



## E- Newsletter Number 9 April 2015

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**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

[www.rotaryclubofromseytest.org](http://www.rotaryclubofromseytest.org)

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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

### 25 years - and still going strong

What were you doing in 1990? It was a momentous year. East and West Germany were united, Nelson Mandela was released from prison, Tim Berners-Lee took the first steps towards creating the Internet and the two sides of the Channel Tunnel were joined. Petrol was 40p per litre, Matt Le Tissier was voted PFA Young(!) Player of the Year.

...and in Romsey on April 4th 1990 a new Rotary Club was formed - the Rotary Club of Romsey Test - an offshoot of the Rotary Club of Romsey. 25 years on and both Clubs continue to serve the people of Romsey. We celebrated with a birthday dinner in the Town Hall, joined by all three of our honorary members and by 18 former members and guests. The evening's entertainment was one of reminiscences by four members, both past and present, and was also marked by a booklet of photographs showing what we have done and the enjoyment we have had.

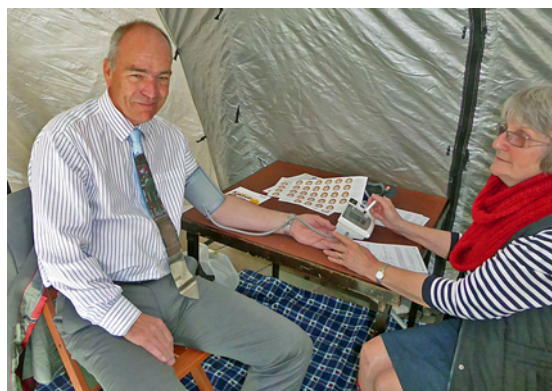


We started our second quarter-century with an eye to the future.

We launched our **Club's Facebook page** and intend that the regular posts, of which there have been seven already, will keep a wide audience informed about what we are doing. On May 2nd our major annual fundraising event, **Walk the Test Way**, will launch its own dedicated **Facebook page** to keep in touch with the hundreds of walkers who will walk for their chosen charity. There will be many posts before walk day on Sunday October 11th



*The hospital canopy, a lasting contribution to Romsey Life*



*Romsey, Mayor, Cllr. Peter Hurst having a check-up.*

Recently, for the third year in succession, we have been persuading Romsonians to have their blood pressure measured. The event, in conjunction with the **Stroke Association**, was held in the Market Place on 22nd April and tried to identify people who had high readings and so may be at risk of a stroke. Of the 110 measured by NHS volunteers we discovered 16 who were recommended to consult their GP as a matter of urgency. Simultaneously we also launched Romsey "Tell us Your Wish" where we ask for ideas of ways in which we might help local individuals or organisations. Please give us your ideas via **our website** our anytime from now until the Mayors' Picnic on July 5th.

Having initially looked back 25 years we must now move forward as the next Rotary year will start in July with the new President, Neil Duncan, at the helm.

Thank you for all the support you have given the Club during my year in office and please support Neil in the same way so that the Rotary Club of Romsey Test can continue to put "Service above Self".

**Gren Lamb-Hughes**

President 2014-15

# Focus on our talented youth

Over the past three months we have been pleased to be able to give opportunities to some of our area's talented young people to show their skills in Rotary-sponsored competitions.



The first, on February 11th was the Youth Speaks local eliminator featuring intermediate and senior teams from **Mountbatten**, **Romsey** and a senior team from **Hampshire Collegiate** school.

*The audience and judges and the winning teams*



Each team consisted of a chairman, a proposer and a person to give the vote of thanks. The diverse topics included; *"Is it ever right to tell a lie?"*, *"The role of the monarchy in today's society"* and *"There would be no wars if we listened to our mothers"*. Each team also had to respond to a question from the audience. In the closely fought contest in the Town Hall council chamber Romsey School were judged the winners in both age groups and went on to compete against other schools in the Test Valley area.

There were 16 competitors in our third Annual Young Musicians' Festival on February 15th ranging in age from 8 to 15. Once again we were pleased that Lady Brabourne, High Steward of Romsey, attended the event and awarded the prizes.



There was a very high standard and a wide range of music from the classics to music from shows.

The winners in the vocal and instrumental categories qualified for the Wessex region final of Rotary Young Musician.



*Vocal and overall winner, Freya Burnside; Contestants with Lady Brabourne; Instrumental winner, Catherine Pirnak.*



## Mike Gratton 1938 - 2015

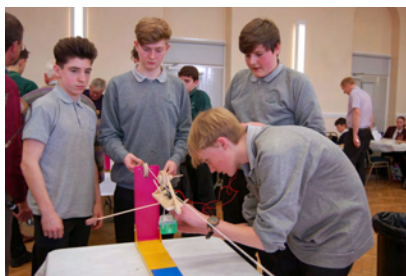
We are sad to report the death of our friend Mike. Mike joined the Club in 1996 and was its President in 2002/3. In recent years he ran the Youth Speaks competitions with good humour and with great encouragement to the competitors.

Mike also worked hard raising funds for **Jane Scarth House**, the cancer support centre in Romsey. Last year he was instrumental in setting up a new charity to support the centre.

As chairman of the new organisation he demonstrated his usual calm, good sense, competence and determination to bring a very difficult project to a successful conclusion. He is greatly missed

## "Miniature Rotary Shelterbox safely crossed an imaginary river to reach survivors on the other side"

At the Young Technologists' competition on March 4th, 68 Key Stage 3 or 4 pupils, in teams of four, from 6 local schools pitted their engineering wits against the clock.



Using pulleys, wood, screws, glue, paper, rubber bands, string and an electric motor, the teams had to design and build a vehicle that would transport the miniature **Shelterbox** across the river on a single rope bridge.

That was the easy part; the teams then had to demonstrate to the judges that it worked. There were varying degrees of success but the overall winners were **Test Valley School**. All the contestants saw the day as a great success especially when they watched an adult team not doing so well!



## Entertaining senior Romsonians

Each year we give an opportunity for up to 200 of Romsey's oldest citizens and those who "don't get out much", to come to the Crosfield Hall for a Saturday afternoon of companionship, tea and cakes and entertainment. The invitations go to individuals and representatives of local groups and also includes Romsey and Test Valley civic dignitaries.



This year the entertainment spanned the years from "The Fogies" to Suzanne Poole, who won Young Musician last year.

The event is run in partnership with a team of Inner Wheel members led by Jan Gratton that provided delicious sandwiches and cakes



## Thank you Business Partners

Over the past two years we have been developing links with local businesses who share our interest in, and commitment to, supporting the local community. As our Rotary year draws to a close we would like to acknowledge the support both financial (almost £2500) and in-kind that we have received. This generous support helps extend our capabilities.

### Wheeler's Travel

Financial support for Young Musician, Young Technologist and Reminiscences of Romsey.

### Fotogems

For photography of our events.

### Bath Travel

Financial support for [Dictionaries4Life](#).

### Waitrose

Financial support for [Dictionaries4Life](#).

### Copia Productions

Videos for [WalktheTestWay](#) and [Rotary Dentaaid Box](#).

### Chemring Group/ Roke Manor

Financial support for Young Technologist.

### Bettavend

Storage for [Dictionaries4Life](#).

### Broadlands Estates

Venue for cycling event.

## Come and ride your bike with us on June 21<sup>st</sup>



Our Club has always been involved in cycling events and this year we will be [joining Rotary clubs throughout Britain and Ireland](#) to raise money for prostate cancer charities. The two clubs in Romsey will be joining forces on Fathers' Day, Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>, to run an event for FAMILIES on 2km of closed roads on the Broadlands Estate.

Children must be under 16 and must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

There will be three sessions:-

09.30-10.30 for groups including children under 5,

11.30-12.30 for all ages

14.00-15.00 for groups including children over 12

Since space is limited places must be pre-booked and will cost £5 for adults. The event is free for children under 16. You will be able to book your places [online](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to a happy day on which, with your help, we can raise money for a deserving cause.



## Romsey Barge Canal - we're going batty



Some of the bat surveyors next to the wildlife information board.

Running north from the Plaza is the last identifiable stretch of a canal that once linked Andover to Southampton Water. The path alongside is a well-used footpath and the canal acts as a wildlife corridor into the heart of the town. Our Club with other partner organisations has been working to improve the Barge Canal as an amenity for the town.

Over the past winter Test Valley Borough Council have cleared intrusive undergrowth and with partial funding from our Club two information boards have been erected. One describes the canal's history and the other about its wildlife. A group of volunteers led by the Club have for 2 years been surveying the canal's bat population.

### About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 55 members. The Club was an offshoot of the **Romsey 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

### News in brief

- We entertained 12 guests and Business Partners to a talk, "The Army - What a Laugh", by David Harrison one of the Deputy Lords Lieutenant for Hampshire.
- At a joint meeting with **Inner Wheel** at which we learned about the history of Winchester Prison we received a cheque for £600 from IW that will support a Rotary Dentaid Box.
- Through the charity **Citizens for Change (C4C)** we have funded 20 lockable desks for their school in Kisumu, Kenya.
- The Club is now a member of **Test Valley Community Services**. This will help to increase our awareness of need in the community.
- Plans are in hand to support **Romsey School's** Young Enterprise scheme.
- The Club has launched a **scheme** through which people may support our activities by leaving us a legacy.
- We have helped the **Romsey Family Support Group** to have a day at the seaside.
- We will be helping **Mountbatten School's** students to hone their interview skills.

### Diary

Meetings are normally in **Romsey Town Hall 19.00 for 19.30**  
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 6 May	Business Meeting		
Wed 13 May	My part in the integration of air traffic control	Mike Kosciuszko	
Wed 20 May	Operation Drake, Panama and the Darien	Keith Cameron	
Wed 27 May	Supporting Families through adversity	Jan Jeffery	
Wed 3 Jun	Business Meeting		
Wed 10 Jun	Kids Out		Paultons Park
Wed 10 Jun	The Contessa Charity	Ken Armstrong (Rotary Club of Verwood)	
Mon 15 Jun	Young Enterprise		Romsey School
Wed 17 Jun	Project Raleigh and Nicaragua	Tess Shippen	
Sun 21 Jun	<b>RIBI Round Britain Cycle Relay for Prostate Cancer Charities</b>	Graham Lee (district event) Tony Trowsdale (local event)	Broadlands
Wed 24 Jun	Presidential Handover		
Wed 1 Jul	Business Meeting		
Sun 5 Jul	Mayors Picnic	Peter Stuckey	Memorial Park Romsey
Sun 11 Oct	Walk the Test Way	Fundraising Committee	

### 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