



ROTARY CLUB OF WEDNESFIELD

(FOUNDED 17 JUNE 1964)



"Wednesfield" - ink collage by Past President Rtn. Geoff Marsh.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests will always find a very warm welcome at The Rotary Club of **Wednesfield**.

The club meets at 6.15pm for 6.30pm at Linden House, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton. Anyone who wishes to visit us and enjoy a meal in convivial company and to find out about what Rotary does will be very welcome. We are always open to welcome new members particularly those in the 30/40/50 age group. If you wish to come to see us then all you have to do is to telephone the Club Secretary at the number given at the end of this piece.



Peter Hurlstone

President,
Rotary Club of Wednesfield.

January 2010

A brief History of Wednesfield

Wednesfield lies to the east of Wolverhampton on the fringe of the "Black Country". It is probably the oldest of the Black Country Townships. The history can be traced back to 910 when Edward the Elder with his army of Mercians and Saxons heavily defeated the Danes at the Plain of Wednesfield (Woden's Field). This battle is perpetuated in the design of the Club's Presidential Badge of office which depicts warriors at the height of conflict.

A small hamlet until the 18th century, Wednesfield expanded rapidly with the advent of canals in 1750 and with the Industrial Revolution in the 19th Century and in 1965 became part of The Borough of Wolverhampton. Many original large industrial concerns related to Iron, Steel and Motor Industries have been replaced by smaller industrial units and service industries. The trading character of Wednesfield has changed considerably.

Wednesfield is now a densely populated area housing over 90,000 people. The canal system runs through the town centre and much of one half of the High Street was constructed by the Founder President of the club Norman Purshouse.

The parish church around which the old Wednesfield was built is dedicated to St Thomas and has twice been rebuilt since its erection, circa 1760. The ancient sport of cock fighting formed part of the festivities at "Wednesfield Wake". Hence the name of the first meeting place of Wednesfield Rotary Club – "The Pyle Cock" Public House which is still operating as a Pub.

The Rotary Club of Wednesfield.

The territorial area covered by the Club is about 7 square miles. It was formed in 1964, there were 28 founder members and over the years membership has fluctuated in the 20s and 30s and currently stands at 23.

The club has had a major influence on the life of Wednesfield with the "Meals on Wheels" service in Wednesfield being given a kick start by members. For over 12 years a transport service was run for handicapped and blind members of the community.

A group of members got together to form the "Wednesfield Housing Association" which then established a development of 1 and 2 person units of sheltered housing for the elderly known as "Rotary Court" in Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton which this year's club President, Peter Hurlstone, still actively manages.

Our major fund raisers are a Xmas Sleigh which tours the area for a week at Christmas and a "Trolley Dash" run with the co-operation of a major supermarket. The club has always been very conscious of its responsibility to aid health care in the local community. We have consistently supported New Cross Hospital and donated funds to various hospital trusts located there and at one point the club also provided and planted a small garden at the hospital for patient relaxation. Annually the club sets up a tent in the High Street, between the Market Stalls to offer free Blood Pressure Tests to the public. This is successful every year and we know of at least two people who have had their life saved by this exercise.

The club has always tried to involve itself in assisting and improving education and has recently sent a dozen youngsters on RYLA weeks and in conjunction with the other four Clubs in Wolverhampton we actively support the Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra, have provided "Drug Cards" to schools twice and help co-ordinate an Environmental Project amongst schools

Two major successes for the club were redecoration of a dedicated room and then equipping it with sensory equipment at a Pre School Special Needs Unit in Wednesfield and in Swaziland, in conjunction with Malkerns Valley Club there, provided a remote school with a clean water supply and new school furniture.

The club has associated Inner Wheel and Probus Clubs and two members, Norman Purshouse and James Adeogun have served as District Governor whilst others have also served on District Committees.

LIST OF CURRENT MEMBERS

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEDNESFIELD

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---|
| James Adeogun | [Pat] | Rtd. Nursing Management [Past District Governor] |
| Derek Blount | [Judy] | Rtd. Electrical Engineering |
| Terry Close | [Helen] | Real Estate Sales & Management |
| Stan Coe | [Jean] | Rtd. Building Society Management |
| Ralph Crofts | [Margaret] | Rtd. Police Service |
| Hortense Davies | | Probation Service |
| Amar Das Gupta | [Tess] | Rtd. General Medical Practitioner |
| Denis Doughty | [Carol] | Electrical Contracting |
| David Dyall | [Elaine] | Rtd. Careers Advice |
| Brian Flanagan | [Jean] | Financial Advice |
| Peter Hurlstone | [Jenny] | Property Development Management |
| David Johns | [Brenda] | Rtd. Mortgage Management |
| Charlotte Jones | [Eirwyn] | Rtd. Education Accountancy |
| Eirwyn Jones | [Charlotte] | Rtd. Steelwork Fabrication |
| Stan Jukes | [Norma] | Motor Engineering Sales |
| Simon Mansfield | | Anglican Clergy |
| Jonathan Nock | | Law – Notary Public |
| Helen Perkins | [Brian] | Legal Team Management |
| Barry Picken | [Jenny] | Health Consultancy |
| Mark Simmonds | [Dawn] | Funeral Direction Services |
| Shankar Verma | | Rtd. Medicine – Geriatrics |
| Lawrence Wallace | [Seija] | Hospital Chaplaincy |
| Ray Ward | [Joan] | Construction Planning Advice |

23 Members

Our Club Secretary is Rtn. David Johns who can be contacted by e-mail at djohnswheat@aol.com or by phone on 01746763710