

TOWCESTER MAYOR'S ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 02nd March

In May this year the Rotary Club of Towcester celebrates the fact that the Club being in existence for 45 years.

The Club was formed in 1981 with the emphasis being on “*Service above Self*”. The Rotarians of Towcester have raised thousands of pounds for local charities and organisations, particularly those related to the youth of Towcester and District, but has also supported national and international projects in Africa, India and the Ukraine.



Over the past year, the Club's fundraising has been able to support the local primary schools, NMPAT, SNYE, the Towcester Town Junior Football club and Towcestrians Junior Rugby Club. The Club has also supported the Towcester Toy Bank providing storage and assistance in packing at Christmas time. The Club is supportive of other charitable institutions such as the Christmas meal delivery for the Tove Benefice and the selling of poppies in the Royal British Legion Poppy

Appeal.

With the emphasis on youth the Club manages the annual Rotary Youth Competitions, giving the young people of Towcester an opportunity to display their talents in music, writing, painting, photography and budding environmentalists. In the past we have had winners in these competitions at district and national levels.

Now that the threat of parking charges has receded, the Club is looking forward to the continued management of the Towcester Farmers' Market. This takes place on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Sponne Arcade car park. The Club manages this as a community initiative on behalf of WNC.

In February/March the purple crocus to appear around the town, particularly opposite the Cemetery on Brackley Road. These have been planted by the Club to commemorate Rotary's fight against poliomyelitis, a dreadful life-threatening disease of the 50's and the memories of the infamous but lifesaving Iron lung.



The annual "Last Night of the Proms" has been held at Whittlebury Park. An evening of musical excellence by the Sponne School Orchestra and Choir supported by the Kidlington Concert Brass. Continuing with a musical theme, the Club will be supporting an early spring concert by *Roselle*, a string quartet led by Lizzie Rowland, a Towcester product who started out learning to play an

instrument with NMPAT and at Sponne School. The recital will be in the St Thomas More Catholic Church on 07th March.

In June there is the annual Midsummer Music Festival. The Rotary Club is part of the management team for this event and provides volunteers over the weekend.

Finally in October the Club is the hosting the world famous Cwmbach Choir from mid-Wales. An evening of typical Welsh choir at its best.

In April the Club will be organising the Towcester Grand National, this will be a fund-raising evening at Blakesley Village Hall – watch out for details on our web page and on our Facebook account.

It would not be Christmas without Father Christmas and the club would like to thank the supermarkets for allowing Rotary Santa's to 'park' his sleigh on their respective car parks outside their premises and also a big thank you everyone who contributed. The Club also ran a Naughty Elf competition in conjunction with local shop owners in an effort to attract people into the town. The Club intends to run this again in 2026 in November and December.



The Club has a number of Corporate Members which bring a wealth of experience and support to the club. They are Able Assist, Brook House. Whittlebury Park, the Mill Brewery, SpecSavers and Salon 58.

If you would like to know more about Rotary and Rotary in Towcester, and would like to get involved in supporting the local community then send an email to secretary@towcester-rotary.org.uk . Why not join us at meeting for a meal, drink and a chat. We meet on a Thursday evening at the Saracens Head Hotel in Towcester and you would be most welcome.