

Rotary Club of Romsey Test

Notes of Meeting 21 June 2023

Guests:

Richard Jordan-Baker – Speaker

Paul Grubb – Sponsor WTTW

Toast:

Ed Holmes provided port for everyone to celebrate his and Robyn's birthdays.

Speaker:

Ron Brown introduced the speaker Richard Jordan-Baker who he had invited along after the Relay Marathon.

Richard's talk was entitled Broadlands – the continuing story. He remarked that it was lovely to be back at a Rotary meeting. He doesn't normally do talks but felt that we are different!

Richard gave a very entertaining and interesting talk. He explained that the main developments were:

- The Covid Pandemic or the Hand of Confusion as he called it. It had resulted in cancelled events and resulting loss of income for the estate and he had had to work from home. One positive was that he found Gloria, a very pleasant wine from Portugal!
- The Restoration of the Orangery. This was in a poor state of repair but has now been returned to its former glory. Phase 1 of the works had been repairs to the glazed and slate areas of the roof. Phase 2 was the repairs and painting of the doors and windows. Phase 3 was the restoration of the inside of the building. The works were completed in September 2022. To finance these works the Orangery is being made available for various events including video and photo shoots. One recent video shoot had including live alligators!
- In Memorium. The deaths of both the Duke of Edinburgh and subsequently the Queen had been strongly felt as they had strong connections with Broadlands. Lady Brabourne had attended both funerals.
- Mountbatten Family. There had been various funerals, weddings and births.
- Events for all. A series of concerts are to be held very shortly with performers including Lionel Richie and Nile Rodgers + Chic. These will take concerts to a new level.
- Wedding ceremonies at Broadlands. This is a very recent development only launched last Friday. The ceremonies (not receptions) can be held in the Orangery, the portico of the Orangery, the garden or on the Inigo Bridge over the River Test. So far there are two serious expressions of interest.

Richard also mentioned:

- The installation of Wi-Fi fibre throughout the park for events.
- Relay Marathon which had been a wonderful event.
- Broadlands were entered a team of 8 in Walk The Test Way last year and would also enter a team this year.
- Hampshire Life magazine had recently featured Broadlands and Richard has become a regular contributor with a dedicated section.

Charlie Daniel-Hobbs gave a vote of thanks to Richard and also thanked him for use of Broadlands by the Relay Marathon.

Any Other Business:

Tony Trowsdale announced that Graham Hollier had had his operation and was recovering in the care of his daughter. He would not therefore be able to attend Rotary for a period.

Next Meeting:

Nigel Budd reminded members that the Presidential Handover would take place next week at the Potters Heron. There would be no speeches.

The Final Toast was at 21.50.