

Hi Everyone,
GREAT NEWS!! On the 2nd May seven of the first eight Ladybikes trainees have successfully passed the theory and practical exams to gain a motorcycle rider's licence in Kenya.



The 7 girls waiting at the police station before exams

Our first group of applicants in February

Link to see the girls' celebrating <https://www.ladybikes.org/lady-bikes-1st-batch-of-trainees/>
 Notice the relief in the video compared to the picture above before the exams.

The graduates are: Anjeline Barasa, Eunice Nekesa, Jacklyne Mukwana, Juliana Gitau, Maureen Gelas, Prexides Wanyama and Sharon Juma

Special thanks to Gentrrix Simati (Supervisor) and the Focus Driving School Team in Bungoma.
CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH ONE. You are creating history in Kenya.

Background of some of the women.
 XX had to leave school before completing her primary school education. She is a single mother of 2. She is from a village near Bungoma and lives in a rented one bedroom house. She earns money illegally to live. She is very determined to become a boda boda rider with a real passion to see her children live a better life.

XX is a single mother of 5 and lives with her mother. Her 1st husband died and she was chased away from the home. She is a peasant farmer working for her mother. She wants to become a boda boda rider.

XX is the most improved rider having never ridden a bicycle let alone a motorcycle. She has 5 children – her 1st husband died the 2nd husband does not care for the children. She is very determined to excel as a boda boda rider and earn money for all of her children to go to school.



The next milestone is to complete the Boda Boda (Taxi) training course and gain employment for the women. Then hopefully some of the women are able to lease and eventually own a motorbike, providing them the opportunity to move from poverty to a sustainable living – It will change their lives!!

Change of Strategy

The Ladybikes International original plan was to have the Ladybikes Program operate in different parts of East Africa – starting in Kenya. However, for a number of reasons (including the difficulty of finding the right Kenyan and Uganda Partners), the Kenyan Directors and Australian Committee have decided to continue the Program in Bungoma given the success we are experiencing with the new office and storage facilities, training organisation, practical riding area (disused Airport) and trustworthy full time supervision.

This means there will be a new intake of 8 women selected by another 4 different Bungoma village Chiefs to follow the first 7 women who gained their rider's licence. This new model offers a considerable cost savings and opens the opportunity to establish an academy rider training school using the existing facilities, training company (Focus Driver Training) and existing staff. What is required is for Ladybikes International to rent or purchase 3 small flats next to the office. This new program would start after the second intake finishes around September 2019.

We are then able to "bring the women to us" from the neighbouring regions (2-3 hours away from Bungoma) and provide them with accommodation during the training days (3-4 days a week). The operation would be like any training college for women with full 24 hours security on the days they are there.

The drawing area around Bungoma would include counties and cities like Kisumu, Eldoret, Kakamega and Kitale – over 4 million people (second, third and fourth largest cities outside the capital Nairobi), as well as Busia and Malaba border towns in Kenya and Uganda (1 million people).

We believe this process will cost less than establishing a new program in other regions in Kenya and retain the reliable administration already established. The process of selecting the women will be the same as Bungoma i.e. local chiefs from different regions (villages and tribes) of Western Kenya and South Eastern Uganda select the women to attend the training based upon a criteria provided by Ladybikes.

This change also offers us the opportunity to train two women as motorcycle mechanics.

We will still extend to other parts of Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, but at a later date.

ALL OF THIS COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM Chris & Shirley Piggott (first motorbike) Phil Proctor (motorbike) District 9670 Rotary Foundation, Pink Umbrella Foundation, Newcastle Rotary Club, Maitland Sunrise Rotary Club, Paterson Rotary Club, Vivid Life Church, income from "the Launch Night" and a number of individuals providing further donations. Also thank you Newcastle Rotary Club & RAWCS for taking on the Project

\$1000 Cheque from Maitland Sunrise Rotary Club



Club Meetings and Members Duties

(Speaker Finder)

Date	Club Meetings	Host/Grace/VOT
26 June	Handover	Debbie
1 July		Barrie
10 July	Gin tasting - Dowsetts Farm	Jeff
17 July		Roy
24 July		John
31 July	Evening	Sue

Host, Grace and Vote of Thanks
Please remember! It is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to fulfil your commitment.
 IF IT IS YOUR TURN TO CARRY OUT THIS DUTY
You should additionally write a short article on the speaker and subject for the 'Wheel', with a photo (1 Paragraph will suffice).

Please view the Facebook Page for further details and the circulation of "Flyers" and "Posters".
www.facebook.com/WareRotary/

OTHER ROTARY EVENTS PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY!!!!		
2019		
21-23	JUN	District Conference
28	JUL	Strawberry Tea
Please view the new "Diary" on the website: www.warerotary.co.uk		

Ware Wheel
 JUNE 2019
Ware Rotary Club's Monthly Bulletin

Ware Rotary Club meets at Wodson Park, Ware, Herts. (01920 487091) every Wednesday at 12.45pm (except where a fifth Wednesday occurs in the month when the meeting is at 7.30pm and except the first Wednesday, when a Monday evening meeting occurs)

President **Stuart Storey** Heathfield, 4 Belle Vue Road, Ware, SG12 7BD Home 01920 467194 M: 07780 677757

First things first - thank you to all Rotarians who supported us in Lavenham at the Swan Hotel.

Just to let you know Shirley and I really enjoyed the weekend and we hope those that attended did too. Somewhere in the Wheel report will be a photograph of the hard earned parking space booked for Scott who completely missed it - he parked near it which meant he took up two spaces. I bet he blamed Audrey!

Everybody who arrived during Saturday the 6th April parked up and then went wandering around the 15th Century town searching out tea and coffee. and other small items of interest. Some bought unique items especially John and Jan- their feather carving was wonderful. Then it was back to one of the areas close to the bar where orders for coffee diminished and wine and whisky orders took over.

It was really good to catch up with former squadron Leader Stu Ager and wife Jo. Stu was my best man back in 1970. He failed miserably all those years ago as he arrived late to the stag drinks party and by then my drinks had been spiked and the damage done.

The proceedings began at 7pm with pre dinner drinks. We had our own room for dinner with 26 sitting down to enjoy the food provided. I got one order wrong- yes it was Denise. The wines were excellent and flowed throughout the evening - Alan Thomas chose the Red so if you didn't enjoy then you know who to blame! and I chose the white.

Stu Ager gave a short 30 minute requested 10 minute speech !! As a fast jet pilot during the cold war it was a really good listen and yes Scott stayed awake so it must have been good. If you ever want a report on the speech don't ask Nigel. Nigel is always good company and his little red face towards the end of the dinner betrayed a level of near inebriation to be celebrated and we did... It was good fun all round. Shirley and I along with Stu and Jo Ager, John and Jan Wing, and Alan and Carole Thomas lasted to just beyond 1am on Sunday morning. We used Sue Meishke's birthday as an excuse to have a last drink although we never told her !

Thirteen Rotarians took the conducted tour of the town on Sunday morning starting out at around 11.00 am. I asked John Wing to write a report for us which he has done . The report will be a separate item in the wheel.

We all ventured out and about on Sunday- ending in a coffee shop. Reg saw John and Sue through the tea room window and invited them in. There were no spare seats so John then suggested that Shirley and I return to the hotel to see our guests off on their journey home. All he wanted was our seats...!!!

We learned during the following week that Nick and Sara had struggled to get away as they ended up with a flat battery which cost them a 3 hour wait. Apart from the latter all went smoothly.

Thank you once again
 Stuart and Shirley

**Presidents weekend Lavenham
Tour Sunday Morning 7th April**

At 11am 13 of the Ware Rotary group met our Lavenham Guide, Claire Partner, outside The Swan. We were joined by two friends of the guide and an Australian visitor for a 1-hour tour of the Town. We learnt that Lavenham boasts a total of more than 300 Listed Buildings (Ware has 207). They are mostly timber framed – said to be the largest collection in the country -and date from the heyday of the Town in the 15th and early 16th centuries

The Town's wealth came from woollen cloth weaving and it became famous for its heavy blue broad-weave. During the reign of Henry VIII in the 1520's Lavenham has been shown with a population of about 2,000 (its population now) to have been the 14th wealthiest town in England with at least 40 families earning more than £10 per year. Its wealthiest citizen was taxed/fined £3,000 by the King (equivalent to at least 2 – 3 £million today).

The Towns wealth declined in the 16th century when Flemish weavers developed a lighter cloth which became more fashionable and Henry VII's wars with France cut off lucrative markets. The loss of wealth meant that the buildings were not replaced in later times as has happened in most other places. The tour took us to the Market Place from which most of the Town's streets radiate. The huge Guildhall occupies most of one side. Built originally by the Guild of Corpus Christi which would have been the principal regulator of the wool trade. The building has over time functioned as town hall, prison, hospital and workhouse and is now owned by the National Trust.

The conservation requirements of Listing mean the colour of the plaster and render on buildings is strictly regulated. The colours include 'Lavenham Pink' a colour originally created by mixing pigs blood with lime. These days you buy it from Dulux! The exposed oak timbers are generally a grey colour created by regular application of limewash which preserves the wood. (Painting exposed timber black is a non -traditional 20th century practice.)

The many buildings of interest included the school house where the artist John Constable was an unhappy pupil, a street in which Penny Cottage, Florin House and Pound House are to be found along with the house in which the poem Twinkle Twinkle Little Star is reputed to have been written.

The walk returned to the Swan along Water Street. The now culverted stream running under it would have been where the blue woad dyeing would have been carried out. Buildings in the street included Lavenham Priory and the impressive De Vere House which features along with the Guildhall in one of the Harry Potter films. De Vere was the family name of the Earls of Oxford the medieval Lords of the Manor. – John Wing



On Wednesday 3rd April a group of us visited the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, on arrival we just missed a call out and then it arrived back without our knowledge as we were being given an introduction chat by our hosts for the visit. We were then taken out to the Helicopter, an Agusta Westland 169, and given a guided tour of its facility's and capability's, it really is an amazing piece of kit. They are dispatched on average 6 times a day with each mission cost average of £2200. The Agusta takes two Pilots a Doctor and Critical Care Paramedic and can reach the furthest parts of Essex or Herts in under 20 minutes with a fuel cost of £145 per Flying Hour. They treat an average of 1000 patients per year and have attended 23,206 missions since 1998 with costs in excess of £750,000 per month, they have two Helicopters and four rapid response Cars. At the moment they do not fly when its dark but are making plans to to Fly night and day, and hope the Hospitals will provide Helipads with lights for safe night landings.

They are not funded by NHS and are a Registered Charity, some money from Government and from National Lottery helps the finances but the majority of money comes from donations and their own Lottery for more information or if you want to support the link is: <https://www.ehaat.org/about-us/about-ehaat/>

I think we all agreed it was a well organised team that run the missions and that hosted us on the day, lets hope none of us needs to have a closer look any time soon!



HOT off the Press – Wonderful news

Last week District 9670 Rotary Foundation has informed us that we were successful with our application for funding. This means that in July we will receive an \$11,700 grant for the Program in Bungoma. How sweet!! All we have to do is raise \$10,000 to match the grant requirements. Special thanks to District 9670 Rotary Foundation.

IS THERE ANY INDIVIDUAL, ORGANISATION OR CLUB WHO WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT? It would mean we could proceed full steam ahead with the new rider training academy.

MORE WONDERFUL NEWS – This week we have received the money for two more motorcycles (\$3,200 donation). Thank you again, Chris and Shirley Piggott. Perfect timing!!

This means next month two women will start the process of earning money from their taxi business and help the new trainees learn to ride a motorcycle to gain a licence for employment.

Other happenings In March I attended the District 9670 conference in Forster and was able to promote the Ladybikes Project, including a new helmet I had been looking for over the past 18 months.

Rotary District 9670 Conference March 2019 - Yes I am the clown with the helmet.



Whilst overseas (son's wedding in England) I was able to attend three rotary meetings and share about the Ladybikes Project with the Rotary Club Hong Kong Northwest, Ware and Uxbridge Rotary Clubs in London. It is always a privilege to connect with fellow Rotarians from all over the world and see what they are doing for communities both locally and overseas.

Publicity The Newcastle Weekly Magazine produced an article on Ladybikes. In addition Rotary Australia Downunder Magazine produced a two page article on Ladybikes. We received very good feedback from both magazines.

We hope to have a special funding raising day/night before the end of the year and establish an annual event on International Women's Day from 2020.

Volunteers Needed – two areas – Graphic Design and Accounting. My graphic skills are very limited, hence, any volunteer willing to support ladybikes with graphic design would be greatly appreciated. We have now reached the point where using spreadsheets for accounting needs to be updated to some form of accounting software – starting from 1st July 2019. So if you are interested in Administration and Accounting or graphics please contact me. Each role would involve less than one hour a week in time.

Would you like to financially support these trainees and the Bungoma Academy?



DONATIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING**

TAX DEDUCTIBLE Go To www.RAWCS.org.au
- KENYA Click on Projects enter Project No. 30-2017-18
- UGANDA Click on Projects enter Project No. 70-2018-19

Rwanda is in the process of being established (information should be available soon)

NON – TAX DEDUCTIBLE – Direct Deposit Donations
KENYA NPBS BSB 650 000 A/C 53864903 Newcastle Rotary Club
UGANDA WESTPAC BSB 032 513 A/C 35524 Ladybikes International
RWANDA To be advised Receipts are issued on ALL donations

For donations from overseas please contact Bruce Foley - bruce.foley@ladybikes.org
There are 1.6 M boda boda (taxi) riders in East Africa - 99.9% are men
*Please join us in changing the lives of young disadvantaged African Women