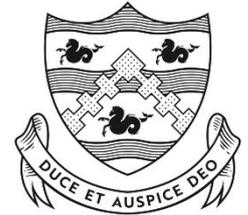




BEAMINSTER TIMES



Ambition · Service · Kindness

Winter 2021

Our Values: Ambition - Service - Kindness (ASK)

News from Beamminster School

Winter 2021

Happy Christmas 2021

As always, the run up to Christmas at Beamminster is a wonderfully happy, busy time!

Our Christmas 2021 festivities were kick-started with the school choir being invited along to sing some carols at Mapperton House Xmas Fair.

This was followed by our Christmas Concert in the school hall, a marvellous celebratory showcase for our students' many and varied musical talents, both vocal and instrumental, and always a hugely enjoyable and entertaining evening.

The BSPTA's ever-popular Christmas Bake-off Competition once again produced some delicious entries of pies, cakes and biscuits, which were then sold off at the Xmas Fair held in St Mary's Church to add to the funds raised by the BSPTA's Grand Xmas raffle.

As well as Christmas lunches for our own staff and students, our Canteen provides Christmas dinners for some of our primary partners, and our current students really enjoyed serving the meals to their old school friends and teachers.

The church once again provided the venue for our Carol Concert, with a delightful blend of seasonal music and readings, giving us all some time to reflect on and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Jumper day, in aid of Save the Children, is always a bit of fun whilst also supporting a very good cause, and the festive fun is rounded off with 6th Form Rag week and Mr Withers doing the famous end of term raffle.

Whatever you are doing, and wherever you may be, everyone at Beamminster School would like to wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to welcoming in 2022!





An Interview with a Rotarian

Mr Phil Payne is a member of the Brit Valley Rotary Club. There are actually two Rotary Clubs in Bridport with the other being called Bridport Rotary Club. Brit Valley's area extends from West Bay to a little further north than Beaminster.

To put this article into context, Phil and the Rotarians want the students of Beaminster School, as well as the many others they help, to understand what it is that the Rotary Club do.

Their full name is Rotary International and therefore an international organisation, the biggest service organisation in the world. It began in Chicago, Illinois in 1905 when the founder, Paul Harris, who was an attorney, decided that he was doing well in business and should give something back to the community. He then embarked on a few projects, the first one being a gymnasium and youth club for the youth of Chicago, which back then would have been a big thing for the children. There weren't many facilities back then for children to go, so this was a really big deal. He then went on to finance and organise a number of other projects.

What happened next was that some of his colleagues approached him saying, "We'd like to do something like this too," and they all agreed they would do things together, and would travel from wherever their offices were to meet once a week and have this after-work meeting with Paul. Paul then said how unfair it was that they all travelled to him, and why didn't they take it in turns meeting at each others' offices, and they then called themselves the Rotary Club. The organisation then grew rapidly in America and South America and then came across to Europe. It has grown to the size it is today where there are now 35,000 Rotary Clubs, in 250 countries of the world, with 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide!

The purpose of Rotarians is to look at what needs doing in the community, and do it. This could be locally in our own community, or it could be national, for example, they might organise themselves to deal with something in the UK, or it could be an international project. They do things around the world to deal with issues that a Government might take forever to decide upon. For example, if they need to send money abroad the Government will send it to a Rotary Club near where it needs spending. In an explosion in Beirut a few years ago, many buildings were destroyed, including a children's hospital. The hospital and all its equipment were destroyed. The Rotary Club of Beirut made contact with numerous other clubs asking for support, which they received, and it was internationally decided that Rotary Clubs would fund the rebuilding of the hospital and buy all the new equipment needed. The total bill was \$3.5 million, all the Clubs either found money or made pledges, and Rotary Clubs never fail to fulfil their pledges. The hospital in Beirut was rebuilt and refurbished in 6 months using local labour in Lebanon.

About us
Brit Valley Rotary Club is a Bridport Rotary Club including Beaminster, West Bay and the Bride Valley and welcomes any visiting Rotarians and their partners
Please use the contact form to ask for details of our online meetings at 7.25 pm on Wednesday

Another example would be a charity the Rotary has called Shelterbox. It's a large plastic box with camping equipment inside, including a large tent, water refining equipment and cooking equipment, so that they can respond quickly to disasters around the world as and when they occur such as an earthquake or tsunami etc. Each Shelterbox can satisfy the needs of a family with several members and can be sent to wherever they are needed within 48 hours. They are pre-made and held in a warehouse for when required.

Rotary have also helped in Nepal. A school project started in one of the areas affected by the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25th, 2015, as the school was left in a terribly poor condition. Rotary raised £64,000 to help rebuild it. For more information please search *Rotary school Nepal* into Google.

What do Rotary do for the School?

If you look on the Brit Valley Rotary Club website (just search Brit Valley Rotary Club) you can find these contact details, as well as information on projects they have done in our local area. Every year, Rotary run four programmes for the school: Youth Speaks, Young Photographer, Year 10 student mock interviews and RYLA (the Rotary Young Leader Award).

Our local Rotary district is called District 1200 and there are 77 clubs in District 1200. Our district goes from Weymouth to Minehead and around to Chippenham. The districts provide a network of Rotary Clubs which helps competitions such as the Youth Speaks because there can then be local and national levels of competition.

If you are interested in becoming a Rotarian you need to be over 18, youth Rotarians are called Rotaract but at the moment there are no Rotaract clubs in Dorset.

Meetings & Venue

Where and when:
We meet on Wednesdays at 19.25
Haddon House Hotel
West Bay
Bridport

DT6 4EL 📞 01308 423626 or info@haddonhousehotel.co.uk
[Web site about the locality](#)

Get Directions
Enter your Postcode or Town



An Interview with a Rotarian

Young Photographer Competition

Young Photographer takes place in November every year. There are three age group categories, of which two apply to Beaminster, Senior and Intermediate. Each year, Rotary decides upon a theme, and our Head of Photography, Mr Haigh, then encourages student photographers in school to take part in the competition. This year's theme was Colours of Nature. All the photo entries are displayed in the Hall, and a professional photographer, invited in by Rotary, then comes in and does the judging. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd places get issued certificates and a prize, usually some vouchers for a photography shop or something of the sort, and the overall winner then goes forward to the district competition with the same photograph. The winners of that round then go up to the national competition.



Year 10 Student Mock Interviews

Mock interviews are run for Year 10 students, and at Beaminster these were done in November this year. Every year 12,000 pupils do mock interviews with Rotary! It is done to help give students some experience of a job interview, and ideas about how to improve their appearance and presentation to a company for future job interviews. It originated in a North Wales Rotary Club in 2002 which then passed their success on to other clubs. It takes about 2,500 volunteer hours to get them done. We are given a form by Mr Donovan, similar to a CV, to be critiqued. The interviews are 1:1 and 30 minutes long.

The emphasis is on being organised and prepared like for a real job interview. For example, we have to decide when to sign out of school and how long we need to walk to the public hall, because while this one won't really matter, the real ones will. You are asked about your plans for the future and whether or not you have a career plan yet, and the interview is then based around that aspiration. At the end of the interview you are given feedback about things you did well and any areas that could be improved upon. None of that is shared with the school, it is purely a one-to-one dress rehearsal. Rotary have been doing mock interviews for the past 6 years at Beaminster, and on any one day there are usually 5 Rotarians conducting interviews, but not always the same 5 throughout the day.

Rotary Young Leader Award (RYLA)

This is an international award and takes place every year all over the world. Rotary pick a student in Year 11 and send them on a one-week residential training course at a training facility on Dartmoor during February half term. Rotary pick a student from every secondary school in the district. It is an important part of the programme that participants don't know anyone else there, as the best learning happens when you are away from people you know, and it also encourages certain leadership techniques. The group is split into two smaller groups to complete tasks in. The course is conducted under a professional instructor from Jack Russell training. He is an ex-marine and yes, his parents have a good sense of humour(!), and has done things like walk to the North Pole and climb Everest, so is extremely fit for a man in his 50's. His work is training young people to become better leaders.

Everyone who completes the RYLA training is then invited back to a Rotary meeting to discuss their experience of it. The week consists of a 50/50 combination of learning the theory behind leadership in a classroom, and then going out on the moor to practise what has just been taught in small groups. In total there will be 24 people doing the programme, 12 boys and 12 girls, who are then split into smaller groups of four or six, and for each activity a different person is chosen to lead. You get a certificate to say you have completed the course, however, it is not a formal qualification. The centre was purpose built as a training facility in the 1960's. Students sleep in a dorm together and must cook for themselves. Once chosen, a Rotarian will come for a house visit to get your parents to sign certain forms.

Youth Speaks (Public Speaking Competition)

Beaminster has been involved with the Youth Speaks competition for many years. It is a three-stage competition which is designed to support and encourage the development of effective communication skills. Each team is comprised of three students in two age groups: Intermediate (11 to 13 years), and Senior (14 to 17 years). In the same way Young Photographer does, the heats go from local level, to district to national.

We would like to say a big thank you to Phil Payne for giving up his time to talk us. If anyone is interested in becoming a Rotarian please use the contact details given.

By Kai Kenway and Ruth Sloper 10P

Stop the Clock Days

Year 7 - Wookey Hole

For "Stop the Clock Day" Year 7s went to Wookey hole in Cheddar, famous for having "solutional caves" that are formed by a process of weathering in which natural acid in water dissolves the rocks.

The bus journey took about 1 hour to get there and when we did we were split into our houses, with half of Mapperton going with Waddon.

First off, we went into the caves, and were told all about the Witch of Wookey story. All over the caves there were lights that shined all different colours, which made it seem all the more magical, some parts of the cave were really low down so we had to crouch to get through.

Once we had left the caves, we went into the 4D cinema, which was amazing, the images seemed to be popping out of the screen, and the chairs moved along with the camera and scenes of the mini movie we saw, at one point we all got sprayed in the back of the head with water!

Then we had our packed lunch and me and my partner snuck out to see the warping mirrors, pretending that we were going to the toilet. We then all went to the penny arcade and gift shop to spend our money. We got back on the bus and headed home.

Overall, I really enjoyed the trip to Wookey Hole, and so did my friends. I hope to go there again with my family someday.

By Penny Chambers 7M



Year 7 - Wookey Hole



Stop the Clock Days

Year 10 - Army Team Building

This term, Year 10 stayed at school for "Stop the Clock Day" for a day of planning related to careers and work experience, and some fun outdoor activities run by the Army Outreach team.

In the morning we did some preparation for work experience with Mr Donovan. This involved researching possible work experience options online, and writing letters to prospective employers. I have already arranged to do my first week at a veterinary practice in Bridport and I'm hoping to work on a farm for my second week to get some experience with larger animals.

We also spent some time preparing CVs for our practice interviews that happened later in the week at the Town Hall with the Rotary Club. It was quite nerve wracking at first to be in an unfamiliar situation and answer questions about the future, but they really put me at ease, and it was a valuable opportunity as it gave me a much better idea of what a real interview is like and what employers look for.

In the afternoon we worked in groups with the Army Outreach team, overcoming a series of different problem-solving challenges and team-building exercises. My favourite task was when we were given a plank and we had to get our team across from barrel to barrel without touching the ground. The emphasis was on good communication, and we were encouraged to put forward ideas and suggestions in a controlled and calm manner, even while time was ticking away alarmingly fast!

By Charlie Irving-Bell 10W



Year 10 - Army Team Building



Meet the Teacher: Interview with Miss Rollick

Miss Rollick joined the English Department in September so Kai and Kaeden interviewed her to find out a bit more about our new member of staff.

What is your favourite food?

I like food quite a lot, but I think my favourite food is pizza, any type of pizza, but right up there with that is afternoon tea. A proper afternoon tea with sandwiches and all that!

What would be your favourite animal?

It would have to be a dog, I grew up with dogs so it would have to be a dog. I try and always go with a rescue dog because I think it's just great to give them a nice home. When you get home they greet you and they're happy to see you, not like a stroppy teenager!

What's an animal you don't like?

Well I'm not so keen on snakes because I'm quite scared of them.

What's the worst job you can imagine?

I'm not quite sure, but I think the worst job would be one where I have to work really long days, I'd need breaks for a cup of tea.

If you won two million pounds how would you use it?

Well, the first thing I would do is give £10,000 to Miss Jones because I used to work with her and we used to all talk about what we would do if we won the lottery, so I would give her some money. Then I would just make sure all my family and friends had what they needed, and I guess if there was anything left over I would go for a nice cream tea somewhere!

Which subject did you hate at school?

Maths. I just didn't get it, and I wasn't sure when I would use it, but I find that I do use it and that I have to do it.

If you weren't a teacher what job would you have chosen?

I always fancied being a journalist, travelling the world and getting to see the world. I think I'd like to be a journalist for the royal family because then there's no tragedies, so you wouldn't see anything sad. It's also all fancy and so I could travel in luxury.

What would be your dream house?

It would have to be comfortable and would have to feel homely. When I think about my house now, I'd like a nice, big kitchen. I wouldn't mind where it was as long it was a nice, comfortable place and when you walk through the door you'd just get that "Aaaahhhhhh" it just feels like home feeling.

What's the best car and what's a car you wouldn't really like?

Well I'm not so keen on my current car, I'd just like a better car; I know they're not the flashiest car but I think I just love BMWs.

What would be the worst pet you could own?

It might be my current pet, so my cat. My dogs had to be put down because they were old, and I did have two cats, but one of them got hit by a car, so now I've just got one cat who is quite mean and miserable, so her!

By Kai Kenway 10P and Kaeden Schofield 7M



Badminton Club

It's so good to see the return of clubs at Beaminster School!

Just before the first lockdown I had started going to Badminton Club, so I was very pleased to see that it was one of the options this term. It runs on a Friday lunchtime and is open to all year groups.

It starts at 12:35 in the sports hall and is run by Mr Stevens. You don't need to change into PE kit, but you do need to have a pair of trainers. You get to play against most people there as you move around the nets.

I really recommend this club as it is great fun and it's easy to turn up and play!

By Charles Irving-Bell 10W

Award-winning Photojournalist, Peter Macdiarmid

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the **award-winning news photographer, Peter Macdiarmid**, to talk to our Year 11, 12 and 13 Photography and Media students. Peter has been a previous News Photographer of The Year at the Press Photographer's Year Awards, and was a joint Pulitzer finalist for his images of the Arab Spring.

He spoke enthusiastically about his amazing career and life as a photo-journalist. His work has involved travelling the world and photographing well known subjects such as the Queen, the Pope and famous politicians, as well as capturing major events and demonstrations over a 35-year career working for the Independent, Telegraph, Reuters and Getty.

Students were enthralled by his presentation and the fascinating stories behind how he got particular shots, and really enjoyed the opportunity to ask him lots of interesting questions.

Our thanks to Peter for his time and good humour.





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TERM DATES 2022

Christmas Holidays (Mon Dec 20th 2021 – Tues 4th Jan 2022)

SPRING TERM 2022

Tuesday 4 th January	Additional Bank Holiday
Wednesday 5 th January	Staff Training Day #4 (no students in)
Thursday 6 th January	Start of Spring Term for students (Week A)
Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th February	Half Term (return Mon 28 th Feb, Week B)
Friday 8 th April	End of Spring Term

Easter Holidays (Mon 11th April 2022 – Fri 22nd April 2022)

SUMMER TERM 2022

Monday 25 th April	Start of Summer Term (Week B)
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Monday 30 th May – Friday 3 rd June	Half Term (return Mon 6 th June, Week A)
Friday 1 st July	Staff Training Day #5 (no students in)
Monday 18 th July	Start of Activities Week (Compulsory for all students in Years 7-10)
Friday 22 nd July	End of Summer Term

SUMMER EXAMS SEASON 2022

Thursday 19th May to Friday 24th June

Contingency Day Wednesday 29th June

Please note that **all exam students** are expected to remain available for exams until **AFTER** the contingency day on Wednesday 29th June 2022

Forest School

Some of our students take part in Forest School activities to help them build their confidence, develop their team-working and problem-solving skills, and give them a focus on personal development.

After weekly sessions on the school site, some of our Year 7 students really enjoyed an away-day with our friends at Magdalen Farm, and had a fantastic day with Dan, looks like a lot of fun doesn't it?



Be a Newshound!

Our talented Newshounds have created this newspaper.

We'd love to recruit more Newshounds to the team, so if any Beaminster School students would like to join us, just contact one of the existing team,

or speak to Ms Forster or Mrs Chalkley in the office, all welcome!



We really hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of the Beaminster Times

Contact email: NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk or call 01308 862633 if there is anything in particular that you would like the newspaper to cover in future.

For more information about us use the QR code to visit the school website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

