

By George

newsletter

December 2008

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

President Neil's End of Year Blog!

As we approach the mid-point in the Rotary year we can look back on a busy time and look forward to 2009 which promises to be even busier for us.

One potentially important issue came to light at the November District Council; there are proposals to change the way in which Rotary Foundation works. This, the biggest charity in the world, has been responsible for some major international successes such as the near-elimination of polio but it has also been criticised for too much central control of the funds. Now there are proposals to give Rotarians at local, i.e. district, level a greater say in how the funds are used. More detail is awaited from District and the matter will be aired more fully in a later edition of "By George".

Attempts to even out our projects over the year have not been successful as we discovered that, for example, the Seniors' Ceilidh could not readily be moved to the autumn. Then a traditional November event, Mock Interviews, had to be postponed to the New Year at the request of St Columba's.

So here we go into the second half of our year with even more in our programme than usual. So please watch out for dates on notice boards, in "By George" and through e-mails. We will need all the help and time you can give the club.

Before that the Festive Season is with us and Chris and I would like to wish you all, and your families and friends, a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

President Neil

Rotary Shoe Box Appeal

For some time now the Luncarty Guides have supported the club with its commitment to the Rotary Shoebox Scheme. This has largely resulted from the efforts of Tom Howie and this year the guides have broken all records by helping to meet the 200 box goal.

The Rotary Shoebox Scheme started in 1994 when boxes of gifts were sent at Christmas to children in the city of Lasi in Romania. Since then the scheme has grown throughout Britain and Ireland and many thousands of boxes have been sent to deserving children and families in countries across Eastern Europe. Now in

its 14th year, the Shoeboxes have, over the years, reached far reaching destinations including Romania, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Albania, Kosovo and Croatia and each year the need seems to be ever greater. Although the boxes are particularly sought after at Christmas they are not solely for that time of year and whatever the time, they always go to deserving



recipients. They are distributed either by other clubs or by known contacts and this ensures they do reach the intended recipient.

The guides have enjoyed their participation and their Leader "Mrs T" (as she likes to be known) has been an enormous friend of the club with her drive and enthusiasm and has already 'signed up' for 2009. The girls are only too well aware of just how fortunate they are by comparison with the intended recipients and they are generous with their box fillers and their time.

Rotarians simply need to look at the difference such basic and everyday items as combs, writing materials, balls and toiletries make to the intended recipients to realise what a worthwhile scheme this continues to be.

With the ongoing efforts of Tom Howie, the Luncarty Guides and their Leader "Mrs T" and with the additional boxes filled by club members, the Rotary Club of Perth St John is making a meaningful contribution to those less fortunate than us.

Jim Moyes

Weekly Duty Rota: 17 December 2008 to 28 January 2009 - 12.30 unless otherwise stated

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Door Duty:</u>	<u>Door Duty:</u>	<u>Bottle Duty:</u>	<u>Speakers Host & VOT:</u>
17 Dec	Jim Moyes	Heather Stewart	Louis Flood	Stuart Cameron
07 Jan	Ian Marr	Bruce Thomson	Louis Flood	Alison Crook
14 Jan	Euna Scott	Maureen Young	John Fox	BUSINESS MEETING
21 Jan	Ian Agnew	Susan Scott	Graham Fleming	David Cuthbert
28 Jan	Michael Archibald	Ian Mutch	Enrico Frattaroli	Albert Donaldson

Please note there will be no club meetings on 24 December and 31 December.

A Summary of the Meeting of Council held on 1st December 2008

Paul Kyle reported on his visit to the Dundee Breakfast Club; it has 20 members of which approximately 2/3rds are women. Quite business like and formal; a short meeting from 7.30am to 8.30am. Projects are allocated to individuals rather than committees.

Leave of absence was approved for Louis Flood from 1 December until 31 January 2009.

The Rotary Club of Brynmaur emailed to thank the Club for its £100 donation to 'Lifestraws'.

Starter Packs, Perth wrote asking whether we could assist their search for new accommodation; Heather Stewart agreed to look at this.

District has produced a general purpose risk assessment form.

Rob Burke provided a written Treasurers Report. The balances on the Club accounts are, Charity acc: £9,278.84 / Club acc: £4,804.49 / Hospitality acc: £2,580.79. From the Charity account £750 was paid to Shelter Box (President Neil intimated that the revised cost was £450 per box), £100 to Lifestraws and a £100 deposit for the Senior Citizens Ceilidh. A further £96 has been paid from the Hospitality account – the cost of a 2nd 'Gavel' event. Rob recommended we make a Christmas gratuity payment of £300 to the staff of the Royal George Hotel. This was agreed and payment will be made from the Hospitality account. Council agreed to provisionally earmark funds from the Charity account to make a single payment later this year to meet in full our 3 year obligations to Foundation's final Polio Plus campaign. A final decision will be made following the Charity Sportsman's Dinner.

PKC Social Work Department have begun the process of writing to Care Homes etc to tell them of the 10 February 2009 date for the Senior Citizens Ceilidh.

Christmas Goodwill parcel delivery; a reasonable response from members – 40 delivery slots have been filled.

Primary Schools Quiz: an invite has been issued to schools (38 in total); to date 10 acceptances received.

Speakers had been arranged up to the end of Feb 09.

Average attendance after 22 meetings was 71%. Four members' attendance is below 50%.

Hosting nights; a board is currently being circulated by Sally McCartney who is running this project.

3 Clubs' Ceilidh; Dewars are presently considering their position regarding a cancellation fee; The Band have asked for £150, payment was authorised. Once the final loss is established President Neil will write to the other 2 Clubs to invite them to reimburse us with a share of this cost.

Stuart and the members of his Membership committee intend to speak to every member of the Club to encourage them to bring along someone to the special 'membership' lunch to be held on 28 January 2009.

Paul Kyle confirmed he had written to the Shelter Box organisation to obtain a speaker.

The charities chosen for this year's Sportsman's Dinner were confirmed as: 1) Shelter Box 2) Cash for Kids (formerly Caring for Kids) and 3) the Club's charity account.

President Neil reported that Maureen Young and the team working on 'Full Length and Fabulous 2' and were looking for a key charity. PKAVS (through Graham Fleming) were encouraged to speak to her but it was recommended they do so for a specific charity or event rather than in the name of the umbrella organisation.

President Neil reported on the recent District Council meeting in Aberdeen (Rob Burke and Michael Jamieson also attended). He described it as a much improved and interesting event. 60% of Clubs were represented. The Monifeith Club will lend us a Shelter Box for our January special meeting. A good presentation on 'Help for Heroes' – Ian Marr has arranged a speaker. A very good presentation on the future of Foundation was made. Greater control and involvement at District level was envisaged; 100 Pilot districts worldwide will be sought – there was considerable interest in 1010 becoming one. An attempt to change the currently democratic process of electing District Officers was seen off by President Neil and a goodly number of others present.

Do you know a prospective new Rotary Member?

We have designated the meeting on **Wednesday 28th January 2009** as an opportunity for everyone in the club to bring along a friend or work colleague whom you think maybe interested in joining Rotary to our lunchtime meeting on that day. It is important for this club that we be seen to be introducing new members even if we are just to stand still.

But instead of standing still I feel we should be trying to increase our membership and make our Club grow. Any guest to the club on that day will have their lunch paid for from the club's hospitality fund. We are hoping to have a speaker from Shelter Box, and also have a shelter box on display. While we do not expect everyone to bring a guest along we hope that all club members will support this meeting well, so that we can show to our guests the happy active club that we are.

Maureen, George and I will be speaking to you all individually to encourage you to think seriously about introducing a new member as we feel you all have a part to play in membership recruitment. If you have someone in mind who cannot manage along on that day please feel free to bring them to a meeting when it suits them however it is only on the 28th that the guest's lunches will be paid by the club.

Stuart Cameron
Membership Convenor

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary:

17 Dec	Club Christmas Lunch
17 Dec	Carol Signing, Ochil Care Home
05 Jan	Council Meeting
07 Jan	1st Meeting of 2009
14 Jan	Business Meeting
28 Jan	Membership Lunch
10 Feb	Senior Citizens Ceilidh (Provisional)

Please send news items and contributions to Ian Mutch or ByGeorge@perthsjrotary.org.uk by 09 January 2009

Visit the club website at www.perthsjrotary.org.uk for full duty and diary details