## Saltash Rotary Report to Annual Meeting with Parishioners of Saltash

Rotary started off their new Rotary year on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 with a handover of Presidents from Pete Samuels to Brian Hunt. Brian was a long serving member in another Rotary Club but moved to Saltash to be closer to his family and has fitted in well and is enjoying his new role

Saltash Rotary are always keen to be part of the very vibrant Town of Saltash. Planting of the flower boats in various locations around the town has certainly made a colourful addition to the Council planting.

Saltash Regatta was a very busy two days with Rotary providing cakes, pasties and savoury rolls at the Ashtorre. It is great working together with other organisations to enhance visitor's experiences at the event.

At the end of August, we were able to launch our first Art Exhibition hosted by the Ashtorre. This was organised by a few of our members with various local artists donating art work for visitors to purchase with the proceeds going to Rotary. Everyone said it was an excellent event and I am sure will be repeated maybe next year.

During September one of our members hosted an annual coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillian which again proved to be very well attended. Lots of lovely cakes and of course coffee and chat.

October saw us back at the Ashtorre running a food stall while the Model Club had their exhibition. We sold out of food on both days, which was great.

This year, as last, members of our Club assisted the Royal British Legion with their poppy sales at Waitrose. It was great to chat to customers and listen to some of their war time stories alongside collecting funds for a very good cause.

Rotary are always delighted to be part of the St Nicholas and Faith Christmas Tree festival and this year the Church looked spectacular with so many trees from local charities and organisations in the Town participating.

December saw us have an extremely busy month with our Santa Sleigh, visiting various areas around the Town as well as being in the Town Centre and also over at Waitrose and Morrisons, as well as Tamar View Garden Centre.. We were extremely thankful to Peter Sleep of Sleep and Hill Motors who did various repairs to our sleigh so that Santa could travel safety during his many visits.

It was fantastic that a number of Plymouth Mayflower Rotary Club were able to join us for our Christmas Meal at the China Fleet and we also joined with them for a Quiz Night at Roborough Rotary Club.

January saw the launch of our Youth Competitions. Firstly, the Youth Speaks held in Saltash Wesly Church. We were delighted that the team from Brunel School have got into the final which takes place in a couple of weeks' time. Our Young Writer competition is in full swing with over 100 entries from local young people. What fantastic imagination our young people have. We have our kids out event in the next few months where we will be hosting various children for a day out at Trethorne. At the moment numbers are looking about 200.

We held our Annual Quiz Night at the Saltash Social Club with a fish and chip supper. It was excellent and we raised over £800 for Shakinah mission and other local charities in Saltash.

We are currently in the process of placing a new defibrillator at St Stephens. The church has kindly agreed to allow us to connect to their supply of electricity and wi-fi which is a brilliant collaboration. This will be very close to the new playpark with has been installed at Summerfields. We are also about to become part of the GWR station project group. This will enable Rotary to plant up the empty boats at the Railway Station and make it a really colourful gateway to Cornwall. Lots of events planned for the rest of the year which includes a Jaipur Limb curry evening at the end of March. We are again at the Ashtorre with our bacon rolls for the connectivity event happening within the Town on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. Back at Isambard House to host our Model Railway exhibition on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Brenda Samuels** 

Saltash Rotary Club Secretary 2023-2024

End of report.

