

Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club

The Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a voluntary service organisation of over 32,000 clubs and 1 million members. In common with those clubs, our work within Vulcan encompasses both local and international challenges, whilst also taking the time to have fun and enjoy fellowship.

Our projects are varied, and whilst we have of course suffered considerably from the effects of Covid, we were still able in between lockdowns, tiers, shielding, social distancing and other new phenomena, to achieve the following:

*We championed and funded the local production of PPE face shields and delivered them to care homes and NHS in the earlier days of the pandemic when PPE were in very short supply.

*Due to funds shortages, Sheffield City Council has been unable to properly maintain Beauchief Gardens (opposite Ecclesall Woods on the Abbeydale Rd

South); Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club volunteered to work on the Gardens with a plan to return this neglected spot to its former glory, and in 2020 we managed to undertake much of the garden maintenance work.

*Operation Christmas Child is a national scheme whereby “shoeboxes” of gifts and small items of clothing are donated via schools, churches and retail outlets to be taken abroad to children in need. For many years, Sheffield Vulcan has provided the manpower to collect many thousands of these parcels around South Yorkshire to deliver to local Centres for onward transportation, and despite Covid restrictions, 2020 was no exception.

*Some of our members have strong links with two of Sheffield’s fifteen food banks, and thus we were aware in the Club of difficulties being faced. Members helped with packing and delivery early on in the Covid crisis when the food banks were very busy and the regular volunteers were in short supply.

A number of regional Rotary Clubs

including Vulcan also acted together to form Rotary for Food Banks which enabled, via donated funds from the clubs, food donations to be bought in bulk and distributed to some ten Food Banks across a wider South Yorkshire and East Midlands area.

*Maintenance has area been carried out on the Heart trail in Millhouses Park and the Orientation table at Ringinglow (both created by Vulcan some years ago).

*We are also developing a relationship with a Swift Bird Nesting Box manufacturer and others (there is a 30% decline in Swift numbers due to modern building practises).

*And whilst we were unable to fulfil a traditional and happy task of taking students from one school to the Panto, we were able to fund a Virtual Panto for the whole school (oh yes we did...).

Plans disrupted

Fund-raising plans were disrupted in 2020; events like our annual Golf Day and Local Charities’ Christmas Raffle were not possible in the prevailing circumstances. Nevertheless, we were able to donate to over 40 charities (local, national, and international), including significant grants to Roundabout, Archer Project, Sheffield Young Carers and Bluebell Wood Childrens Hospice, all of which serve the Sheffield area.

This year we hope to re-establish pre-pandemic projects, some other examples being the Classic Car Show on the Moor, bulb and tree planting (we’ve planted thousands of both around Sheffield), manpower for the half-marathon and Whirlow Farm Fair, Charity Golf Day, and mock interviews at schools for senior students to help prepare them for the world outside.

As previously mentioned, Sheffield Vulcan, like other Rotary Clubs, also exists for the purpose of fun and fellowship. Our social scene includes various types of walks, visits to places of interest (recently including trips down the mine at the National Coal Mining Museum and to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire), ten pin bowling and wine tasting....and we have our own rock music group.

Despite Covid limitations, we have continued our Tuesday evening meetings online via Zoom, where we discuss Club business, have a good chat with friends, and enjoy an interesting presentation or a quiz. In “normal” times, we meet at Abbeydale Sports Club on Tuesday evenings for a couple of hours including a meal.

Like all Rotary Clubs, our motto is “Service Above Self”, and our aim is to serve the Community (locally and beyond) and bring some comfort and benefit to those less fortunate than ourselves. Rotary Clubs are non-political, and open to men and women. To find out more about Rotary in general, check the UK Rotary website at www.rotarygbi.org. You can also see our website and contact us at www.vulcanrotary.org.uk.

Alan Brown
Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club.



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