. J. F. Pilcher | E. L. Harrison | A. Holmes |
| 1963-64 | C. J. F. Pilcher | C. T. Leese | S. Moorhouse | C. L. Simmons |
| 1964-65 | G. I. Leese | A. Holmes | C. Wilson | C. L. Simmons/T. Peake |
| 1965-66 | A. Holmes | A. C. Woods | C. Wilson | T. Peake |
| 1966-67 | A. C. Woods | C. Scott | C. Wilson | T. Peake |
| 1967-68 | C. Scott | V. Hall | C. Wilson | T. Peake |
| 1968-69 | V. Hall | E. W. B. Whitehead | G. Wilson | H. Holroyd |
| 1969-70 | E. W. B. Whitehead | A. Purton | G. Wilson | H. Holroyd |
| 1970-71 | A. Purton | P. R. Bray | G. Wilson | H. Holroyd |
| 1971-72 | P. R. Bray | H. Holroyd | V. Hall | M. J. Cross |
| 1972-73 | H. Holroyd | A. J. White | V. Hall | M. J. Cross |
| 1973-74 | T. P. Wilson | T. L. Watson | H. Holroyd | M. J. Cross |
| 1974-75 | T. L. Watson | T. E. Ball | M. C. Pharaoh | M. J. Cross |
| 1975-76 | T. E. Ball | C. T. Leese (snr.) M. J. Cross (jnr.) | M. C. Pharaoh | M. J. Cross |
| 1976-77 | G. T. Leese | F. Lockley (snr.) A. A. Dofsky (jnr.) | M.G. Pharaoh | B. Davies |
| 1977-78 | F. Lockley | A. A. Dofsky (snr.) W. Zuber (jnr.) | M. G. Pharaoh | B. Davies |
| 1978-79 | T. E. Ball | W. Zuber (snr.) M. C. Pharaoh (jnr.) | B. Hilton | B. Davies |
| 1979-80 | W. Zuber | M. C. Pharaoh (snr.) L. J. Bassett (jnr.) | B. Hilton | B. Smith |
| 1980-81 | M. C. Pharaoh | L. J. Bassett (snr.) H. Matthews (snr.) | B. Hilton | B. Smith |
| 1981-82 | L. J. Bassett | B. Hilton (snr.) N. J. Bramhall (jnr.) | A. J. Cartwright | B. Smith |
| 1982-83 | B. Hilton | N. J. Bramhall | A. J. Cartwright | B. Smith |
| 1983-84 | N. J. Bramhall | A. J. Cartwright (snr.) K. D. Anders (jnr.) | M. C. Pharaoh | J. G. Allbut |
| 1984-85 | A. J. Cartwright | K. D. Anders (snr.) K. E. Stotesbury (jnr.) | M. C. Pharaoh | J. G. Allbut |
| 1985-86 | K. D. Anders | K. E. Stotesbury (snr.) B. J. Tunncliffe (jnr.) | M. C. Pharaoh | J. G. Allbut |
| 1986-87 | K. E. Stotesbury | B. J. Tunncliffe (snr.) K. J. Rogers (jnr.) | M. C. Pharaoh | J. G. Allbut |
| 1987-88 | B. J. Tunncliffe | K. J. Rogers (snr.) J. Rogers (jnr.) | M. C. Pharaoh | J. G. Allbut |
| 1988-89 | K. J. Rogers | J. Rogers (snr.) N. D. R. Hammersley (jnr.) | N. J. Bramhall | K. H. Barlow |

Stone Rotary Club: Original List of Members in 1938

(according to Club Records)

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Classification</i> | <i>Date of Entry</i> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Arthur, C. | The Radfords, Stone | Surgery | May 1938 |
| Bagley, T. | The Avenue, Stone | General Law Practice | May 1938 |
| Bailey, W. | Newcastle Rd., Stone | Timber Distributing | May 1938 |
| Beardsmore, T. A. | Alleyne's Grammar School | Education, secondary | May 1938 |
| Carr, R. H. | Granville Terrace | Brewing | May 1938 |
| Chambers, H. N. | Lichfield Rd, Stone | Public Revenue Service | May 1938 |
| Didsbury, F. N. | The Vicarage, Stone | C. of E. Vicar | May 1938 |
| O'Donnell, J. R. | The Avenue, Stone | Gen. Medical Practice | May 1938 |
| Shufflebottom, E. | Whitebridge House | Security Brokerage | May 1938 |
| Smallwood, S. | c/o Crown Hotel | Painting & Decorating | May 1938 |
| Blood, S. C. | Meaford Ave, Stone | Wine Distributing | June 1938 |
| Pitts, L. C. | Azelot, Airdale Rd. | Clothing Retail | June 1938 |
| Pollard, P. | District Bank | Banking: Branch Manager | July 1938 |
| Sanders, A. P. | The Cottage, Woore | Food Distributing | July 1938 |
| Crick, K. J. H. | Meaford Ave, Stone | General Law Practice | August 1938 |
| Jackson, W. E. | Newcastle Rd. | Meat Retailing | August 1938 |
| Miller, A. P. | Berkeley St., Stone | Architecture | September 1938 |
| Poole, H. | Lichfield Road | Building Construction | September 1938 |

No further members are shown as joining the Club until September 1939. It would therefore appear that there were 18 members when the Club received its Charter in 1939. Records indicate that only eight of the original eighteen members were still in the club at the end of the War in 1945.

ROTARY CLUB OF STONE AND DISTRICT

Register of Members and Classifications in May 1989

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Classification</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Classification</i> |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| J. G. Allbut | Accountancy | A. Lambrou | Fish Frying |
| *K. D. Anders | Glassware Admin. | R. L. Langhorne | Banking Local |
| E. G. Anderson | Architecture | *G. T. Leese | Senior Active |
| J. L. Aston | Newspaper Distribution | A. C. Lockett | Banking Local (AA) |
| K. H. Barlow | Engraving | J. Lockley | Motor Veh. (Repairs) |
| R. G. Bassett | Senior Active | T. R. Mardling | Law Practice (AA) |
| *L. J. Bassett | Freight Transport | A. K. Milward | Construction Serv. |
| J. E. Beamond | Building Socs. (AA) | M. Mountford | Building Societies |
| M. Bird | Carpets Retail | *M. G. Pharaoh | Senior Active |
| R. Bostock | Senior Active | J. H. Prew | Past Service |
| *N J. Bramhall | Senior Active | P. M. Robinson | Flowers Retail |
| P. N. Bucknall | Law Practice | **K. J. Rogers | Insurance Broking |
| J. Clowes | Shoe Retail | J. Rogers | Hosp. Admin. Local |
| A. A. Ferrie | Senior Active | J. Shillabeer | Fire Service |
| C. J. Gittins | Educ. Polytechnic | G. Simpson | Religion Anglican |
| N. D. R. Hammersley | Mat. Handling | R. D. Thornton | Ceram. Materials |
| J. S. Hawkins | Prop. Management | R. C. L. Tobias | Printing Colour |
| *B. Hilton | Education (Middle) | *E. W. B. Whitehead | Honorary |
| *A. Holmes | Senior Active | *A. C. Woods | Senior Active |
| T. R. Joyce | Elect. Engineering | *W. Zuber | Senior Active |

** President
 * Past Presidents
 (AA) Additional Active

Presidents of the Inner Wheel Club of Stone

1946 — 1989

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 1946-47 | Mrs L. Pitts | 1968-69 | Mrs A. C. Woods |
| 1947-48 | Mrs P. Pollard | 1969-70 | Mrs G. H. Wilson |
| 1948-49 | Mrs M. A. Beardsmore | 1970-71 | Mrs V. Hall |
| 1949-50 | Mrs H. Toon | 1971-72 | Mrs E. W. B. Whitehead |
| 1950-51 | Mrs C. Day | 1972-73 | Mrs H. Holroyd |
| 1951-52 | Mrs B. H. Turpin | 1973-74 | Mrs R. L. Lockley |
| 1952-53 | Mrs F. Blakeman | 1974-75 | Mrs L. Bostock |
| 1953-54 | Mrs E. Bailey | 1975-76 | Mrs M. Cross |
| 1954-55 | Mrs V. I. Rennix | 1976-77 | Mrs E. W. B. Whitehead |
| 1955-56 | Mrs D. Qualtrough | 1977-78 | Mrs V. Ferrie |
| 1956-57 | Mrs C. B. Grundy | 1978-79 | Mrs E. M. Holmes |
| 1957-58 | Mrs C. K. Warrilow | 1979-80 | Mrs I. V. Murdoch |
| 1958-59 | Mrs W. Jervis | 1980-81 | Mrs T. L. Watson |
| 1959-60 | Mrs E. E. Elphee | 1981-82 | Mrs M. G. Pharaoh |
| 1960-61 | Mrs S. J. Collier | 1982-83 | Mrs G. E. Cartwright |
| 1961-62 | Mrs E. L. Harrison | 1983-84 | Mrs T. L. Watson |
| 1962-63 | Mrs R. A. Smith | 1984-85 | Mrs P. M. Funk |
| 1963-64 | Mrs D. Lees | 1985-86 | Mrs B. L. Stotesbury |
| 1964-65 | Mrs F. Hammersley | 1986-87 | Mrs C. V. Hammersley |
| 1965-66 | Mrs E. M. Holmes | 1987-88 | Mrs C. V. Hammersley |
| 1966-67 | Mrs E. E. Toon | 1988-89 | Mrs B. Tunncliffe |
| 1967-68 | Mrs M. Bassett | | |

Rotaract Club: Presidents

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1976-77 | Robert Bail (Interim club) |
| 1977-78 | Philip Leason (Charter President) |
| 1978-79 | Edith Leason (nee Leigh) |
| 1979-80 | Vicky Galletley |
| 1980-81 | Lorraine Pick |
| 1981-82 | Carol Watkins |
| 1982-83 | Edwin Long |
| 1983-84 | Edwin Long |
| 1984-85 | Chris Clark |
| 1985-86 | Terry Mottram |
| 1986-87 | Val Gibson (nee Robinson) |
| 1987-88 | Wendy Bostock |
| 1988-89 | Jane Darlington |

Probus Club: Presidents

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| 1977-78 | Tom Pickering |
| 1978-79 | Harry Taft |
| 1979-80 | Ernie Reeves |
| 1980-81 | Cryril Sandland |
| 1981-82 | Frank Dudley |
| 1982-83 | Charles Pilcher |
| 1983-84 | John Deag |
| 1984-85 | Robert Davies |
| 1985-86 | Ken Follett |
| 1986-87 | John Kirkland |
| 1987-88 | Stan Skellern |
| 1988-89 | George Smith |
| 1989-90 | Tom Pickering |

Order of proceedings

Grace Rotarian: Ray Swain
DINNER



THE QUEEN
Proposed by Rotarian:
Alex Dofsky (Vice-
President)
Rotary Club of Stone).

Charter Presentation
Rotarian: Frank Lockley
(President Rotary Club of
Stone).

Response
Rotaractor: Robert Ball
(Founder President
Rotaract Club of Stone).

**Presentation of Rotaract
President's Jewel**
Rotarian: Tom Ball
(Past President).

**Presentation of Individual Rotaract Badges
by Rotarians.**

**The Rotaract Club
of Stone**
Proposed by Rotarian:
Frank Gilks
(District Governor 121).

Response
Rotaractor: Philip Leason
(President Rotaract Club of
Stone).

**The Final Toast
Rotary—Rotaract
The World Over.**
Rotarian: Tony Potts

Toastmaster
Rotarian Len Bassett
(Community Service
Chairman).

STONE ROTARACT CLUB at
THE CROWN HOTEL, STONE
on
Presentation of Charter **MONDAY, 12th DECEMBER, 1977**

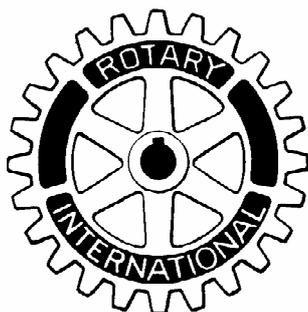
ROTARACT CLUB OF STONE

- Members**
- President Philip Leason
 - Vice-President Audrey Jones
 - Joint Secretaries Kathryn Ball
Janis Belt
 - Treasurer Robert Ball
 - Club Service Chairman Edith Leigh
 - Community Services Chairman Roger Fuller

- Catherine Browne
- Peter Cowan
- David Faram
- Martin Fuller
- Judith Griggs
- John O'Connor
- Richard Rogers
- David Skellern
- Pauline Skellern
- Carole Watkins
- David Wright

Rotary District No. 121
District Governor, Rotarian Frank Gilks

Sponsoring Club:
The Rotary Club of Stone



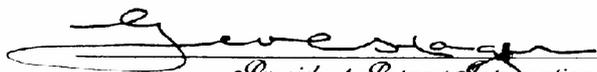
This certifies that the Rotary Club of
Stone, Staffs., England

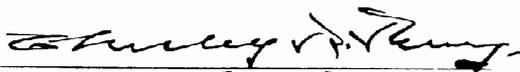
having been duly organized and having agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the Constitution and By-laws of Rotary International which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is now a duly admitted member of

Rotary International
Club No. 5052

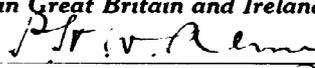
and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of such membership.

In witness whereof the seal of Rotary International is hereto affixed and the signatures of its officers, duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this
sixteenth *day of* May, *Anno Domini* 1939.


 President, Rotary International


 Secretary, Rotary International

**This certificate is issued with the approval of
 Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.**

 President

 Secretary

ROTARY CLUB OF STONE & DISTRICT

