

41 CLUB DOESN'T DO FUNDRAISING OR COMMUNITY SERVICE...OR DOES IT?????

I thought I would expel the myth amongst some Round Tablers and past Tablers who haven't joined 41 club.

- I haven't joined as 41 Club doesn't do fundraising !!
- I haven't joined as 41 Club doesn't do community service !!
- I haven't joined 41 club as 41 Club is just a dinner club !!

The most famous saying in 41 club is "been there, done it, got the T-shirt". I can only speak about my experiences in Nuneaton with our Past Tablers and the link with Nuneaton Round Table, and my time as a National Councillor for 3 years in Region 15, and as National Councillors' Liaison Officer ["NCLO"] for the last 3 years and 8 months: Well lots of us are still there, still doing it and still wearing the "T-shirt". Here are some examples:-

Lots of you are aware of the national fundraiser, for Dementia UK: I can walk 500 miles and I can walk 500 more. Fundraising accompanied by some community service, food deliveries etc and where possible during COVID fellowship; also keeping fit, staying healthy and great for mental health, that a lot of us have suffered this year due to lockdown and personal circumstances.

Some people also forget that 41-ers help Round Table and sometimes run Bonfires all over our great individual countries in GB&I.

Now is the season to be jolly - what would Round Table do on the Santa Sleigh without the old grey haired 41-ers who are experienced in looking after, and communicating with children and grandchildren, and making them smile. Ho! Ho! Ho!

We are Staying Active, giving community service and raising funds for local charities. In previous years helping to count the money in the pub afterwards (fellowship) I know this year is different, but it will change going forward. There are numerous examples of 41 clubs around the Regions doing this and more. Beer festivals, big events etc for fundraising and community service. The problem is we don't shout about it, we just do it!!!!

We have adopted different things, adapted the way we do things and what we do because of our age (you are only as young as you feel) and in doing so improved the way we do things because of our experiences in Table and Life skills. I am now going to shout about a few good things that have happened not because of me but because of using my experiences in true table fashion.

We have a local charity covering Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry called **Doorway**. Think about this one: It is a charity that helps homeless young people aged 18-25 who for whatever reason no longer have a permanent place to live and may have been sofa surfing at friends for 3 months and overstayed their welcome (a typical example). Doorway find them accommodation, maybe a bedsit in a H.M.O or in a shared house. They have nothing apart from a mobile phone and some clothes. Very little money as they may not have a job as they have no residence. It is all part of getting these people back into society. The charity constantly need food to make up packs for when these youngsters move in, as they are not yet registered for food bank donations/vouchers. Doorway provide non-perishable food and when they can, fresh bread, milk and other fruit and veg. But these young ones may not have anything to cook the food in - so they need pots and pans, plates knives and forks and a cup for making tea and coffee.

So, what is my point? I recently popped in to drop off some goods and asked one of the staff how things were. I was informed that they are getting lots of clothes donated, but these were piling up as they normally pass what they don't use and share with charity shops which are not open in lockdown. But also, as the town is shut people are not dropping off food items, so they were short. They do get some from the local food bank but always need more. I sent a message out to our 41 Club and Table, to see if they could help. The response was fantastic, I had bags of non-perishable food dropped on my doorstep; some of our guys even donated their winter fuel allowance to the charity and claimed gift aid (great idea). Then I had a call from the outgoing Table Chairman, Matt Hall, who has his own charity "Georgie's Gift" - he wanted to make a donation, so we went off to Bookers and between us filled 2 cars with food. I made a personal contribution as well. Tablers and 41 Club working together, using funds raised from events and giving to young people who need it more than us - "Community Service".

But now the bonus points:- back in early November I had an email from one of my lender connections (I am a Financial Adviser) Skipton Building Society, who were asking for nominations for their community giving donation - and the theme was charities that help homeless people get back into the community.

Together with the local manager we put a bid together for the very same charity Doorway. We read the rules and criteria and it was quite a task to put it together in only 500 words [Ed - this article is 1,034 words]. The nomination forms went in and we waited. I got an email on 4th December from Skipton Community Giving:-

Congratulations! A few weeks ago, you nominated Doorway for a Community Giving donation and we're really pleased to tell you that the nomination was successful. We received lots of nominations, but only had 40 donations to give away, so the judges had a difficult job deciding which ones to choose. They enjoyed reading your nomination and discovering what a difference this donation could make. That means Doorway has been selected to receive a £1,000 from Skipton Building Society. Well, you can imagine the feeling; Heather Small singing in the background [What have you done today to make you feel PROUD ??????????????]

We don't just sit there!!!

Tom Atkins National Councillors' Liaison Officer



XMAS JUMPER COMPETITION (OR YOU CAN'T WASTE A GOOD PHOTO)

