

Rotary Club of Romsey Test

Zoom Meeting 12 January 2022

We had an outstanding talk yesterday evening delivered by Ade Summers, a neighbour of Tony Abbott's.

Ade leads outward bound expeditions to mountain regions of the Himalayas and other remote areas. His talk was about the route along the Zaskar River, which is a major tributary of the Indus River, in northern India.

The route along the frozen river valley was an old trading route from the isolated mountain villages, to transport butter made with yak milk to the capital of the region. The winter trek is on ice formed alongside the fast flowing river.

'Chadar' is the ice that supports a walkers weight. A good Chadar is well frozen ice to ensure the route is passable. The trade route is only open for six weeks of the year, when the ice is sufficiently frozen.

Temperatures in the river valley are normally minus 10 C, to minus 15C. The lowest Ade has recorded is minus 38 C! The water temperature for the river flowing between the ice banks and mountains is 1 or 2 degrees, if walkers fall in.

It is a Buddhist area. As well as stunning photographs, Ade showed a video of the Buddhist festival within the isolated town the trading route serves.

The landscape with ices, snow and water in the river bed and mountains and sky above is exceptional. They photograph snow leopard prints, though the animals remain camouflaged.

Ade praised the porters that accompany his expeditions and make them possible. They earned \$15 a day the last time he ran this expedition.

When he provides talks, Ade raises funds for a school he supports in the Hindu Kush mountains. Part of the Ayub Hamdard Foundation. It is in a very poor area, educating both boys and girls.

Tony Abbott provided the vote of thanks. Tony thanked Ade for stepping in at short notice and his fascinating talk. Despite the distance Tony noted the similarities with the Buddhist festivals of his daughter-in-law in Thailand. Tony will buy a bottle of wine for Ade and liaise with Nick to make the speaker donation of £60.

Stewart Mitchell advised progress for Purple for Polio with Hilliers next month, including a Card Reader machine for donations.

Steve George has arranged for the Romsey Youth Speaks teams to take part in Salisbury Rotary's event at Bishop's Wordsworth School 17 February, and therefore has cancelled the Romsey date. Steve will invite volunteers to attend and support the Romsey teams. Lots of other Youth activities progressing. Steve provided an overview and will update all next month.

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Our next meeting is Lauren Denham from Baby Necessities next Wednesday 19 January by ZOOM.