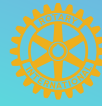


AHANA

Rotary
RID. 3291



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

RI PRESIDENT: RTN. HOLGER KNAACK

DISTRICT GOVERNOR : RTN. SUDIP MUKHERJEE

WEEKLY E-BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

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SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Minutes of the 2033rd Virtual Weekly Zoom Meeting of RC Calcutta Jadavpur held on Monday 14th September 2020 AT 7.00 pm

- President Rtn. (Dr.) Kunal Ray called the 2033rd weekly meeting of RC Calcutta Jadavpur to order and welcomed Dr. Mainak Chakraborty, a prospective member and guest of PP Rtn. Sonia Gupta. He also welcomed all other members present.
- ♦ National Anthem was played online and joined by all.
- ♦ President Rtn. (Dr.) Kunalda announced:
 - That with respect to the proposed Rainwater Harvesting Project at Cossipore St. Ninian's High School for Girls, an advance of Rs 10,000/- has to be paid to the contractor Mr. Manas Mukherjee, to start the work.
 - That for the proposed project of construction of toilets at Sangram Nagar FP School at Bansra, District 24 Parganas, Honorary Member Rtn. (Prof.) Indrajit Ray has informed that the cheque for the approved amount would be issued by the end of September 2020, which will enable the club to initiate the consolidation of entire fund required including contribution from EIRWT.
 - That to commemorate the Nutrition Awareness month, a webinar is scheduled on September 21, 2020, 7.30 PM onwards, where prominent speakers including senior dieticians from Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan and Bellevue Nursing Home and Rtn. Paromita herself would make their presentations. Rtn. Paromita has informed that an overwhelming response has been received from the members and she would try her best to address the queries. She further informed that the conducted community outreach programmes at RCC Chowbaga held in the past, is not possible this year due to the pandemic situation.
 - Again on September 25, 2020, a webinar on Paediatric Cancer Awareness is being organised by RI District 3291 & Rotaract District 3291. PP Rtn. Partha Sarathi has informed that the programme will be addressed by two speakers from Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research institute (SGCCR) and Tata Medical Center. Mr. Arun Lal, a cancer warrior former cricketer and vocalist Kaushiki Chakraborty, RIPE Rtn. Shekhar Mehta and other dignitaries are expected to participate and deliberate. The event will be hosted by RC Calcutta Jadavpur.
 - Next, President Rtn. (Dr.) Kunalda requested IPP Rtn. (Dr.) Aditi to make her audio-visual presentation for the literacy programmes conducted by Rtn. (Dr.) Sampa, Rtn. (Dr.) Jharnadi and herself, September being the Basic Education & Literacy Month. The presentation was greeted with applause.
 - Secretary, Rtn. (Dr.) Krishnendu conducted club business and extended birthday greetings to PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal falling on September 15.
 - Minutes of the 2032nd meeting was confirmed by the members and the meeting ended with thanks to everyone present.

Socially-distanced Rotary 'hit squad' rescues school gardens

rotarygbi.org :: August 24, 2020



A socially-distanced 'hit squad' of Darlington Rotarians descended on a school garden to transform it back to its former glory.

Thirteen members of Rotary, complete with their own individual gardening and other equipment, spent the day

refurbishing the garden at the nursery at Skerne Park Academy in Darlington.

Hit Squad leader, Alan Cowie, said he was approached by a friend who had learned that the nursery garden had become overgrown and neglected during lockdown, and there were no funds to pay for a makeover. He explained: "Rotary has done a number of these projects before, coming to the aid of local organisations and individuals who may need a helping hand.

Thirteen members of Rotary, complete with their own individual gardening and other equipment, spent the day refurbishing the garden at the nursery at Skerne Park Academy in Darlington.



"This is the first project we have completed since lockdown and it has all been carefully organised and risk assessed so everyone is working individually, all with their own equipment and in the open air.

"We have trimmed the foliage, refurbished and repainted equipment and made the garden attractive and safe again for the youngsters who will use it."

Rotarians were helped on the day by school staff, Rebecca Saxton, a nursery teacher, and Bryony Grey, and reception teacher.

Rebecca, who made the initial contact to approach Darlington Rotary, said: "The Rotarians who came to help are a fantastic group of people. The garden had become tired, overgrown and unsafe for the children to use.

"We struggled with finances and just couldn't have done it ourselves. We are overwhelmed by the fact that they wanted to help and couldn't be more grateful."

Other projects the 'Hit Squad' has undertaken include a garden makeover in Darlington for a man who suffered from locked-in syndrome, work at Elm Ridge Church grounds in Darlington, gardening at Marske Church and work at the Tranquil Gardens at Killerby.

By: Sue Campbell

PRESIDENT : RTN. (DR.) KUNAL RAY :: SECRETARY : RTN. (DR.) KRISHNENDU DAS :: EDITOR : RTN. SANJAY RAY
RCCJ MEETS EVERY MONDAY AT CHAKRABATHAK, RABINDRA SAROBAR AT 7.00 PM : EMAIL : rccjadavpur@gmail.com



THE FUTURE IS ARRIVING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, THANKS TO COVID : PART 2

michaelmcqueen.net :: August 31, 2020



Along with lockdowns, shopping frenzies and social distancing, COVID has brought the technologies that we once reserved for years down the track right to our doorstep. While Augmented Reality (AR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have slowly but surely been infiltrating our daily lives in recent years, COVID has accelerated this to an unprecedented extent.

Since AR arrived on the scene, most people have thought of it merely as an entertaining novelty, serving no further purpose than enhancing games and giving unsuspecting individuals who put on the goggles a fright. However, with the travel bans and distancing measures of COVID making many work interactions impossible, AR has provided a COVID-safe and shockingly futuristic way of conducting work.

Global semiconductor manufacturer, Intel, faced just this problem when one of their top engineers could not be flown in to solve a pressing manufacturing issue. Donning his AR goggles, he was able to examine the issue up close and remotely give repair instructions to engineers. Volkswagen did the same in its repair processes when experts were stranded, using AR to bring the expert, technician and issue together.

For Intel and the broader chip industry, the successful use of AR under unprecedented circumstances has led to a greater integration of its technology into everyday processes. Where once any kind of camera technology posed a threat to trade secrets, the capabilities it enabled in these circumstances are too beneficial to overlook.

Schools around the world are also having to alter systems that once served them well for a world that nobody anticipated. Artificial Intelligence is helping them do it.

One school in Las Vegas, and many throughout China, is using AI to monitor students as they enter, checking their temperature using thermal technology to prevent potentially infected people from entering. Conveniently, this technology uses its facial recognition capabilities to take attendance.

Social distancing is also measured using AI in schools as it monitors areas with high levels of traffic. Educational institutions across the world are expressing interest in this surveillance technology as they buckle down into building systems for a socially-distanced world that is yet to show any signs of budging.

In some cases, wearable surveillance technology is on offer, measuring distancing and monitoring contact and encouraging 1.5m or 6 feet for all those involved. One of these wearable technologies is being offered at a university in Michigan, and has been labelled the 'BioButton', as it is pinned to the chest and measures the vital signs of the wearer.

Unsurprisingly, privacy concerns have been raised surrounding this surveillance technology, and both businesses and individuals are having to weigh up two different kinds of security: privacy and health.

AI and its utilisation in the era of COVID, however, has not been limited to surveillance. The hotel industry, which has taken a huge hit with the collapse of travel, has been using AI to enhance safety measures for hotel guests. With some horror stories circulating the media and with COVID making a germaphobe of us all, perhaps the most strategic move hotels can make is to ease the concerns of customers in terms of hotel cleanliness.

Using voice activated technology, guests in many hotels can 'make a call' to make special requests and can control lighting and television remotes – some of the places within hotel rooms that are notorious for spreading germs.

Beyond Artificial Intelligence, guests at MGM Resorts International hotels have the option of conducting their check in, processing their payment and accessing their room key all through a mobile app, rather than interact with staff. However, this does mean that the redundancy of many workers in the hotel industry, while perhaps not being as extreme moving forward, is set to continue.

The hospitality industry more broadly is finding that embracing emerging technologies is the only way to reconcile social distancing and business. The chain bakery store, Panera Bread, has introduced a curbside service in an attempt to encourage sales by taking away the threat of the in-store queues.

Customers place an order through an app, register their vehicle, and have the option of using geocaching technology or simply pressing 'I'm Here', so that an employee can deliver their order to their car. Considering that Panera is attributing 65% of its revenue to these digital sales, it is clear that the integration of this technology into everyday processes is the key to survival for hospitality businesses.

In the world of customer service across industries like banking, healthcare and retail, Artificial Intelligence is yet again proving necessary for ongoing survival. Chatbots have been part of our daily life for years – if you have ever asked a question online or interacted with a website, you have probably spoken to a chatbot.

However, as online ordering has spiked in the era of distancing, these technologies are proving to be the make or break for businesses in these sectors in terms of automating customer service and administration. The healthcare sector and governments have been using conversational technology online which assists individuals with assessing symptoms and deciding whether to seek treatment or self-isolate. Chatbots were very much becoming part of our new normal – COVID has seen that new normal arrive.

The world is fast discovering that in order to last the distance, it must keep the distance, and the technologies that have been on offer are the only viable way of making this happen. While this crisis is entirely unique, it is consistent with all disruptions in that the way to survive it is to move with the tides rather than attempt to hold them back.

By: MICHAEL MCQUEEN

