

NOTES OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST MEETING

HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2023

1. After the Loyal Toast there was a short break, followed by the President introducing Adam Dodd (the CEO of the Minstead Trust and the guest speaker); Ian Clark (a Trustee of the Minstead Trust); Michael Wilson (a friend of Ian Bullivant) and Ian Fisher (a potential member).

Presentation by the CEO of the Minstead Trust

2. Adam Dodd then gave an excellent, very professional talk on the Minstead Trust which he described as Learning Disability Charity which has a vision of a society where people with learning disabilities enjoy fulfilling lives of their own choosing and with the Trust achieving this by providing opportunities to enhance life skills; ensure informed choice and to influence society.
3. He explained the background of the Trust; the involvement of Furzey Gardens, Minstead Lodge, Hangar Farm and other places within the Trust. He outlined the strategy the Trust was using to integrate people with disabilities within the local community and noted that in the last 2 years, 11 people had gained work with external employers, 10 were employed within the Trust, 38 had been supported by the Trust and 25 young people were gaining work experience.
4. Using Josh, a 22 year old who wanted to work to support his mother, as an example of a person who taken the opportunities presented to him by the Trust, Adam described how he had moved from a Saturday job through an apprenticeship scheme to being a chef employed within the trust to now being taken on as a chef in a chain of hotels.
5. He noted that 6 years ago the Trust's budget was £2.5 million and it has now expanded to £7.5 million and also commented that a tailored training programme and on the job support for an apprentice to be able to perform in that role would cost circa £3000.
6. Adam answered a range of questions from Club members, all of which were preceded by their individual thanks for his very informative and enjoyable presentation.

7. The President also gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Club.

Club Business

8. Brian Davies noted there are now 340+ walkers registered for WTTW which is more than the total last year with 6 weeks still to go. Marshals are still required and he urged Club Members to volunteer if they possibly could. Volunteers are also needed to put the signage for the Walk in place; please help if you can.
9. Ian Bullivant advised that Philip Kirkland, living in Winchester Care Home, had fallen and broken his hip, half of which had been replaced in Basingstoke Hospital.

Any Other Business

10. SVP reported that the Mayor (John Ray) had a heart attack last week-end and subsequently had a stent fitted in hospital.

The President proposed the Final Toast and eventually decided that the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 23rd August.

Gren Lamb-Hughes