



E- Newsletter Number 6 July 2014

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*The aim of these quarterly Newsletters is to keep people and organisations informed about our club. It tells them what we have done recently, alerts them to what we are planning and, where appropriate, highlights opportunities to become involved in our activities. We would welcome **feedback** from readers. John Gould - Editor*

From our new President

Firstly may I welcome you to the first Newsletter in this the 25th year of the Rotary Club of Romsey Test and, secondly, as someone who considers continuity a very important factor in a successful project, say how grateful I am that John Gould has agreed to continue in his role as Editor of this Newsletter.

In the last Newsletter, my predecessor mentioned that the Club had been awarded a Global Grant from Rotary International of \$30,000. The money has arrived and the project is underway as you will see from the article in this issue.

As the incoming President at the end of June, my year began, almost instantaneously, with the Mayor's Picnic and the Duck Race which, due to the first class organisation and preparation of a small team led by Peter Stuckey, went extremely well and was a huge success with more than a thousand people enjoying the activities in the Memorial Park.

However, there is no time to rest on one's laurels as the Club's major fundraising event for the year "**Walk The Test Way**" looms on the horizon. The Walk and its walkers have raised £400,000 for hundreds of good causes, so please take the opportunity to register and walk for your favourite charity.

My intention this year is not to introduce any new projects but to build on the excellent work started by last year's President with "Friends and Business Partners"; to strengthen the ideal of "Rotary in Romsey" and to champion the many projects, events and activities that the Club undertakes for the benefit of the local community and people overseas.

I am concentrating on building on our first rate start to "Friends and Business Partners" because I believe that there is a real opportunity here for the Club and local business organisations to work together very productively for the benefit of the local community and also for the international projects in which we are involved. If you or your company are interested, or you know of any other businesses who might be interested in supporting the work we do then please contact **John Gould**, the Club's Business Partner Project Leader.

Finally, two items of a personal nature, firstly, the Club has welcomed Frank Smiley as a new member but very unfortunately Michael Baker has resigned due to ill health, although he will be kept abreast of what we are doing as one of the Club's "Friends".

Secondly, a few words of background information about me. The nautical/marine theme for Club Presidents is continuing for a third year although I expect both John Gould and Keith Cameron, in their respective roles, spent far longer at sea than I did as aeronautical engineer in the Royal Navy. I served in HMS ARK ROYAL (the one that featured in the "Sailor" programme in 1976) and HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (some time after the Falklands) together with a number of appointments in the MOD relating to the introduction of the Sea Harrier and the Merlin helicopter to the Royal Navy. On leaving the RN, I worked for Lockheed Martin, an American Defence Company for 5 years and then became CEO, St John Ambulance Hampshire until I finally retired in 2009.

Gren Lamb-Hughes President



Fun and games

Mayors Picnic July 6th

More than a thousand people packed into the Memorial Park for the 16th annual Mayor's picnic. As usual it was a perfect summers' afternoon (in all those years it has only been rained-off once) and was full of fun and talented entertainment.

After a procession from Church Place led by the **Michelmersh Training Band**, the Mayoral party was welcomed by Gren Lamb Hughes. Town Mayor, Cllr. Peter Hurst, described the picnic as a brilliant community event neatly timed as part of the Romsey Festival. Rtn Graham Hollier as compere provided his usual witty commentary throughout the afternoon.

The park was filled with music from the Michelmersh Training Band, the Mountbatten Big (Jazz) Band, **Southampton Ukelele Jam** and the **Mountbatten Community Choir**. The newly formed **Test Valley School of Dance** performed to a packed arena surrounded by an admiring and appreciative audience.

Over 40 charity stalls around the Park included the **Rose Road Children's Appeal**, **Jane Scarth House**, **Honey Pot**, **Romsey Emerald Social Club** and **Georges Trust**. On the bandstand Jude Gregory, a Trustee of the charity **Citizens4Change** that runs the Asante coffee shops in Romsey and Chandlers Ford,

bravely had her head shaved and raised over £1000 for C4C. Beside the bandstand the Mayor crowned the Romsey Carnival Queen Georgia Fernley and her attendants.

There was plenty of non-musical entertainment; the ever-popular "Soaka-Bloka, Drencher-Wencher, Dunka-Hunka" drew an admiring crowd keen to see volunteers shot down a slide into a pool of water when triggered by an accurately thrown tennis ball. While the Mayor declined such an ignominious dunking, he made donation of £50 to both the **Muscular Dystrophy Campaign** and **Citizens4Change** for two brave souls to take part in his stead.

The annual Duck Race drew its usual large crowd along the river bank to cheer the 50 named yellow plastic ducks as they raced to the finishing line to be caught by the **Romsey Sub-Aqua Club**. After paying the winners their £50,



£25 and £10 prizes the race raised over £1,100 for charity.

The **Romsey District Scouts** set up an elaborate assault course for those who enjoyed

the physical challenge of walking across a rope bridge, crawling under camouflage or climbing a netted timber structure. Other attractions included Trigger the Train skill games and, of course, food stalls and the beer tent.

The Club organizes the event as a 'thank you' to the town for its generous support of Rotary activities throughout the year. Proceeds from the Picnic, other than those raised by stallholders, all go to the Mayor's charities and Rotary charities.

Out and about

Club members and partners have been on two evening outings. The first was a guided tour of Winchester Cathedral. Unfortunately the crypt was flooded!

The second was a rainy trip to Mottisfont Abbey that included a picnic in the grounds and a talk by the head gardener. **Mottisfont** is the home of the national collection of old roses.



Skittled- again!

Ably captained by John Jones the Club has, for the second successive year, won the Rotary Wessex district skittles competition. The final was held at the Silver Plough at Pitton where we defeated the team from Ferndown.



On 11th June a group from the Club went to **Paultons Park** to support Kids Out Day. **Kids Out** is a charity widely supported by Rotary in the UK and clubs make a financial donation towards giving special needs children a day out. As Rotarians do much of the work on the day, help from Club members was also much appreciated. Historically our Club has supported **Great Oaks School** in Southampton, but this year we gave it a more local flavour by also inviting the **Romsey Opportunity Group** to participate.

The weather was excellent and it was gratifying to see the children enjoying their day out. It proved a great success with the Opportunity Group and their young children really enjoyed Peppa Pig World. We are grateful to **Wheelers**, one of our Business Partners who provided the transport.

International

Major grant for Timor Leste

Our Club has a long-standing partnership with local charity, **Dentaid**. **Dentaid** is dedicated to improving the world's oral health and enabling disadvantaged communities to access affordable and safe oral health care services.

Timor Leste is a country trying to re-establish itself after years of brutality and violence in its struggle for independence from Indonesia. It is one of the world's least developed countries with 40% of the population living on less than US\$0.55 per day. The Ministry of Health in Timor have a strategic plan to combat the poor oral health in the country. This has involved training up the first ever class of dental therapists who will graduate in 2014 and return to their communities to serve dental needs.

The lack of teaching and resources has meant that the dental therapists' training has been limited and when they are ready to practice they will have very little dental equipment with which to do so.



The Rotary–Dentaid partnership led to the development of a complete portable dental surgery – The DentaidBox, with everything a dental professional needs to provide pain-relieving dental care in any location.



In partnership with the **Rotary Club of Jersey**, our Club has been awarded a Rotary global grant of \$30,000 to provide DentaidBoxes and send a vocational training team (VTT) to Timor. The team

is already in place and you can follow their activities via **facebook on the Dentaid web site**. The dental equipment together with training will ensure that the dental therapists are fully equipped to properly serve the dental needs of their communities in Timor Leste.

Money for charities

Thanks to various fundraising activities and primarily from the WTTW support for Rotary we have been pleased to be able to make one-off donations totalling £8,000 to local charities. Those who benefitted were

- **Dentaid**
- **Dr Peter Scout Centre**
- **Andover Food Bank**
- **Help for Heroes**
- **Romsey Young Carers**
- **Computers for Africa**
- **Romsey Warhorse**
- **Romsey Emerald Club**
- **The Salvation Army**
- **Romsey Family Support Gp**
- **Jane Scarth House**
- **Wessex Heartbeat**
- **Open Gate Stroke Club**
- **Youth in Romsey**

Youth

Preparing for the world of work

Club members have recently been involved in two activities to help local students for the world they will face when moving towards working lives.



Each year we help at **Romsey School** with their Enterprise week. Our members volunteer to act as mentors to teams from the school who are tasked with developing a project including a full business plan and budget.

Mountbatten School holds "enrichment days" for their Year 10 students. This year the event was at Richard Taunton's college in Southampton where the students were given lectures on how to prepare for interviews - preparing an application form and personal statement and learning how to dress and how to behave so as to impress the interviewer. Our role was to join volunteers from local businesses and to give each student a 10 minute interview and to provide them with feedback. We were impressed by the student's ability to cope with what must have been a challenging day.



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...and for next term

Once again we will be giving dictionaries to the year 4 children in Romsey area primary schools as part of the **Rotary Dictionary4Life** project. Next years' books (a quarter of a ton of them) have been delivered from the printers and now being stored safely ready for the children's names to be written in. Looking further to the future, **Waitrose in Romsey** will be supporting D4L through their Community Matters green token scheme.

Romsey Wish Week

During Wish Week in April, we invited members of the public to submit a Wish for themselves or for somebody else. We received a total of sixteen Wishes, Some of these asked for the same thing and a committee in the Club decided what we should support. Of the requests for money, we made donations to **Jane Scarth House**, the **North Baddesley Community Library** and Gainsborough Court Residents Club. We also made grants for a young carer to go on holiday, and for the family of a cancer sufferer to have a holiday.

This is the second time we have run Wish Week. We hope to make it an annual event that will enable us to reach and help people who have a need that might otherwise not be appreciated.

Rotary District Conference

Each year in October Rotary Wessex holds a Conference that is a chance for all Clubs to get together. This year it is to be held in Bournemouth and the theme is how Rotary works with other sectors of society - Business, Media, Youth Organisations. Among the speakers will be Simon Weston, OBE and BBC South presenter, Sally Taylor. This year the conference is open to the general public. More information can found [at this link](#).

Visibility

We are making changes to the Club web site. A new homepage introduction by incoming President Gren and a new list of "What we did in 2013/14" are already in place. Soon there will be a page listing the Business Partners who support our activities and also a video compiled by last year's President, Keith Cameron that gives a really good insight into our activities. We also have a new Club backdrop designed with help from our Business Partner **Pebble Graphics**. It was used first at the Romsey Festival of Volunteering.



About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 56 members. 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**.

Rotary's objectives and principles are :-

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions;
- Service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

Our club is overseen by its Council made up of the Chairs of the Club's committees, Secretary and Treasurers.

The Club's committees are

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

Who's Who (July 2014 to June 2015)

President	Gren Lamb-Hughes
Senior Vice President	Neil Duncan
Junior Vice President	Tony Trowsdale
Community Service	Peter Welsh
Membership	Colin Staples
Youth Opportunities	Jon Livingstone
Fundraising	Greg Hall
International	Philip Kirkland
Rotary Foundation	Tony Trowsdale
Sports and Social	Tony Abbott
Publicity	Neill Beasley
Business Partners	John Gould
Hon Secretary	Iain Small
Trust Fund Treasurer	John Jones
Club Treasurer	Paul Grainger

Walk the Test Way 2014



Publicity for this year's walk was launched on June 1st and registrations are rolling in. Numbers are slightly above last year's and a tremendous effort is being made by the Walk team to increase registrations. The "Early-bird" offer of reduced registration fees expires on 31st July so make sure you get all your contacts signed up before cut off date. The fees cover administration costs so all money raised goes to charity.

In past years we have allocated 25% of monies raised to Rotary Charities. This year we want to encourage walkers to collect their sponsorship online using Just Giving. This make it easier for colleagues and friends of walkers to support their chosen charity. So, those who use Just Giving will retain

80% for their chosen charity.

Please do everything you can to entice your families and friends to join us for the **Walk** on Sunday 12th October and see if we can beat the £60,000 raised in 2013.

Diary

Meetings are normally in Romsey Town Hall 19.00 for 1930 First Wednesday each month is a Business Meeting. Other events are highlighted in Yellow . Major events in bold			
Date	Speaker topic or event	Speaker/organiser	Venue
Wed 9 July	Flooding in Romsey	Ian Tripp/Wesley Jones Environment Agency	
Wed 16 Jul	Protecting our local wildlife	Sarah Buck	
Wed 23 Jul	Medical student elective in India	Laura Chase	
Wed 30 Jul	Visit to HMS Medusa	David Sutton	Gosport
Wed 13 Aug	Oddballs, traitors and worse - some of my 'interesting' colleagues	A member	
Wed 20 Aug	Title TBA	Neil Duncan	
Wed 27 Aug	Boules Evening		
Wed 10 Sept	TBC		
Sat 13 Sept	Romsey Show		Broadlands
Wed 17 Sept	TBC (International)		
Wed 24 Sept	TBC (Community Service)		
Sun 12 Oct	Walk the Test Way		
Wed 15 Oct	Introduction to "Youth in Romsey"	Wendy Herbert	
Wed 22 Oct	Trafalgar Night	James Luard	
2015			
February Date TBC	Young Musician's Festival	Jon Livingstone	
Wed 4 Mar	Young Technologist	Martin Harman	Crosfield Hall
Sat 14 Mar	Reminiscences of Romsey	Norman Oldmeadow	Crosfield Hall
Sat 4 April	25th Anniversary of Club's formation		
Sun 21 Jun	RIBI Round Britain Cycle Relay For Prostate Cancer		
Sat 5 July	Mayors' Picnic		Memorial Park