

MINUTES OF THE ROTARY MEETING – WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2022

The meeting (as usual) was chaired by our president Roger Shepherd.

He welcomed everyone from the club plus DG Paul Steele, Assistant Governor Group 5 Cecil Rose, Ruth Hughes, Sharron Karsenborg and Pippa Hicks from the Romsey club and a welcome return from Shaun O'Brien.

Nikki Jones introduced our speaker for this evening – Lauren Denham from Baby Necessities.

Lauren explained that she and her friend Hayley started the charity about a year ago and operate from a Basepoint unit on the Abbey Park Industrial Estate.

They support families during hardship with baby items and have helped over 200 families to date. Clothes, toys and equipment are supplied across Southampton and surrounding areas. All items are cleaned before supply.

Referrals are via community midwives, health visitors, GP's, support workers, etc. Items are supplied for children up to 5 years old at present. Their aim is to alleviate child poverty across South Hampshire and to promote the recycling of second-hand items. Amongst the items supplied include pushchairs, food, toiletries etc.

Every week on social media, they publish a 'wishlist' of what is currently needed. Funding is acquired from various sources including the National Lottery, Ford Motor Company, TVBC, Arnold Clark Community Fund. The charity currently has about 20 volunteers. They have now started a 'side' charity called 'Give A Gift' which supplies gifts for children aged 1 to 11 years.

Nikki Jones gave a vote of thanks to Lauren thanking her for her time and the amazing job she is doing.

Paul Steele (our District DG) gave us a short address and also thanked Lauren for her presentation. Cecil Rose (our Group 5 assistant DG) also said a few words commenting that he was impressed by the cooperation of the two clubs in Romsey as indicated by the 'Rotary in Romsey' on social media.

Nick Bellamy advised that Reminiscences of Romsey was delayed from the 12th March and will now take place on the 14th May.

There will be no meeting next week (just a Council meeting).

The next meeting will be a business meeting on Wednesday 2nd February.

Tony Abbott
19 Jan 2022