

He recently led a working party to clear a town centre footpath between Millais Road and Barton View Terrace.

Tony was a former Rotarian of the Sandwich Club and has twice been made a Paul Harris Fellow for his outstanding service ethic. When his successor as President suffered a bereavement Tony could not stand down as usual at the end of the Rotary year but remained in post as Acting President of the club. He was present, with other club members, at the commemoration to Roger Marsden at Temple Commell at the Bank Holiday

weekend. He has been Dover Club's 98th President and will be a hard act to follow. After the transfer to his successor on 30 September at the club's meeting place at Whitfield, he continues to serve the club as its secretary. Dover should be profoundly grateful for his leadership of the town's Rotary Club and for the example he has set during a particularly difficult year (plus three months) in his service activities and the club's fund-raising by his focus on positivism rather than negativism during long periods of enforced restrictions. He lives in Whitfield with his wife Sandra.

## **Dover's Successful Youth Competition**

### **Peter Sherred**

On Saturday 7 August the President of the Rotary Club of Dover, Tony Cook, presided over a successful prizegiving following a tremendous response to the Youth Competition run by the Club and organised by its President-Elect Roger Knight, and his wife Melanie. There was a very good response with over seventy entries, as well as a very high standard produced by entrants to the competition, covering a range of artistic talent from paintings and drawings to writings and computer presentations. One of the entries was a song, written and recorded by an entrant who won the President's Prize.

The judging of the competition was extremely challenging because of the high standard of all entries but decisions had to be made and those who were successful were rewarded with certificates and cash prizes. The Rotary District Youth Officer, Jean Shrub, attended the prizegiving and was impressed by the excellent nature of the competition run by Dover Rotary Club for the benefit of the young people of Dover and its immediate surroundings.

Following receipt of all the entries, the organisers of the competition not only had to deal with the difficult task of judging but also had the challenging task of displaying them for a two-day Public Exhibition in St Mary's Parish Centre, enabling people to have the opportunity of

appreciating the high standard of the submissions. A principal actor in the preparation, judging and setting up of the exhibition, as well as organising refreshments over the two-day period, was Melanie Knight. The work did not end at the close of the exhibition as seventy-four certificates for all the entrants were sent to them with the return of their work.

A total of £750 prize money was provided by the Club, despite the reduced fund-raising opportunities brought about by Covid. The Leader of Dover District Council, Cllr Trevor Bartlett, a member of the judging panel, expressed his delight at the success of the competition and indicated that he would be pleased to support the event again.

At the close of the exhibition and following the presentation of prizes, President Tony Cook was pleased to be able to present a Community Service Award to representatives of Together4Dover. The award was received by Deacon Michelle Legumi of the Beacon Church. Noel Beamish, prime mover of the Dover Outreach Centre, which caters for the homeless in the town, was presented with a cheque for £5000 from the Rotary Club to assist in the cost of a new boiler. This had been President Tony Cook's project for the year.