

Rotary Club of Rotherham Sitwell District 1220

Club Bulletin

No. 32.04

October 2024

Meetings: Thursday evenings
See Club Meetings for more information.

Officers & Committee Chairs 2024-25

President	Martin Davis
President Elect	Vacant
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Steve Burns
Treasurer	Jackie Saunders
Immediate past President	Peter Short

Chairmen of Committees

Admin/Club Service	Vacant
Membership/Social	Steve Burns
Publicity/PR	Peter Waudby
Community	Trish Lister
International/Rotary Foundation	Chris Croker

Other Officers

Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Assistant Treasurer	Alan Holloway
Archivist	Chris Williams
Attendance Officer	Phil Crutchley
Bulletin Editor	Chris Williams
Environmental Officer	Phil Crutchley
Health & Safety Officer	John Sparrow
Safeguarding Officer	Vacant
Sergeant at Arms	Roger Green
Welfare Officer	Trevor Johnson

Council Members

Martin Davis, Steve Burns, Jackie Saunders, Peter Short,
Tom Knight, Trish Lister, Chris Croker, Peter Waudby

Trustees of Benevolent Fund

Alan Holloway, Trevor Johnson, Peter Keary



Club Meetings for October
All 6.30 for 7.00pm at SPGC,
cost £20, unless otherwise
stated.

**Apologies to Phil Crutchley,
unless otherwise stated.**

**Sin bins will be applied for
absence with no apology.**

3 October Charter Evening
7.00 for 7.30 pm
at Aston Hall Hotel

FRATS: Peter Waudby
GRACE: John Sparrow

10 October Business meeting
Apologies to John Sparrow

FRATS: John Woffenden
GRACE: Tony Eden

17 October Committee meetings

24 October Business meeting

FRATS: Kamal Zaman
GRACE: Judith Grant

31 October Meeting with partners
7.00 for 7.30 pm

FRATS: Chris Croker
GRACE: Roger Green

Frats & Grace – **your** responsibility to find
alternates if you cannot attend. *Please advise
John Sparrow of any changes you have
agreed.*

Council Meeting
Thursday 10th October at
5.30pm
Venue: SPGC
Observers welcome

Club Meetings for November
All 6.30 for 7.00pm at SPGC,
cost £20, unless otherwise
stated.

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unless otherwise stated.**

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absence with no apology.**

7 November Special General Evening

FRATS: Phil Crutchley
GRACE: Alan Holloway

14 November Fellowship meeting

FRATS: Paul Daniels
GRACE: Trevor Johnson

21 November Committee meetings

28 November Business meeting

FRATS: Tony Eden
GRACE: Peter Keary

Frats & Grace – **your** responsibility to find
alternates if you cannot attend. *Please advise
John Sparrow of any changes you have agreed.*

Council Meeting
Thursday 7th November at
5.30pm
Venue: SPGC
Observers welcome

Collecting for Ukraine

Earlier this year club members were asked by our Assistant District Governor, Liz Hepworth of Dronfield Rotary, to collect non-perishable food and other products. Dronfield Rotarians would then arrange for these to be sent onto Ukraine.

The kind of items include:

Non-perishable food stuffs - rice, noodles, pasta, tinned foods of any kind, salt

candles, batteries, charging bricks, power packs

Sanitary products - tampons, towels,

Nappies

Aspirin, paracetamol, cough mixture, tourniquets

Please bring what you have collected to the club meeting on 10th October

Christmas Dinner at the Wharnccliffe Restaurant.

A reminder that the club meeting on Thursday 12th December will take the form of a Christmas Dinner at the Wharnccliffe Restaurant. The menu and prices will be circulated when received.

Happy Birthday

October 24th

Jackie Saunders

Next Bulletin

The next bulletin is scheduled to be published in early November. Any contributions will be most welcome, please email to me by 30th October.

Nigel Elmhirst

A service to celebrate Nigel's life was held at All Saints Parish Church, Laughton-en-le Morthen on 26th September. A copy of the family's tribute to Nigel, given at the service by his daughter Rachael, is appended below.

MY TRIBUTE TO DADDY

Thank you all for joining us on this truly difficult day, but one we are determined to ensure is a celebration to the most wonderful man.

We have received so many kind words and tributes and I must apologise for not being able to read them all out today. All of them have been read by the family and truly appreciated.

Each and every one of you today is here because of our father, Nigel, has left a mark upon your life. You will all have had your own reason for knowing him and created many memories with him - and we look forward to you sharing them with us. He was perhaps your colleague, an Octavian, a Rotarian, a Feoffee, a friend (or pal as he would say), a cousin, a brother, a grandpa, a father-in-law, a father and most importantly of all a devoted and truly in love husband. I know that we all miss him deeply. I also know that he would have some cheeky remark to make back to each and every one of us!

Richard and I were told by Daddy that he had started a file which we could refer to in the future as needed. It had a document in that he had written to assist us when, and if our parents should pass. Always the solicitor! In it he wrote some helpful suggestions, but one that stuck out was that he did “not anticipate a lot of people coming to his funeral” ... wow ... how wrong can an intelligent man be!

Whilst Daddy was in hospital and we feared the worst, Richard said a powerful and comforting sentence to me - he said that he cannot think of one regret Daddy would take with him. This is absolutely true. He was hard working, kind, honest to the core and cared hugely for his family. A word I have heard used a lot recently, from you all, was that he was a gentleman. My goodness his language could be fruity and his humour a little close to the bone at times - but he had a manner that allowed everyone and anyone to take his time and with patience he would help, support and occasionally tick off!

Daddy was born on August 9th, 1946, in Rotherham and attended Rudston school for a time. He also attended Mini Thompson's ballet school briefly – which for those who have seen him in later life eating up the dance floor to Status Quo or dancing rock and roll with Mummy – you will know that he loved a good dance!

In 1954 he went to school at Terrington Hall where one of his all-time childhood memories occurred. In 1959 he was privileged to be asked to accompany the Headmaster on a 1-

month-long tour of Europe with 3 other school boys – I'm not sure it would be allowed now-a-days, but for Daddy it was a memory of a lifetime.

Age 13 he was sent to a school in Musselburgh, near Edinburgh – I don't think his parents could find a nearer school! He remained there until 1964 and during this time holidayed with his Aunty Batty and family in Scotland.

His first step into the world of the armed forces was in 1964 when he went on a CCF camp as a Junior Under Officer. He later joined the Hallamshire Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment based in Rotherham. He continued his love of "playing soldiers" and moved to D Company with the Yorkshire Volunteers based at Endcliffe Hall. Here is where he met 2 dear friends Richard Elliott and Mike Newton. Uncle Richard told me recently that there was most definitely mischief whilst playing at soldiers!

I believe that it was during this time that he was given a duty that was one of his all-time proudest moments. He was asked to greet The Queen at York Station and present the colours. Mummy tells me that he practiced and practiced at home making sure that he did it correctly and would often criticize others he saw on television thereafter! Daddy remained in the Territorial Army until 1975 and always speaks extremely fondly of his friendships and time with the TA.

Also in 1964 Daddy started work at Hickmotts as an article clerk and then started Law School in London. During his Law School era he commented that he got to know the way to Bush Davis School of Theatre Arts and began to visit his sister... and her friends...quite often! In 1971 he qualified as a solicitor and by 1972 was a partner in the firm and remained dedicated to Hickmotts until his retirement in 2012.

We have received many thoughtful and kind reflections on his working career. We think at one point he must have bought or sold most of the houses in Rotherham. He was joined at the firm by a wonderful team of colleagues, I can see many of them here today. You and The Hickmott family remained very dear to him.

During his visits to Bush Davis Daddy found the love of his life. Initially I'm not sure it was love at first sight ...but over the next 5 years they fell in love and married on January 8th, 1972. They have had a wonderful marriage and been THE best role models for a happy and fulfilled life. I have always described our parents to others as love birds and after 52 years they were still deeply in love, a wonderful team and had so much fun together.

In 1974 Mummy and Daddy sold their first house and moved to Worsborough House in Moorgate where they started their family. In 1979, as a family of 4, we all moved back into Daddy's childhood home - Castle Hill, Laughton-en-le-Morthen. This was the most magical place to grow up and Aunty Kirsteen and Daddy must have had so much fun running around the Motte and Bailey and romping through the hilly fields. Richard and I know this, as we too have similar memories of growing up here in such an awesome place.

Daddy also dedicated his adult life to supporting local people and local charities. He has been a governor of our local school and later in life joined the Sitwell Rotary Club in 1992. The Rotary Club was very important to him. Together with good friends they raised funds for many local and international charities. Fun was had along the way with short trips abroad together where I have no doubt there was laughter, beer and of course dancing!

One of his proudest appointments was an invite to join the Feoffees of the Common Lands of Rotherham. Here he was able to invest in his birth town and those who live in Rotherham. The family loved seeing the newspaper articles with Grandpa all dressed up with bowler hat and ceremonial chain. He was so proud to be the Greave on 3 occasions and I know he would wish the good work to continue, promoting his life-long home of Rotherham and it's new generation.

Since retirement Daddy remained very busy – Mummy would say he did more work at home in recent years than ever in his professional career. He did however have time to play golf, meet for a beer in the Black Lion, catch up with friends, go to the theatre as well as keeping a beautiful home and garden. His most precious times were those with Mummy – at home and spending time on holiday relaxing and having fun.

Richard and I are blessed to have had the most loving, intelligent, humorous and fun father we could have dreamt of. His 4 grandchildren, Eloise, Josie, Oscar and Emmie adored Grandpa. It was only very recently that we were all in Norfolk celebrating his 78th birthday with laughter, great food, golf, time on the beach and a few pints of beer. At one point all 3 generations were in the sea messing about in the waves together. The perfect memory for us all.

Daddy's departure was not as anyone thought or prayed for. He was peaceful, with family present and as he requested, he just wanted to sleep this week off.

Sleep well Daddy.

I ask you all to do something. Keep Nigel active in your minds and hearts, keep progressing with the charitable work he was involved in but most importantly laugh with him and about him, cherish your memories and leave here remembering a truly wonderful gentleman - our Daddy.