

March 2021



# THE MELLING CHRONICLE

Parish Questionnaire

Cooking Corner

March in History

Melling Post Box

# The Melling Chronicle

## In This Month's Issue

News From Melling And Wrayton.....	4
Parish Questionnaire.....	4
Cooking Corner.....	6
March in History.....	8
Lockdown Blues.....	11
Melling Post Box - A Movable Object.....	12
St Wilfrid's Educational Trust.....	14
News From The Neighbours.....	16
Hornby Pensioners.....	16
The Rotary Club of Lunesdale.....	19

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Advertising and Invoices: Claire Helme (Parish Clerk)

Front Cover: Edwin Howson. Back Cover: Howard Lewer. Many thanks to both for their fantastic photos.

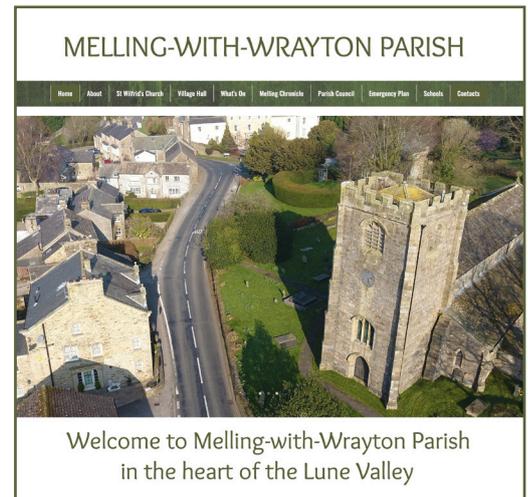


## A REMINDER.....

If you view the Melling Chronicle on the web site and download the PDF, you can click on any of the **Web Addresses** within the editorial and it will take you directly to the relevant page ... they are all 'hyperlinked'?

**Email Addresses:** similarly hyperlinked, but this may depend on what software you view your emails in!

[www.mellingwithwrayton.net](http://www.mellingwithwrayton.net)



**MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CHRONICLE**

## MELLING CHRONICLE

The Chronicle is available in PDF format at [www.mellingwithwrayton.net](http://www.mellingwithwrayton.net)

Please send items for the Melling Chronicle to the editor:  
[mellingchronicle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mellingchronicle@yahoo.co.uk)

Please supply text as a Word document or by email. Photographs are always welcome at a high resolution. If you have an interesting, relevant, high resolution image for the front or back cover, please send it in for consideration.

The Melling Chronicle is a forum open to everyone in the village. The views expressed in articles and letters are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Parish Council, and they cannot accept responsibility for goods or services advertised in the magazine, although advertisements are accepted in good faith. The Editor reserves the right to edit or exclude items submitted for publication, and no liabilities are implied or accepted.

**Deadline for any contribution is the 20th of the preceeding month.**

The Melling Chronicle is published monthly except for January and August.

## ADVERTISING

Please contact: The Parish Clerk [mellingwithwraytonpc@gmail.com](mailto:mellingwithwraytonpc@gmail.com)

Charges for 10 editions/Full Page £70.00/Half page £40.00/Quarter page £25.00

Single entry: By negotiation

Please note that anyone submitting an article, notice, letter or advertisement for inclusion in the Melling Chronicle is responsible for the content (including factual accuracy) this rests solely with the originating individual or organisation.

### PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

A big **thank you** to all those who completed the Parish Questionnaire, for **St. Wilfrid's Church**. The results have been analysed and reflect a very positive response for the church to continue serving the community in Melling. (If you have not yet returned the questionnaire, the online version has now closed but paper copies can still be returned to the box in the church porch. All responses will be considered.

One of the questions enquired about ways in which people felt they could support the church. By far the most popular response was through donations, which a number of people already do, through Standing Orders or one-off donations. Without such income, we would not have been able to cover our running costs over the past year.

- If you wish to donate, the church has a general account, for costs such as utilities, insurance, etc., held at the **NatWest Kirkby Lonsdale sort code: 01-04-81, account number: 10017518**, in the name of **St. Wilfrid's Church Melling**.
- If you wish to donate to the upkeep of the building, there is a Building Trust account at **HSBC Lancaster branch. Sort code: 40-27-02, account number: 21808745**, in the name of **St Wilfrid's Church Building Trust**.

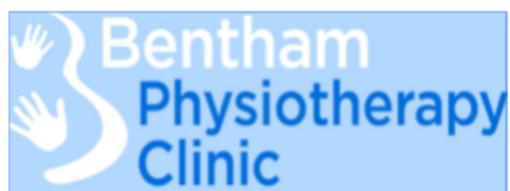
This trust has enabled a number of works to go ahead, in recent years, including upgrading electrical installation, heating repairs, organ repairs, and improvements to the tower. Such works are not immediately visible but we are awaiting a refurbishment of the West Door, which will significantly enhance the appearance of the building from the footpath.

As Covid restrictions are eased, we are planning a series of events, including a coffee morning, quiz night and Christmas Fair. These events have always been well-attended in the past and provide, not only an opportunity for fund-raising, but a chance to meet socially as a community.

Thanks go to all the people who are actively involved in the upkeep and provision of services at St. Wilfrid's, including ensuring the church is open for private prayer, cleaning, flower arranging, maintaining the clock and many other tasks. If you can help, in any way, please contact the church warden JAC Beeson (tel:21638).

As the Pandemic continues to affect all of our lives, many people are finding comfort from opportunities for spiritual reflection. The past few months have allowed us to develop our outreach on social media, through Zoom and streamed services. Find out more on FaceBook St. Wilfrid's Church Melling, for regular news and updates.

*Cathy Brough (Church treasurer)*



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### COOKING CORNER... ST CLEMENT'S SQUARES

Any easy tray bake for **Mother's Day** on **March 14th**, or at any time!

#### FOR THE SHORTBREAD BASE

225g unsalted butter, chilled and cut into cubes

2 fresh thyme sprigs, leaves picked

100g caster sugar

325g plain flour

#### FOR THE TOPPING

215g caster sugar

40g plain flour

Juice 2 lemons, plus finely grated zest  $\frac{1}{2}$

Juice 1 orange, plus finely grated zest  $\frac{1}{2}$

4 medium free-range eggs



#### YOU'LL ALSO NEED...

20cm x 30cm cake tin, greased and lined with non-stick baking paper

Icing sugar to dust

Edible flowers to decorate (optional)

**MAKES 15-18; HANDS-ON TIME 20 MIN, OVEN TIME 50 MIN, PLUS CHILLING AND COOLING**

#### METHOD

For the base, heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. In a food processor, pulse together the butter, thyme and sugar with a pinch of salt until the mixture is creamy. Add the flour and pulse again until it just comes together to form a dough. If you don't have a food processor, beat the ingredients in a mixing bowl using an electric mixer until creamy, then quickly beat in the flour.

Press the dough into the lined cake tin, then chill for 30 minutes until very cold. Prick the base all over with a fork, then bake for 20-25 minutes until golden and dry.

Mix the topping ingredients (don't over-whisk), then immediately pour over the baked base. Return to the oven for another 20-25 minutes until just set, then leave to cool in the tin. Dust with icing sugar and scatter with edible flowers, if you like. Cut into squares or rectangles to serve.

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### MARCH IN HISTORY

- 1 March** National Day of Wales. Feast day of St David.
- 2 March 1969** Concorde, the Anglo-French supersonic airline, roared into the skies on its maiden flight. The aircraft will travel at twice the speed of sound.
- 3 March 1985** Members of the Britain's National Union of Mineworkers returned to work after voting to end their unsuccessful year-long strike.
- 4 March 1681** King Charles II granted a Royal Charter to William Penn, a Quaker, entitling Penn to establish a colony in North America (Pennsylvania).
- 5 March 1936** The British fighter plane Spitfire made its first test flight from Eastleigh, Southampton. Powered by a Rolls-Royce Merlin engine the aircraft will enter service with the Royal Air Force in the next two years.
- 6 March 1987** A British-owned cross-channel ferry the 'Herald of Free Enterprise' left Zeebrugge, Belgium, with its bow doors open; it capsized, killing over 180 passengers.
- 7 March 1876** The Scottish-born inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, patented the telephone.
- 8 March 1702** Anne became Queen of Britain after William III died in a riding accident. He was thrown from his horse after it stumbled on a molehill.
- 9 March 1074** Pope Gregory VII excommunicated all married priests.
- 10 March 1886** Cruft's Dog Show was held in London for the first time - since 1859 it had been held in Newcastle. More recently the venue has changed to the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.
- 11 March 1858** The Indian Mutiny ended after 10 months of hostilities. Indian sepoy (infantrymen) had mutinied believing rifle cartridges had been lubricated in animal fat.
- 12 March 1904** Britain's first mainline electric train ran from Liverpool to Southport.
- 13 March 1900** British forces under the command of Field Marshall Roberts take Bloemfontein in the Second Boer War.
- 14 March 1757** British Admiral John Byng was executed by firing squad at Plymouth, for having failed to relieve Minorca from the French fleet.
- 15 March 44 BC** "Beware the Ides of March" - Julius Caesar is stabbed by Marcus Brutus.
- 16 March 1872** The Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers 1-0 in the first English FA Cup Final, at Kennington Oval.
- 17 March 1766** Parliament in London votes to repeal the controversial Stamp Act in an attempt to stifle rebellion in the American colonies - "Taxation without representation is tyranny"

**18 March 987** Edward, King of England is murdered at Corfe Castle. The murder is thought to have been ordered by his stepmother Aelfryth, mother of Ethelred the Unready.

**19 March 183** Six farm labourers from Tolpuddle, Dorset, were sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia for forming a trade union.

**20 March 1653** Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, dissolves the Long Parliament.

**21 March 1556** England's first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer is burnt at the stake as a heretic, under the Catholic Queen Mary I, also known as "Bloody Mary".

**22 March 1824** The British Parliament voted to purchase 38 paintings at a cost of £57,000, to establish a national collection which is now housed in the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London.

**23 March 1956** Queen Elizabeth II laid the foundation stone of a new cathedral being built in Coventry. The new building is being erected next to the remains of the 14th-century cathedral destroyed by the German Luftwaffe in 1940.

**24 March 1603** The crowns of England and Scotland were united when King James VI of Scotland succeeded to the English throne.

**25 March 1306** The eighth Earl of Carrick, Robert the Bruce is crowned King of Scotland at Scone Palace near Perth.

**26 March 1902** British imperialist Cecil John Rhodes died in Cape Town aged 48. Rhodes who controlled 90% of the world's diamond production, was influential in establishing the British crown in South Africa and Rhodesia, he was recently in the news regarding slavery and 'black lives matter'.

**27 March 1871** Legalised warfare - England and Scotland played their first rugby football international, in Edinburgh; first blood to Scotland.

**28 March 1912** Both the Oxford and the Cambridge boats sank in the annual Varsity boat race.

**29 March 1461** Over 28,000 people are said to have been killed in the bloody Battle of Towton, N Yorkshire; the Lancastrians under Henry VI were crushed.

**30 March 1856** The Crimean War between Russia and Europe was brought to an end by the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

**31 March 1855** Charlotte Bronte, the reclusive Yorkshire novelist and author of Jane Eyre, died today.

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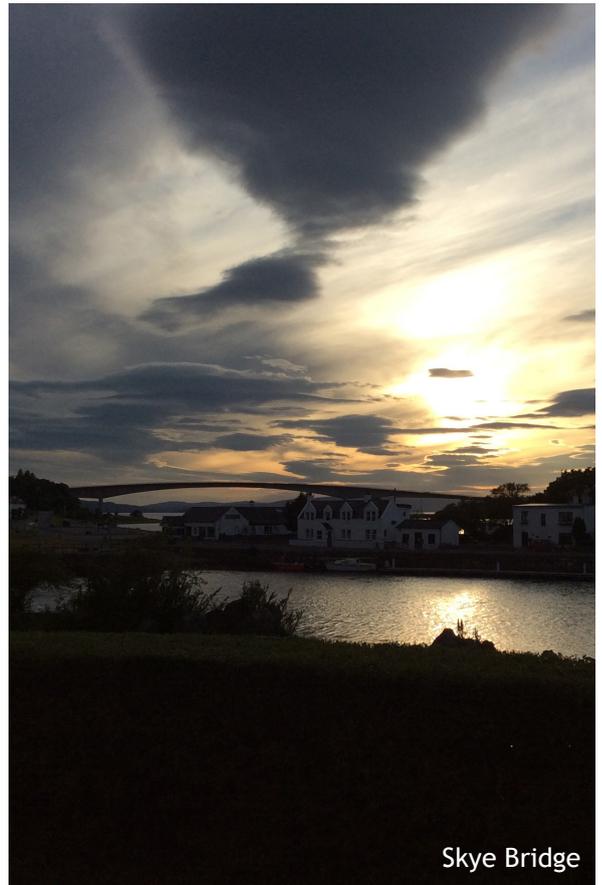
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### LOCKDOWN BLUES

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree  
 I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.  
 I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all,  
 I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.  
 There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu  
 But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think will you.  
 While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay  
 I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.  
 I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye  
 Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.  
 About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go  
 To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.  
 And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,  
 Or get me to Milford Haven, all that's been put on hold.  
 "Give me your hands"! ... I shan't request, albeit we are friends  
 Nor come within a mile of you, until this pandemic ends.

Anon



Skye Bridge

#### MELLING.

**THE WEATHER.**—The weather since the commencement of this month has been remarkably fine and mild. The larks sing delightfully, and the blackbird and thrush pour forth their mellow notes in chorus to the lenet-monath of our Saxon forefathers, saying—

“March! in thy snow or frosty vestment clad,”  
 On making nature weep a general tear;  
 Thou hast some attributes which make us glad,  
 Thou bringest the sunny April shower more near.

The patient fisherman may now be seen on the banks of the Lune, pursuing his innocent, but at this season, rather cool amusement. In the gardens there is a resuscitation amongst the perennials. The industrious husbandman is zealously preparing the ground for the spring crop. The young wheat never looked better than it does at this time. Pasture and meadow are beginning to show a slight verdant tinge in their aspect.

**GOOD LUCK v. BAD LUCK.**—Mr. Thomas Kitchen, Carus Farm, had two cows that calved during the last week each brought forth twins, and three out of the four were wyes. Thomas has been unfortunate in his stock for some time back.

### ADVERTISING IN THE CHRONICLE

*The Chronicle* is distributed round Melling, Wrayton and Wennington, therefore an advert placed will reach a lot of local people who are looking to support local businesses.

If you would like to advertise here please contact:

The Parish Clerk

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### MELLING POST BOX – A MOVABLE OBJECT

Work to reinstall Melling's post box in the wall at the junction of Lodge Lane and Gillison Close started, as scheduled, on Monday 22 February.

A dip into the Minutes of Parish Council meetings some 30 or more years ago shows the halting steps by which the post box came to be installed where it is now.

**Our story begins at the 1987 (18 May) Annual General Meeting; the Parish Clerk reported that:**

A new post box is to be installed on a pole at the junction of Wennington Road and Gillison Close. It was agreed to write to the G.P.O. regarding siting. Council felt this should be in character with the surroundings and preferred the old box to be retained, perhaps wall mounted. The Clerk was to initiate action in this regard. (There is no mention in earlier Minutes of the post box's previous location, nor of how its replacement became necessary.)

**Apparently the G.P.O. had been in listening mode:**

A message had been received from the G.P.O. regarding the siting of the box suggesting that it be placed in the wall of the Church steps. (28 August 1987)

One councillor had no objection to this, but another expressed concern of the danger of stopping to post letters in view of the heavy traffic using the main road through Melling. (28 Aug 1987)

**Two months later, at its next regular meeting, the Parish Council seems to have made up its mind what it wanted:**

*Post Box* - no progress so the Clerk was instructed to write to the G.P.O. to request clarification and suggest that consideration be given to building a stone pillar box at the end of the wall outside Melling Hall. (2 Nov 1987)

**The trail then goes cold for a full year, despite the Parish Council's declared intentions:**

*P.O. Box* - the action agreed at the last meeting was to be progressed. (11 Jan 1988)

*P.O. Box* - No reply had been received from the G.P.O. (7 Mar 1988)

**Eventually, one reason for this delay emerges:**

*Post Box* - The Clerk explained that the reason this matter had not progressed was because the contact at the G.P.O. had retired and a hiatus had resulted. Post Office contractors were to be approached for quotes and the Clerk was to persevere with enquiries. (7 Nov 1988)

Two years after our story began, a satisfactory conclusion is reached, albeit at a cost:

*Post Box* - This has now been moved by the G.P.O. into a new stone pillar. The approximate cost to the P.C. for stone instead of brick was expected to be in the region of £15-40. (3 Jul 1989)

This would appear to suggest that the Chairman and the Clerk had been in discussion with the G.P.O. in order to secure a stone, rather than a brick, pillar, and had offered to pay for the difference, but there is no other mention of these discussions in the Minutes.

**Almost there? Well, not quite:**

*Letter Box* - It was pointed out that the new collection box had no plate with collection times on it. The Clerk was instructed to report this to the Post Office. (6 Nov 1989)

So the new letter box was in place by 1989 - but where? Clearly not where it is today, since we know, from the Chairman's report to the 1993 Annual General meeting, that:

The post box has been moved to a site adjacent to Melling Hall hotel and access to it is made easier. (10 May 1993)

Maybe a resident with a long memory could fill in the gaps in this story...



*DON, February 2021*



### ST WILFRIDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

#### WHO ARE WE AND WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

St Wilfrids Educational Trust is a charity that was set up in the early 1990's after St Wilfrids Church in Melling gifted the Trust a property. The property was rented for many years and the rent was used to allocate educational grants to the residents of Melling, Wrayton and Wennington. The property was sold a few years ago and the proceeds were invested with a local Investment Management company.

The Trustees and Committee members are local volunteers who are associated with the School, Church and local community in many ways. The Trust meet twice a year and their purpose is to award Educational Grants that support individuals or group projects. One of the main beneficiaries over the years has been Melling Primary School, who have been awarded many grants towards after school clubs, school trips and equipment which benefit all pupils.

Applications are welcomed from residents who may need financial assistance towards:

- An educational or school visit at both Primary and Secondary schools
- Special educational material for University/Further Education (book grant)
- Adult Educational training/re-training

The Trust cannot pay for travelling costs, accommodation, musical instruments or uniforms. The Trust have a certain amount of funds to allocate at each meeting and their aim is to award the full amount.

The next meeting will be held virtually on **Monday 8th March 2021** so any applications must be received before then. All applications are treated as confidential and you will receive a written reply soon after your application has been heard at the meeting.

Please apply in writing to the Trustees of St Wilfrids Educational Trust:

c/o The Secretary, Mrs U Parkinson, Wenning Cottage, Wennington, Lancaster LA2 8NN or email [ursula@customate-europe.co.uk](mailto:ursula@customate-europe.co.uk)

Many thanks.

#### MELLING CLEAN UP—LETS SHOW OUR VILLAGE AT ITS BEST!

Thanks to Yvonne and George from Gillison Close who collected a large bin-bag full of litter on their dog walk during half term. Please remember to take your litter home and if you see something please pick it up and add it to your bin.

## JOB VACANCY

### SECRETARY - ST WILFRIDS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

St Wilfrids Educational Trust is a local Charity who's purpose is to award Educational grants to individuals or groups who reside in Melling, Wrayton or Wennington.

The Trust meets twice a year, usually in April and October to discuss any grant applications that have been received.

The role of the Secretary includes:

- Organising meetings
- Taking the minutes
- Managing correspondence
- Actioning the Trusts decisions
- Ensuring the Trust complies with the requirements of the Charity Commission
- Plus any other administrative responsibilities

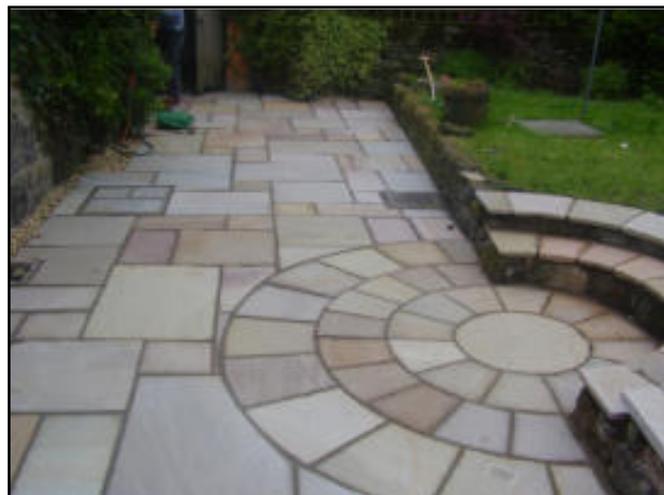
Trustees and Committee are Volunteers, the position of the Secretary is paid annually.

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## HORNBY PENSIONERS

### GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

We have been considering holding a meeting when Hornby Institute re-opens, but wonder if it might be better to wait until members have had their 2nd CV19 jab.

### WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THIS.

Please could you tell us your preference by ringing one of us at the number given below. Please leave a message if we are out.

Thank you.

The outcome will be publicised in next month's edition.

*Kath Helm (015242-21845)*

*Beryl Nelson (015242-22175)*

*Annie Stephens (015242-21100)*



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## THE ROTARY CLUB OF LUNESDALE

Meeting on line, as the club continues to do, is by no means as good or as satisfactory as meeting in person. It does however enable club members to keep in touch and abreast with how their fellow members are coping in this pandemic.

Additionally at virtual meetings Rotary objectives and news from local, national and international levels can be raised and discussed. We hear from these meetings how much is being achieved both locally, nationally and globally by Rotarians despite the restrictions we are all subject to.

In this digital age we are so fortunate to have several quick and efficient methods of communication to spread news during this extremely testing time. We continue to have speakers with a fascinating story to tell.

On 21st January, **Dave King**, the Editor of our national magazine “Rotary”, was our speaker. He spoke about the exclusive interviews he is privileged to have had with people who have inspiring and human interest stories to tell. Some of which were done as a series of online talks.



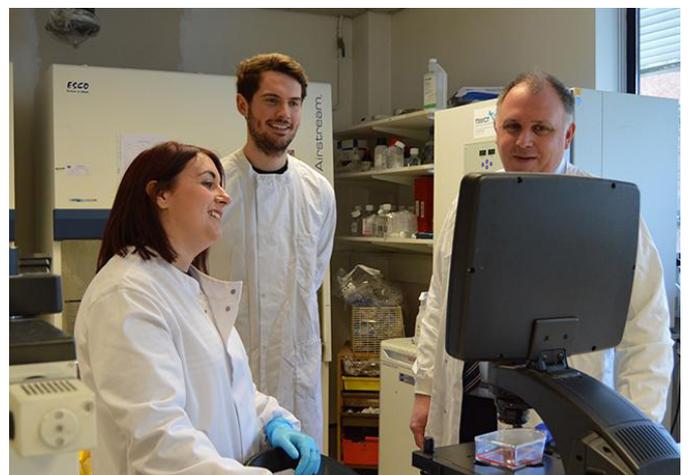
Dave King  
(Editor of our national magazine ‘Rotary’)

Other speakers included **Alistair Richards** of NW Cancer Research whose job is to raise the vital funds to enable this hugely important research to continue.

**Mark Wood**, a speaker with a military background, talked about some of the expeditions he has undertaken eg to Antarctica and Mt Everest.

On February 11th welcomed **Dave Ellis** as our speaker. He is the incoming RIBI President for the year 2021-22.

*Stay well, keep safe. Lilian*



North West Cancer Research  
(Alistair Richards on the right)

