

The Rotary Club of Whitchurch, Shropshire

Whitchurch Rotary Club first met in January 1938 – formed by JD Patrick, Manager of the local National Westminster Bank and solicitor Albert G Eccleston. Membership quickly grew to 18 with weekly meetings at the Swan Hotel.

During the war, Rotarians provided practical help and support to evacuees, displaced persons and servicemen who were billeted in the area. Early projects included outings for elderly residents, Christmas entertainment for local children, concerts for evacuees and donations to disaster funds. For six wartime years the Rotary and Inner Wheel canteen, in the old Baptist chapel in Green End, served 500,000 cups of tea, 150,000 sandwiches, 200,000 cakes and 100,000 cooked meals for service personnel.

In post war years came a more expanded and structured approach to the club's charitable work as well as a growth in the closely associated Inner Wheel, Rotaract and Probus clubs. An annual golf competition emerged as a respected fixture and members became active in bowls, snooker, golf, cricket, darts, table tennis, croquet and inter-club quizzes.

More recently, our overseas charity work has included Aqua Boxes - which provide drinking water from polluted Third World sources – famine-awareness, providing educational books and medical equipment, recycling old spectacles, supporting an Indian orphanage and financing prosthetic limb production in Jaipur.

In its history the club membership has included seven chairmen of Whitchurch Council and three mayors of the town.