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Rotary Club of ROMSEY TEST



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Newsletter No 19, February 2018

Contents - click the header to go straight to the article that interests you

- [Rotary Community Group](#)
- [Learning to make your point](#)
- [Computers to Africa](#)
- [Funding Bid to Aviva - Consolation prize](#)
- [Dentistry in Dewsbury](#)
- [Something for all ages](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Who's who in 2017/18?](#)
- [About our Club](#)

[Service above Self](#) ---- [Service above Self](#) ---- [Service above Self](#) ---- [Service above Self](#)



Rotary Community Group (RCG) Making progress

This group started in November 2016 with the aim of providing a way for local charities, businesses, schools and civic organisations to meet, learn about one another and to find ways to work together with Rotary to identify and meet the needs of our local community. It is a joint venture between the two Rotary Clubs in Romsey.

In late January 2018 we held the fifth meeting of the group at the White Horse Hotel and, following some ideas from Julian Gee, ([Spitfire Marketing](#)), discussed the various ways in which organisations should “market” themselves in order to prosper and to make their work more visible to the communities they serve.

The five meetings held so far – each one lasts only 1 hour – have involved over 50 non-Rotarians with typically between 1 and 2 dozen attending any meeting.

On Valentines Day the Club heard from Nikki Jones (Academy Studios), Chris Hall (Romsey Young Carers) and Cllr. John Parker (former town mayor) how they felt the community benefitted from this Rotary-led initiative. Chris and Nikki are now part of the team planning and shaping the RCG’s work. Our vision is that the group will become self-sustaining and will work, with Rotary’s help, to run projects that will benefit Romsey.

Four more meetings of the RCG are planned for 2018.

March 13th. Breakfast meeting, 0800-0900, [Academy Studios](#). Topic " [Romsey Food Bank](#)"

May 15th Evening meeting 17.45 -18.45 . White Horse.

Sept 10th Breakfast meeting Academy Studios.

Nov 27th Evening meeting White Horse.

If you would like to learn more and/or come to the meetings please contact [Bill Gidley](#)

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The winning teams with their certificates from the local Youth Speaks heats in Romsey.

Learning to Make your point

We hosted the local heats of the Rotary Youth Speaks public speaking competition in Romsey Town Hall in January. In previous years success in this competition has been dominated by teams from Romsey School.

This year three schools took part, Romsey, Mountbatten and Sholing Technology College. Each team (four at intermediate level and three seniors)

had three members – a chairperson, a proposer of the subject and someone to give the vote of thanks.

The subjects chosen, *“80 Beats Around the World”, “Be Happy”, “What if Mums ruled the world”, “The Struggles of technology in older people’s hands”, “What it means to be British”, “Stereotypes within Disney”, “Fake News: How is social media generating a culture of intolerance and mistrust?”* were topical, controversial and argued with passion.

Sholing Intermediates *“80 beats”* and Mountbatten ‘A’ Seniors *“Disney Stereotypes”* were narrowly judged to be winners and competed against other schools from Test Valley area on February 21st. Sadly in a closely fought contest our teams did not prevail.

Better luck next year

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Past president Neil handing over one of the latest batch of laptops to Jude Gregory (C4).

Computers to Africa

Many of us have experienced our laptop becoming obsolete, too slow and lacking memory or storage. Reluctantly we replace them, begrudging the fact that they were otherwise perfectly serviceable.

Well, in 2015 our then President Neil Duncan (ex-IBM) took some redundant laptops to start a new life in Kenya –providing an essential part of an IT skills training centre. Since then other laptops have found their way there and now the latest batch are on their way in the careful hands of Paul and Shirley Barter and Jude Gregory. Through the charity [Citizens4Change](#) and Romsey's Asante coffee shop they work to provide education in the town of Kisumu, Kenya.

If you were in any doubt about the value of these computers here is a message Neil received late last year

"I take this opportunity to appreciate once again the support we received in

terms of laptops and printers followed with accessories through Neil Duncan. The laptops have gone a long way in introducing a vibrant ICT center in the school where we train pupils on computer skills. The community has also not been left out as they come to school to learn computer skills. So far the center has trained more than 30 adults who have gone out to society to apply the skills earned.

Next year our school has been selected by the Ministry of Education as one of the few schools to pioneer an ICT center targeting pupils under the age of 5. This is an experiment by the government to map out the possibility of young children adopting to the information world at an earlier age.

We are targeting to introduce at least 100 pupils to computers and other information technology skills. "

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Aviva - consolation prize

Last autumn we made our first attempt to gain funding for our annual Dictionary donations to local primary schools through a bid to the **Aviva Community Fund**. Though we obtained many votes we fell short of the threshold needed to gain the £1000 we were seeking.

However Aviva have generously given us £300 – a nice consolation prize – that will help offset the increasing costs of this project as class sizes in Romsey area primary schools continue to grow. We are very grateful for this support and, armed with our experience from 2017, will submit a new bid to Aviva this autumn.

Awbridge Primary School have been one of the most enthusiastic supporters of D4L and when the school's head teacher Mark Ward was seconded to Hythe Primary on the edge of the New Forest, he noticed how the children there

would benefit from receiving Dictionaries. To cut a long story short we managed to find sufficient books to get Hythe Primary into the project and the plan is that next year their local **Rotary Club, Hythe and Waterside**, will continue the project.

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Dentistry in Dewsbury

A few weeks ago the Daily Mirror highlighted the scandal of the fact that **Dentaid** - a charity with which we have a close relationship – were providing dental care to rough sleepers and others people who have difficulty accessing dentistry in Dewsbury, Yorkshire. This was followed by a piece on the BBC's One Show.

Those with very sharp eyesight may have noticed the Rotary logo on the door of the mobile clinic and the words "Supported by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test". We are now working with Dentaid, **The Trussell Trust** and **The Two Saints** charities and other nearby Rotary Clubs to obtain funding for a similar effort to provide dental care in Hampshire and Wiltshire.



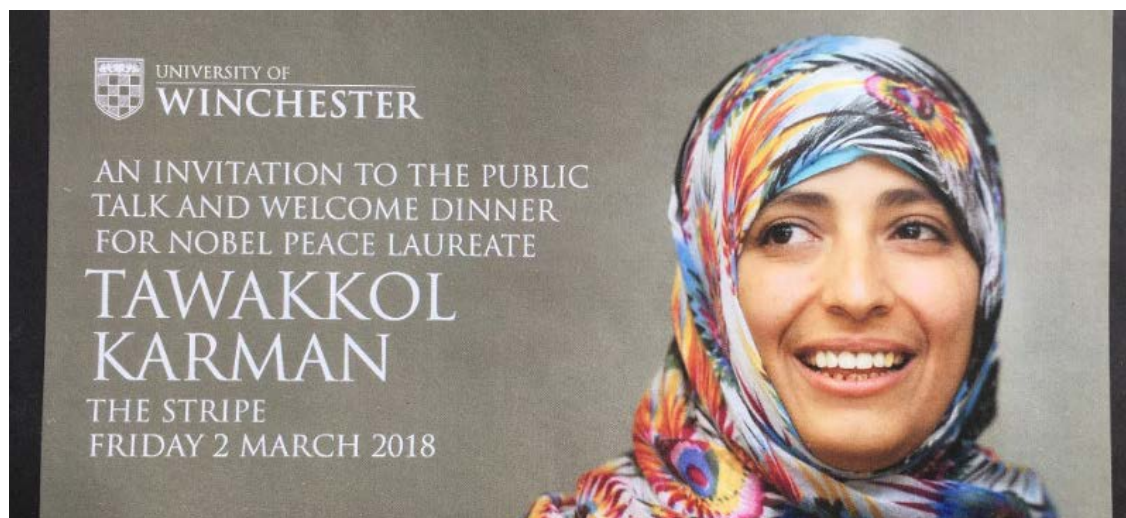


One of the stickers that we put on equipment that we fund and projects that we support.

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Something for all ages

Firstly, a weather-related hiccup.



- The weekend of 2-4 March was to have seen our involvement in Peace Jam at Winchester University. The Club provides adult supporters for local secondary students who are attending. We and the students will have a chance to listen to Nobel Prizewinner Tawakkol Karman from the Yemen; the founder of the organisation "Women journalists without chains".

Sadly the snowy weather caused the event's postponement but we look forward to supporting our local students at a future date.

- On Wednesday March 7th we organised the Rotary Young Technologist Tournament in the Crosfield Hall. Teams from local schools competed to build a piece of equipment to do a practical job - against the clock and while being assessed by professional engineers. The nature of the task remained a closely

guarded secret until the day of the event. It involved a task related to, but somewhat simpler than Elon Musk launching his car towards Mars. We will report on the event in the next NL.

- On Saturday March 10th again in the Crosfield Hall we, together with our Inner Wheel partners, will provide an afternoon of tea, cake, entertainment and company for as many as 200 of the area's older citizens. We've been pleased this year to be told by friends and relatives about individuals who they felt would benefit from the afternoon's event.
- Each year Rotary has collaborated with the [Stroke Association](#) to run "Know Your Blood Pressure" events throughout the UK. The idea is to persuade Saturday shoppers to have their blood pressure measured, by trained medical staff, and hence to identify people who may, unknown to them have high blood pressure and so be at risk of a stroke. This event, on April 14th, will be our 6th annual event and each year we have found around 20 people who we then recommended to see their GP. Even if this prevents only a single life being ruined by a stroke it will have been worthwhile.

Most importantly - Early Bird Registration for the 2018 [Walk the Test Way](#)

opened on March 1st.

Why don't you support YOUR favourite charity on Sunday October 14th. Please ask family members, friends or work colleagues to join in.

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Finally

It's now even easier for you to support us.

We have set up a [BT My Donate site](#) to allow donations direct to our charity account.

Here's how the link will appear in our communications.

By the way the link is live so why don't you try it.



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Calendar

Meetings and **events** for next 3 months (and beyond).

Our Club meets on Wednesdays at venues in and around Romsey. For an up-to-date list see our [Club home page](#)

- **Mar 10** **Reminiscences of Romsey**, Crosfield Hall
- **Apr 14** **Know your Blood Pressure Day**, Cornmarket
- **Jun 9** **Street collection in support of Parkinsons UK**
- **July 1** **Rotary Mayor's picnic**, Memorial Park
- **Oct 14** **Walk the Test Way**

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Who's who for 2017/18

President	Jon Livingstone
Senior Vice Pres	Stuart Wineberg
Junior Vice President	Bill Gidley
Secretary	Roger Shepherd
Trust Fund Treasurerer	David Upton
Club Treasurer	Nick Bellamy
Community Service	Richard Jordan-Baker
Youth Opportunities	Bill Gidley
International	Philip Kirkland
Rotary Foundation	Stewart Mitchell
Fundraising	Sandy Dunn
Walk the Test Way	Sandy Dunn
Membership	Steve George
Sports and Social	Tony Abbott
Communication	John Gould

About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 57 members (2 honorary). The Club was an offshoot of the Rotary Club of Romsey (the lunchtime club) that meets on Tuesday lunchtimes at the White Horse hotel. We are part of Rotary International and Rotary International of Britain and Ireland. We are guided by the principle of Service above Self

The Club's activities focus on

- **Community Service** – dealing with service to the local community
- **Fund-raising** – our major fundraising event is Walk the Test Way.
- **Youth Opportunities** - working with young people around Romsey
- **International** – dealing with our international giving and including our partnership with Dentaidd to produce the Rotary Dentaidd Box.
- **Foundation** - Rotary Foundation is Rotary's own charity and deals with such global projects as the eradication of polio.
- **Club Service** - responsible for running the club.
- **Membership** - recruitment and retention.
- **Communication** - internal and external
- **Sports and Social**

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