

**ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST**  
**COUNCIL MEETING - 6.30 WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021**

**ATTENDEES**

Council:

Bryan Rickett - President	Bill Gidley
Nick Bellamy	Graham Hollier
Nigel Budd	Mike Koscian
Keith Cameron	Gren Lamb-Hughes
Clive Collier	Jon Livingstone - Secretary
Brian Davies	Stewart Mitchell
Sandy Dunn	Roger Shepherd
Steve George	Stuart Wineberg

**AGENDA**

Bryan introduced the agenda to cover:

1. Members' survey re club strategy
2. Meeting formats (and venue) post lockdown
3. Policy adoption and awareness
4. Membership list
5. AOB.

**1. Members' survey re club strategy**

Roger shared that the forthcoming survey is for longer term plans for the Club, rather than immediate meetings, once these recommence Face to Face. Stuart read out the proposed questions.

Roger is currently hoping to send the survey out next week, to report to Council 7 July. Clive queried the second question for a bespoke dinner meeting. Roger advised that this was a response to a request that had been received about 18 months ago. Bill advised some explanation of the context for the question should be included, which Jon suggested be included in the cover letter.

**2. Meeting formats (and venue) post lockdown**

More immediately, the Town Hall is booked for forthcoming dates. Roger queried if we also hold a trial meeting at the British Legion. Consensus was to agree to trial, for one or two months. Agreed to leave to the House Committee, chaired by Nigel Budd to take forward.

Support also for Paul Grainger to re-commence Dinner Club.

**3. Policy adoption and awareness**

Jon summarised the recent Compliance review, prompted by District, had highlighted that some Members were either not aware of Rotary and Club policies; or where to find them. Also, Rotary Insurance guidelines. With thanks to Paul Grainger, these are held on the Club Members site under Policies. Jon will share key points at a forthcoming face to face meeting when these commence once again.

There was also a need to clarify key roles in the Club (for Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults, Health and Safety, Equality & Diversity). Bryan has issued brief job descriptions to the Members with these roles.

The updated Data Protection policy circulated to Council 25 April, was confirmed.

#### **4. Membership list**

Bryan apologised for the erroneous inclusion of Ron Bowater on the Members' list recently. This was removed once raised by Ian Bullivant. Jon and Bryan have apologised directly to Ian. Bill advised Ron has applied to be a member of RCORT from the start of the next Rotary year.

#### **5. AOB - Walk the Test Way**

Crosfield Hall will still be required by the NHS during September. The WTTW team have confirmed the Town Hall instead for Registration; and are exploring possible simplifications to the Registration processes.

**ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST**  
**COUNCIL AND CLUB MEETING - 7.30 WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021**

**ATTENDEES**

42 in total, including the following for Council:

Bryan Rickett - President	Bill Gidley
Nick Bellamy	Graham Hollier
Nigel Budd	Mike Koscian
Keith Cameron	Gren Lamb-Hughes
Clive Collier	Jon Livingstone – Secretary
Brian Davies	Stewart Mitchell
Sandy Dunn	Roger Shepherd
Steve George	

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Bryan welcomed all Members of RCoRT to the meeting including the AGM. 42 in attendance at this meeting!

**2. AGM**

Bryan then handed over to Jon for the AGM. The minutes are on page 4 following pages. Notes are in [Blue](#).

**3. COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Secretary**

All current Club policies, such as Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Equality & Diversity; also Insurance guidelines and the up to date Risk Assessment form are on the RCoRT Members site; click the button for 'Policy'. Jon will share key points with a brief slot at a meeting once these are face to face again.

**Club Treasurer**

Nothing to add to the AGM report.

**Trust Fund Treasurer**

Graham circulated the accounts in advance and has received no queries.

Graham noted that 2021-2022 budgets are to be agreed at the June Assembly meeting. This is on 2 June 2021. Graham advised caution regarding expenditure in the remainder of this year, to help manage funds until the WTTW in September this year has been held.

Graham queried when the cheque/ award to Stuart Marchant would be presented. Bill advised we are waiting for an appropriate public occasion.

**Club Service**

Roger shared that the working group for the future Club strategy was progressing. Stuart had developed a survey, to be sent all members soon. Anyone who cannot access by computer, please contact Roger or Stuart.

The Town Hall has been booked for meetings after the 21 June relaxations. Meetings at the Royal British Legion will also be explored by Nigel Budd and the House Committee, as a possible alternative location. A Risk Assessment for Club meetings will be needed once the relaxations are announced.

Jon referred to a District meeting regarding preparing for COVID relaxations, on 13 May, which will assist.

Graham Lee, requested specific clarity once meetings recommence, regarding what restrictions or safeguards will apply. Members will need full information, to be able to take their own decisions, if they are able to attend.

### **Communications**

Keith advised, as AGM report.

### **Membership & Recruitment**

John Gould queried that with Members of both Romsey Clubs resigning for work commitments, how could we consider a different membership model? David Sutton, mentioned the Associate Member experiment.

Bill will be writing to Council with ideas. Ed Holmes, would love to have an input how to bring new members in; and will have a chat with Roger. Peter Welsh, also keen to contribute ideas. Roger advised there would be the opportunity for narrative comments input on the survey. Anyone who wishes to do so, also please contact Roger direct.

### **Fundraising**

Sandy advised that Crosfield Hall was still required by the NHS and would not be available for Registration. Fortunately, the team do have another venue agreed.

Sandy also queried if Members had seen the appreciative letter received from Warren Clark of Golfing Dreams.

### **Community Service**

Mike Koscian is meeting with Nikki on Thursday, who is hoping to gradually resume as Chair.

Peter Hirst gave an update on the Mayor's Picnic. Arrangements are going well. Dave Sillence is kindly doing the preparation work for the Duck Race and Vanessa George has volunteered to run on the day. Many thanks to both. SokaBloka will not be possible if social distancing is required. Marion Maxey is providing choir music and ukuleles are booked.

Peter will be looking at Insurance and the Risk Assessment.

Sandy suggested Peter might invite Warren Clark of Golfing Dreams to set up his gazebo.

### **Foundation**

Stewart attended a Foundation seminar recently with Keith. This is recorded on ZOOM and Stewart will send this to spending committee chairs re Grants and how Foundation works.

### **International**

Gren is looking into funding for India, with members of the International Committee.

### **Youth**

Steve has received a recent request via Ron Bowater of Romsey Rotary to sponsor Edward Bunce, an organ scholar. Once details are received from Ron, Steve will share further information.

### **Sports & Social**

Clive advised 30 June a face to face event is planned at Ampfield Golf Club, and a Risk Assessment likely to be needed.

#### **4. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Bryan wished Frank and Martha well on their forthcoming move to Farnham

#### **5. ALMONER**

Graham Lee enquired regarding Jan Gratton's health. Clive advised Sheila King had been in hospital. Sheila is now with her daughter.

Steve George advised that Jamie Garner had had a little boy Sebastian on April 22.

Ian and Graham sending cards on behalf of the Club.

#### **6. AOB**

Mike Thorne and Keith have registered for the Volunteer EXPO, virtual National Conference on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of May. Links were sent to Members 30 April. I (Jon) can share with anyone who can't locate these and would like to attend virtually.

#### **7. NEXT MEETINGS**

- 19 May            The charity 'Practical Action' Zoom
- 26 May            'Why it's Betty James' Zoom
- 2 June             Assembly & Business Meeting

**ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2020**

**AGENDA**

1. Presentation of annual reports from the Club Council on activities for the current Rotary year.
2. Presentation of the Club Treasurer's report on the year to date against budget and the report of the Trust Fund and Walk Treasurers up to the date of the AGM.  
[Items 1. and 2.](#)  
[All reports were submitted. Key points and discussion on each are in 'Blue' on the following pages.](#)
3. Appointment of an Independent Examiners of Accounts, Peter Stuckey and Mike Hicks, to report on the Club's financial accounts for the ensuing Rotary year.  
[Appointments confirmed, with thanks to Peter and Mike.](#)

4. Election of a Junior Vice-President.  
[Remains open.](#)

5. Election of Committee Chairs and Members of Club Council:

	<b><u>Proposer</u></b>	<b><u>Seconded</u></b>
Community Service - Nicola Jones / Mike Koscian	Roger Shepherd	Bryan Rickett
Foundation Officer - Stewart Mitchell	- ditto -	- ditto -
International - Gren Lamb-Hughes	- ditto -	- ditto -
Sports and Social - Clive Collier	- ditto -	- ditto -
Youth Opportunities - Steve George	- ditto -	- ditto -
Communications - Peter Welsh	- ditto -	- ditto -
Fund Raising - Brian Davies	Sandy Dunn	Roger Shepherd
Membership and Recruitment - Bryan Rickett	Roger Shepherd	Jon Livingstone

[Confirmed. Congratulations to all.](#)

6. Election of new Honorary Members, if any, proposed by the Club Council.  
[None proposed.](#)

7. Adoption of current RGBI Policies concerning:

- RGBI Equality and Diversity Policy
- RGBI Health and Safety Policy Statement
- RGBI Safeguarding (Children) Policy
- RGBI Safeguarding (Vulnerable Adults) Policy
- Data Protection Policy/ 'Privacy Statement'

[Policies adopted.](#)

(These policies are available for reading on the Rotary Club of Romsey Test website, within the Members area, select the button 'Policy'.)

**Rotary Club of Romsey Test**  
**Annual General Meeting - Reports**

**President's AGM Report 2021**

Bryan expressed his thanks to all who have supported him through the year and kindly mentioned Jon. He has been delighted by the turnout at Zoom meetings, topped with 48 for Clive and Cheryl's cheese evening. Up to us all to make contact with those not on Zoom. Highlights for year, include outstanding support for the Romsey Foodbank, 'Walk the Test *another* Way' and as below.

**Bryan's report:**

Given the very strange year past I thought that I would pen a report simply to remind us all of the things that we have achieved as a club despite the chaos. First to say that I will save my plaudits and thanks for the handover night on the 30th so don't be offended if you're not mentioned here!

As you will recall Bill and I had a handover night via zoom, at that time we were still trying to understand zoom meetings and what could be done with them. Once I invested in better wifi bandwidth, new microphone and speakers it became a lot easier! I have been delighted that we now have very well attended meetings, good speakers and an ever fuller programme. Thanks to David Pantling, Martin Radford and others for being or providing our speakers. Also thanks to Clive and Cheryl for the very successful socials, via zoom. I now feel that our zoom meetings are as effective as the face to face meetings, but not as much fun! I do however regret that some of our members have been unable or unwilling to join us on zoom but it does look like they are still keen to come back once we can meet again.

Although we have not been able to run any sort of normal Rotary program this year we should be proud of the things that we have been able to do, namely:

- Supported the local foodbank to the tune of over 12k (thanks to Graham Lee for suggesting this idea).
- Ran a virtual Walk the Test Another Way and raised over 25k for charities, 4k for our charity.
- Maintained a strong club with lots of interaction and zoom events and no one caught the virus!
- Successfully completed a review of the club's compliance to legislation.
- Set up an ongoing committee looking at the future of the club.
- Made a number of significant donations to local and international good causes.
- Maintained connections with the schools and Hilliers ready for the easing of restrictions.
- Recruited two new members Ed and Charles.

In terms of regrets, I am very sorry that we have lost Shaun under pressure from the demands of his successful career. As one of our younger members he reminds us of our challenge, to make Rotary compatible with modern family and job pressures. I personally was very sad to have missed the cancelled Mayors picnic and remembrance parade last year. Overall, I now see that we could have been quicker to fill the programme with zoom equivalents. This said I have been delighted with the support and fortitude of club members during one of the most difficult periods in living memory.

Thanks to you all for making my job so easy, more on handover night.

Bryan Rickett

## Club Treasurer

David Sutton queried the time/ or period during which subs have been suspended. Nick confirmed this is from January to June 2021, during the present Rotary year.

The Club's finances remain in a good shape and at the end of April the Club had **£7,400** in its bank account which in addition held **£6,300** of positive balances on members dinner accounts.

The budget for the year was set on the basis of a full normal twelve months with members subscriptions to the club being set at the desirable low level of £10 per month. This would have resulted in a planned shortfall of £1,800 which was to be met by a reduction in the surplus in our bank account and enable us to maintain the subscription at this level for another three years.

How things changed!! Up to the end of April the only expenditure has been the levies to RIBI and District totalling £4,674 and a further £630 on other items. In light of this low expenditure, Council decided to declare a subscription holiday for the second half of the year.

The highlight of the year was the personal donations that members made from their dinner accounts to the Food Bank. These are likely to total over £9,900, (£12,300 including gift aid) in this financial year.

### **Club Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

	2019/20 Full Year Budget	2019/20 Actual End April
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	<b>£6,720</b>	<b>£3,420</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Levy RIBI	£3,750	£3,819
District	£952	£855
Room Hire	£2,100	
Purchasing Regalia	£50	
Presidents Honorarium	£300	
Gratuities	£220	
Unrecovered Meal Costs	£550	
Web Housing Stationery etc	£75	£78
Communications	£200	£70
Speakers		£470
Sundries		£10
Contingency	£200	
Total Expenditure	<b>£8,522</b>	<b>£5,302</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-£1,802</b>	<b>-£1,882</b>
<b>Bank Balance</b>		
Club Bank Balance 30-Jun-19	£10,194	
Club Bank Balance 30-Jun-20	£9,270	
Club Bank Balance 30-Jun-21	£7,189	Estimate

Nick Bellamy



## Trust Fund Treasurer

As report. No queries; and congratulations for clarity.

To be read in conjunction with the Financial Management Report; in the Appendix.

### **BANK BALANCE**

The attached accounts show a reconciled bank balance as of 26<sup>th</sup> April of £24,436. (*Total Funds 'A' Bank Balances on FMR*)

### **CURRENT ACTIVITY BY CATEGORY**

This shows the reconciled distribution of funds as being ££24,436 (*Total Funds 'A' Current Activity on FMR*)  
The accounts are therefore in balance.

### **BUDGET: STATUS**

We are showing a total of £3,490 in unspent budgets

### **COMMITTED FUNDS**

Detailed committed funds as yet unspent are in total £20,718 of which £16,200 (*see note ii.*) is to be carried forward to 2021/22 & 2022/23. Other committed funds see FMR.

### **UNCOMMITTED FUNDS**

These are shown as being £3,719.

### **COMMENT**

We are showing £3,490 in unspent budgets and £3,719 in uncommitted funds totalling £7,209, still available for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. (*See note iii.*)

If any clarification or further information is required, it would be helpful to receive this before the AGM to enable a considered response and save time at the meeting.

### **Notes on accounts**

- i. The sum of £2,970 for Foundation members giving including Gift Aid, from April 2020 to March 2021, has been sent to and received by District Foundation. District year end is April.*
- ii. The sum of £16,500 is being carried forward to fund 2021/22 and 2022/23 activity. To this figure, on 1<sup>st</sup> July the sum of £4,000 will be added from WTTW Another Way making a total of £20,500. The plan is to divide this sum between 2 years and base budgets initially for 2021/22 on a half of this amount which is £10,250. The last 'normal' year 2018/19, committee budgets amounted to £17,604. It is also planned to revise the budgets when we have a degree of certainty regarding to returns for WTTW 2021 viz: Nov/Dec 2021. The anticipation is that funds for 2023/24 will be provided from WTTW in 2022.*
- iii. It may be members will wish to show constraint in spending the total funds available to spend of £7,209 in the remaining c9 weeks of the current financial year to then add to funds available for 2021/22 and 2022/23. To my knowledge, no requests for funds by committees have been refused during the year.*

Graham Hollier

## Club Service and House Committee

As report.

This year due to the Covid pandemic we have to date, had no face-to-face meetings so the role of the Committee has been largely non-existent. Subject to the planned removal of all Covid restrictions on 21<sup>st</sup> June the Club will be able to meet for the only time face-to-face this year on 23<sup>rd</sup> June for which the Town Hall and caterer are booked.

A Club future working group has been established to identify measures to ensure a viable future for the Club. This work is progressing. I would like to thank Nigel Budd, Bill Gidley, Jon Livingstone, Bryan Rickett and Stuart Wineberg for their efforts with this group.

With thanks to those involved and the members of the Club who have assisted throughout the year with the following additional 'Other Club Roles' and responsibilities.

Club History	Martin Russell
Environmental Advisor	John Gould
Equality and Diversity	Christine Sargent
Events Co-ordinator and Scheduler	David Sutton
Health and Safety	Steve Simmons Jacobs (plus Jon Livingstone WTTW)
Protection Officer	Norman Oldmeadow
Regalia Officer	Clive Collier
House Committee	Jim Purdie

Roger Shepherd

## Communications

Clive thought the Rotary in Romsey newsletter circulated this week was outstanding! Graham, that Keith deserves congratulation for the QR code [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QR\\_code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QR_code)] that took him directly to the selected site. Keith was delighted in the team effort. And hoping Kerry and her husband may become future members of the Club. Shaun is still helping Keith with Facebook and with this, Keith achieved a very impressive indeed over 1,000 hits regarding a post on the Mayor's Picnic!

*Neill Beasley Paul Grainger, Shaun O'Brien, Terry Proctor, Peter Stuckey, David Sutton, Keith Cameron.  
Supported by Kerry Daley.*

Firstly, my thanks to all team members for their support and assistance during a Zooming year which has not only zoomed by but has been relatively successful thanks to everyone's participation. Kerry Daley, although not officially a member of our Team, has been very helpful and supportive.

The year has seen many changes, primarily in combining external communications with the Romsey Club. Our monthly Zoom meetings have been useful in keeping us on track. One result has been the collaboration with Kerry Daley and Richard Pratt at the lunchtime Club, allowing us to work together to have a common external communications platform. We now have a joint Newsletter, Facebook page and a common website front page, which has links to both our clubs and Inner wheel.

<https://rotaryinromsey.org.uk> Thanks to Paul and Neill for their work in designing and setting this up. The Facebook page has been working very well and with Shaun's and Kerry's enthusiasm we have a much-improved coverage with over 600 contacts.

The new Rotary in Romsey quarterly newsletters have been very well received, again thanks to the work of Kerry and with Peter Welsh helping to check them through. My deliberate mistakes have not always been appreciated, with the best one being the Major's Picnic - rather appropriate for last year.

Shaun has been a leading light with Facebook and he is a major loss to us but is continuing to stay in touch and helping us in very positive ways which I hope will continue.

The coming Rotary year will be a wakeup call for us all and I am very pleased that Roger will be announcing a new Chair for Communications who is very well qualified and has kindly agreed to take over the helm. So, a fresh start, to head up communications and lead us into the new normal.



*Rotary in Romsey Webpage*

*Keith Cameron*

### Membership & Recruitment

Bill was pleased to have welcomed Ed and Charles as Members.

Thanks to Shaun and Bill who held this position in the current year. We have been pleased to welcome Ed Holmes and Charles Lacey in the present Rotary year.

### Fundraising

Sandy summarised his report. 'Walk the Test *another* Way' was a highlight in the present Rotary year.

The Fundraising Committee's activities were for the second Rotary year again impacted greatly by the Covid-19 pandemic. All the scheduled events have had to be cancelled, the most significant of these being 'Walk the Test Way' (WTTW) fundraiser in September 2020 and a planned street collection for Parkinson's UK.

In response to the imposition of restrictions relating to Covid-19, my committee arranged a Covid secure alternative to WTTW, imaginatively styled 'Walk the Test *another* Way'! Our online event which was held over the summer months, allowed fundraisers to set their own challenge to walk/run/cycle any distance, any route and anywhere to raise funds for their chosen charity proved a great success and I am delighted to report that this event managed to raise just over £25,000 for charities, including our own Rotary Club Trust fund charity, which benefitted by around £4,000. This brings the total raised by our club since the event was first held in 2003 to circa £975,000.

This is my final year as fundraising chairman although I will continue to play a part on the Walk committee under the stewardship of the incoming chairman.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members who have worked on and with the fundraising committee during my time a chairman and give a special mention to our members, the members of Inner Wheel, spouses, family and friends without whose help we simply could not have achieved so much for the community both here at home and internationally.

Sandy Dunn

## Community Service

As in the report; and expect calls to pick up as we come out of lockdown.

Although the last year has been relatively quiet due to the pandemic we still managed to support local causes to the tune of £2,235. This was broken down as follows:

Remap for a child seat	£85
Romsey Abbey primary school	£300
Romsey Opportunity Group	£500
Romsey Toy Library	£250
Ataxia (childhood degenerative disease)	£300
Romsey Young carers	£50
Romsey Young Carers	£500
Romsey Sea Cadets	£250

Following the eventual loosening of lockdown, I fully expect requests for help to increase.

Mike Koscian

## Foundation

Stewart summarised his report and expressed thanks to Keith Cameron and Steve George for their help during the year.

What a year this has been. A personal thanks to Bryan Rickett for leading us through a difficult time.

Social Covid restrictions have had an adverse effect on Foundation projects. Both Peace Jam and 'End Polio Now' events did not happen. On a positive note, I managed to retain the District grant monies held for Peace Jam into next year, as there is likely to be an event in November 2021.

Liaison with schools became more difficult as they strove to keep schools going. School contact has been a problem for Foundation projects. So, after speaking with Steve George, Chair to Youth Opp's, we decided that we should stop and think about how we keep in touch with our local schools and them with us and the best way forward. We have made start with this and have been working on a school data base with Romsey school as a test discussion. Now have an 'official' link into and from their school. Hopefully, we will look at doing this with others.

Again, the club has sent over £3000 to Foundation of which about half comes back to District for use in the Grant schemes. This is personal Members giving, which is voluntary. A majority of members do contribute around £5 per month, That's just a couple of coffees. Please remember that Foundation is Rotary's charity, so it's our charity. A big thank you to all those members who make a contribution this and every year. If you don't at the moment, please reconsider.

When you are looking at projects in committee, consider looking at applying for a grant. At club level, grants encourage us to think more positively about and upscale our projects. It focuses the mind on bigger

possibilities. Foundation is certainly not just about grants, it's about the projects it enables. With a central fund it enables our Organisation to punch above our weight and be world partners.

There is lots of information about Foundation and how it works on RIBI and RI sites. It is an interesting field and is a central part of Rotary both here in RIBI and Internationally. It even enables the club to award Paul Harris Fellowships.

As our club Foundation Officer, I try to keep the work it does in our sights.

I'm always available to help with information or ways to apply for a grant. It's a lot easier to apply than it used to be. But if we are able to enhance a project or make sure it takes place, it's a process worth following.

Thanks again go to Keith Cameron for his assistance with Foundation projects.

Regards to you all at this more optimistic time.

Stewart Mitchell

## International

Gren advised International allocated budget of £2,000 fully utilised, though not all spent yet by the receiving charities. Otherwise as his report.

1. Firstly, my thanks to the members of the International Committee....Nigel Budd, Keith Cameron (Dentaid focal point), Philip Kirkland, Martin Radford (Christmas Shoeboxes mastermind), Iain Small, Mike Thorne and Peter Welsh..... for their support in this somewhat unusual year.
2. The International Committee's agreed way forward for 2020/21 was that:
  - a. The Club should support fewer projects but that these projects should be ones in which the Club could become involved, or have a relationship, or work in partnership thereby having a greater understanding and commitment. It could also be beneficial if these International projects had a local theme or link.
  - b. The following projects should be considered for 2020/21:
    1. Dentaid, a local charity with which the Club had worked for many years.
    2. A school in Mulpani Nepal that had been made known to the Club by a local retired Headmaster who was supporting the school personally.
    3. The Life Centre School in Kisumu Kenya that was being supported by the Asante coffee shop in Romsey and to whom Neil Duncan, one of our members, had already supplied refurbished laptops.
    4. Disaster Relief, and
    5. Microfinance (through LendwithCare).
  - c. Plan International, Mary's Meals and Vision Aid would no longer be supported financially.
  - d. Christmas Puddings would not be sold but Christmas Shoeboxes would continue to be collected.

3. Club Council guidance for the 2020/21 Trust Fund Budget and Club Assembly was that, due to the impact of Covid-19, available charitable funds would be potentially less than previous years and therefore budgets should only include “essential” items which were defined as:

*“Donations or expenditure which support activities or established relationships which a Committee considers to be important to maintain. There should also be no doubt that the sum allocated in the budget can be spent on the defined subject”.*

4. Taking into account the International Committee’s agreed way forward, their overall budget of £2000 and Club Council’s guidance , the following has occurred in 2020/21:

- a. Dentaid

£750 was donated to Dentaid in Sep 2020 for the provision of a Portable Dental Chair for Uganda (£550) and funds (£200) to support an outreach programme using the Chair.

Although the Chair was manufactured and ready to send to Uganda well before Christmas 2020, unfortunately, due to Covid, shipping capacity was very restricted and shipping costs soared so the Chair is still sitting in a container at Dentaid. It is not yet known when the Chair might be shipped but there may be some opportunities later this calendar year.

However, the 2 day outreach programme to Iyolwa and Kiyeyi went ahead on 30/31 December without the benefit of the Dental Chair, but with a report plus photographs explaining what was achieved being distributed to all Club members in January 2021.

- b. The School in Mulpani, Nepal

The sum of £750 was transferred in August 2020 to the Rotary Club of North East Kathmandu (RCoNEK) to contribute towards the cost of improving the very rudimentary audio/visual facilities at the school. RCoNEK are acting as “our man in Nepal” and monitoring the project work on our behalf.

The original improvement programme was costed at £1500 and it had been hoped that the balance would have been found from other sources. Unfortunately this proved not to be the case and so the Rainbow Volunteer Group (who run the school) proposed that they “cut their coat according to their cloth” by revising the programme to meet the available funds. It was confirmed that the revised programme could be used as a building block if funds subsequently became available at a later date.

It was decided that this was an appropriate way forward, and the Rainbow Volunteer Group provided a draft revised programme and a draft MOU, which anticipated the work being undertaken during the month of April 2021.

However, the restrictions imposed by the Nepal Government as a result of Covid 19 has meant that it has not been possible for the RCoNEK Club Service Committee to get together to discuss the proposed revised programme and the MOU between the two organisations, nor for the Rainbow Volunteer Group and the Club Service Committee to meet. To date, no funds have been released to the Rainbow Volunteer Group by RCoNEK.

At the moment it is not clear when these discussions will be held and therefore it is not possible to identify when the work will be undertaken.

c. The Life Centre School in Kisumu, Kenya

In November 2020, £500 was donated to the Citizens 4 Change charity, which supports the school, specifically to contribute towards the cost, anticipated to be £1000, of the text books required for the new syllabus being introduced in early 2021 by the Ministry of Education in the Kenyan government.

A letter of thanks was received from James Samo, the school manager, the following month and circulated to all Club members. Photographs of the children and the new text books have been requested but, unfortunately, given the difficulty of communicating with James, the impact of Covid and as he has been suffering from malaria, these have yet to be received.

d. Disaster Relief

In December 2020, Shelterbox advised that it was working at full capacity to meet the needs of so many disasters around the world, that the emergency shelter stocks stored in their warehouses, particularly in the Philippines and Panama, were being emptied. They urgently needed to be refilled so that they were prepared for future disasters.

As a result the Club agreed to donate £590, the cost of one Shelterbox, from uncommitted funds. A letter of thanks from Shelterbox was received in February 2021.

e. Plan International, Mary's Meals and Vision Aid

Letters were written to all three charities in June 2020 explaining that Covid-19 had made a very significant impact on the Club's charitable fundraising activities to the extent that the Club would not be able to make donations in the forthcoming Rotary year.

f. Christmas Puddings

The Rotary Club of Cwmbran Vale was advised that the Club would not be selling puddings for Christmas 2020.

g. Christmas Shoeboxes

In line with a number of other Clubs, the Club decided, based on the recommendations of Martin Radford, our Shoeboxes mastermind, that the risks associated with Covid 19 at the time that the boxes would be collected, sorted and transported to the District focal point were such that it was not prudent to collect Christmas Shoeboxes this year. The District Shoeboxes Co-ordinator and local schools from whom we collect shoeboxes were advised accordingly.

5. In summary, as described by a member of the International Committee.....

" All the marks are for trying this year! Stalled by Covid sums it up".

## Youth Opportunities

As report.

The past year started with the realisation that our Romsey school junior Youth Speaks team's trip to the regional finals, so skilfully fought to reach, would be cancelled given COVID lockdowns.

With schools closed and teachers focussed on distance learning and child safety Rotary announced that youth events would not be supported this year. Gradually, some clubs tried to put on local events but Romsey Test had made the decision to cancel youth events.

We have kept in touch with Romsey and Mountbatten schools who are keen to re-engage but it will be cautiously and an attempt to assist with Romsey's enterprise scheme in June was pulled recently as the school decided to cancel the event.

Youth Speaks and the tech tournaments are likely to be on the agenda again next winter but the youth committee will need to be strengthened if we are to pursue these and think about widening the activities we support.

Steve George

## Sports and Social.

As report.

Good morning all.

Not surprisingly my committee has very little to report for this Rotary year.

**Sports.** There haven't been any !!!!

**Social.** Little other than the wine tasting and cheese tasting evenings.

As usual thanks are due to my committee members for the help and advice during the pandemic.

Let's hope that we can look forward to better time ahead.

Clive Collier



