

## Rock for Rog 2

— Peter Sherred —

On Saturday 30th July this year a second commemoration in memory of former Dover Rotarian, Roger Marsden, took place on the King George V playing field in Temple Ewell, the village where Roger and his family lived. The event was organised by his widow and daughters plus some of his good friends, among them Alyson Grayson, Neil Beverton, Nick Charlesworth and Kit Keen. Unlike last year's weather this year the weather could not have been kinder for while much of the day was overcast it did not rain and it was not too hot. Consequently, many of the hundreds of people attending the event to pay tribute to Roger came equipped with chairs and picnic supplies and gazebos enabling them to pitch themselves for the duration of the event for which the gates opened at 12 noon.

There were several stalls providing food, drink, ice creams and the essential beer tent did a roaring trade throughout the event. Six bands participated, playing from 1.30pm for varying lengths of time until the event concluded as dusk descended about 9pm. Mobile toilet facilities were provided and first aid facilities were also included. Once again many of the villagers attended, which was a testament to the high regard in which Roger was held. One lucky person went away with a wheelbarrow full of drinks, which was the top prize in a raffle promoted through the day.



*Sammie, Carrie, Carole, Jessie Marsden*

A few members of the Rotary Club of Dover, together with several past members, attended the event and helped in the organisation of it to ensure public safety and security. Steve and Alyson Grayson of The Fox, the village pub, were instrumental in running the beer tent. Admission to the event was free but attendees were invited to donate whatever they wished as the intention of the event, apart from providing entertainment within the village, was to raise funds once again for Cancer Research UK in memory of Roger.

Roger's widow Carole and his daughters Carrie, Sammie and Jessie were present throughout the event, greeting all attendees and the many friends of Roger who supported the event. Carole and the family members were extremely grateful to all who attended and who had devoted time and sponsorship to help them produce the event. Many attending wore stylised T-shirts referring to the event and Roger by name. The family members were delighted once again at the success of the event which raised £5,671.15 for Cancer Research, exceeding last year's total.

The first commemoration was referred to in Society Newsletter 102 of November 2021. This second commemoration event was a wonderful tribute to former and much respected Rotarian Roger, who died of cancer in August 2020. It provided another opportunity to say thank you in practical terms to the prime mover and organiser of the Dover Music Festival which ran successfully between 2014 and 2017. Roger had not only been a valued member of the Rotary Club of Dover, but he had also taken a particular interest in Rotaract, a form of Rotary for younger people. A full report on Roger Marsden and what he did for the Dover community was included in Society Newsletter 100 of March 2021.