

Rotary Club of Romsey Test

Breakfast Meeting 9th February 2022

At the breakfast meeting (Feb 9th), 11 members and Malcolm Pyrah, a guest of Ed Holmes, enjoyed the usual hospitality and excellent breakfast at Youth in Romsey..

Stewart Mitchell, assisted on his laptop by Bill Gidley, gave a short talk about “ Riding the Rope “.

Stewart started by explaining the differences between trams (as he grew up with in Leeds) , tramways, (as on the Great Orme), funiculars, trolleys, and street cars..

He then told us about the development of multistrand wire rope, firstly for mining, and for suspension bridges. He talked about the role played by Andrew Smith Sr and by Andrew Smith Hallidie in this development.

He then explained how the San Francisco street cars (cars is shorthand for carriages) work. How they go round bends, how they stop and start, how they change direction at a terminus, how they sleep at night and the role of the Grip Men. You have to be a strong man or a female Russian weightlifter to do the job.

Dunedin in NZ used to have a similar system, discontinued in the 1950s

The technology is still in use. Pisa has a system for its park and ride and a system is planned for Luton airport

After questions the meeting ended at 09.25.

Next weeks meeting is at the RBL when Youth In Romsey will tell us about their work and the challenges that COVID has presented.

Regards John G