



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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*

Starting the new Rotary year

From our new President - Keith Cameron



John Gould has kindly agreed to continue to edit our Newsletter for us, even though he deserves a well-earned break after his very successful year as President. His year will be difficult to match in the energy and enthusiasm that he put into it. I hope I will be able to build on his and all previous Club Presidents and all Club members input into carrying the Club forward over this, our 24th year.

As you will see from the following items, the weeks since I took up the reins at the end of June have been very busy with the Rotary Wish and Duck Race marketing, leading into the Mayor's Picnic, led by Bill Gidley and his team which, was a fantastic success with even the weather supporting us.

Planning by Greg Hall and his team for the next big event, the **"Walk the Test Way"** charity fundraising walk on Sunday 6th October goes on throughout the year but is now reaching its climax. We already have over 100 walkers registered who have taken advantage of our early bird discounted registration fee. Over the past decade the walkers have raised around £350,000 for hundreds of charities and their efforts also provide our Club with the funding that it needs throughout the year. Please note the date, as we need your support and input to enable us to run this major event.

Together we can do so much more to support our community and as part of this we are formalising our Friends and Business Partners. If you or your company would like to join us please contact **John Gould**. By doing this you can help support the community in and around Romsey as well as international Rotary projects. Both you and your colleagues will find that you will enjoy and benefit from supporting and getting involved in the community. One of my first tasks as President was to welcome Stuart Wineberg as a new member of our Club, but we were saddened that Roger Basford resigned due to ill health. He will continue as one of Rotary's "Friends".

With the high number of key events being organised we need additional support in both sponsorship and physical input to help make the events run more smoothly, so that no undue demands are put on any single individual. If you can help in any our activities please give me a call (01794 322084) or **email me**.

And finally a bit of information about me. We seem to have a nautical theme running through our club at the moment. John Gould is an oceanographer and climate scientist and I also have a marine background. I joined BP as an Engineering Cadet Officer and after serving at sea for eight years I moved on to ship inspection and energy conservation projects. This was followed by being part of the management team that set up the International Oil Spill Response Centre in Southampton. After the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, I was based in the USA for three years developing and overseeing oil pollution response and crisis management procedures. On return to the UK, I co-ordinated global crisis management response for BP. This excluded North America but involved travelling extensively to operations in South America, Australasia, Africa, Europe, former Soviet Union, Middle East and Indochina. I am now retired and thinking that going back to work might be more of a rest!

Our work in the local community

Know your Blood Pressure, April 20th

In conjunction with the Stroke Association, the Romsey Opengate Stroke Club, and doctors from a Romsey practice we measured people's blood pressure in the Cornmarket and raised awareness of the factors that increase the risk of strokes.



The results surprised everyone. Of the 140 measurements taken, 30% had blood pressure that suggested they should consult their GP and of these about a third were thought to require urgent intervention. Plans are now in place to repeat the exercise next year.

Quick action can save lives. Remember F-A-S-T

- F**ace – Does one side of the face seem to droop?
- A**rm – Does the person find it difficult to raise both arms?
- S**peech – Is it difficult or slurred?
- T**ime – If these symptoms are present, dial 999.

The Rotary Mayor's Picnic, July 7th

The fact that Andy Murray was in the Wimbledon final did not deter Romsonians of all ages from attending our annual "village fete" in the Memorial park attended by Romsey Town Mayor, Ian Richards. There were of course all the usual crowd-pleasing attractions and the hot weather made the "Soaka Bloka - Drencha Wencha - Dunka Hunka" machine a very attractive prospect. Those dunked included the Mayor and his fiancée and the Vicar, Rev. Tim Sledge. The yellow ducks raced down the river Test and were rescued by the Romsey Subaqua Club volunteers. The boy whose duck won plans to use his £50 to buy a new football strip.



All the fun of the picnic

A new feature this year was a contest between the charity stall holders using the Scouts' Dinosaur race. The prize of £100 was won by Labrador Rescue. Though the accounting is still to be completed and that the event is not planned as a fundraiser it appears that there will be a surplus of around £1000 to be directed to the Mayor's and other local charities

Romsey Make a Wish

Past President John Gould raised the idea that the Club might invite the residents of Romsey to let us know of any wishes that they would like to be fulfilled for themselves, their friends and neighbours or for an organisation in town.

The challenge was taken up by the members of our community service committee whose Chairman, Stewart Mitchell, set about building a Wishing Well. This was on display in the Cornmarket on the two Saturdays before the Mayor's Picnic and the wishes were collected at the Mayor's picnic and at locations around the town. The 17 wishes that were submitted are now being assessed and the Club will now work to try to make some of them come true over the coming weeks.



The wishing well and some rather dodgy-looking ducks in the Cornmarket

Recognition for Romsey Young Carers



Our Club has for many years been one of the many supporters of the work of [Romsey Young Carers](#), a group led by Tim Ballantine and Mary Ward. In recognition of the excellent work that they and their many supporters do, we nominated the Young Carers for the [Queens Award for Voluntary Service](#). We were delighted to hear that they were one of 117 groups from throughout the UK to receive an award - regarded as the equivalent of an MBE. We offer them our congratulations and continued support.

Working with young people



Each year, Rotary, throughout the British Isles makes a special effort to take children with learning disabilities

for a day of fun. The event is known as Kids Out, and our Club takes children from Great Oaks School in Southampton and treats them to a day at Paulton's Park. On June 12th they joined a total of 1300 special needs children from around the Rotary Wessex area together with an almost equal number of helpers.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



During May the Youth Opportunities committee interviewed pupils from Romsey school to select two who will join the RYLA weekend 19-21 July. One boy and one girl were the two successful candidates and both have agreed to talk to the Club about their experience. As a consolation prize the boys who were runners up will have a day's activity at the Cobnor Activities Centre near Chichester.

Enrichment Day

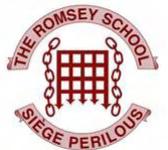


Mountbatten School held their first Enrichment Day on June 14th during which Year 9 students are given a glimpse of possible career options that they might pursue. The Club were invited to take part and four members each gave 10 minute talks about careers at sea, in medicine, on being a solicitor and careers in optometry.

The day was thought a great success by teachers and students alike and there are plans to repeat it next year.

Young Enterprise

The following week Romsey School students took part in Young Enterprise week. This involves the whole of the pre-GCSE year working in groups to develop business proposals to present to three local business people, rather like the TV programme 'Dragons Den'. The winning teams then develop the idea further and market their idea in Romsey Town Centre to see how much money the idea generates.



Rotary Dentaid Boxes

Landford-based charity Dentaid in partnership with our Club has developed what is effectively a simple dental surgery (chair, solar powered suction unit and light plus tools and materials to carry out extractions and fillings) all housed in a wheelie bin. Each Rotary Dentaid Box costs £1500. On June 19th Dentaid was visited by members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Central who expressed considerable

International



interest in the project. A cheque for £500 was donated to Dentaid by the Rotary Club of Winchester who were hosting the Calcutta group. Seven Dentaid boxes are awaiting shipment to Africa in August and we are also waiting to hear the outcome of a bid for funding from Rotary International that will send a dental team and 12 boxes to give dental care in Timor Leste.

Rotarians from Calcutta with Jacqueline James (Dentaid) and last year's Romsey Test President, John Gould.

Rotary and the global fight against polio

Rotary has been a leading force in the [fight to eradicate polio](#). When the campaign started in 1988 it was endemic in 125 countries with 350,000 cases reported annually. It is now endemic in only three countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria and there has been a recent new outbreak in Somalia. In 2012 there were only 91 cases.

Initially Rotary was in partnership with the World Health Organisation and since 2007 there has been additional support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that gave Rotary a \$100 million grant for polio eradication, increasing it to \$355 million in 2009. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million by June 2012 and when that goal was reached six months ahead of schedule, the Gates Foundation granted Rotary an additional \$50 million.

Last month Rotary and the Gates Foundation announced that their partnership will be extended for the critical last phase of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The Gates Foundation will match 2 for 1 every dollar Rotary worldwide commits up to US\$35 million to polio eradication through 2018.

This autumn our Club will once again plant daffodils and purple crocuses around Romsey as a reminder of this campaign to which our club contributes. (The purple colour reminds us of the dye that has marked the fingers of the millions of children who have been immunised in the campaign.)



About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 55 members. The Club was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Romsey (the lunchtime club) that meets on Tuesday lunchtimes at the White Horse hotel. We are part of Rotary International (www.rotary.org) and Rotary International of Britain and Ireland (www.ribi.org).

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 Chairmen of the Club's committees, Secretary and Treasurers.

The Clubs committees are

- Club Service - responsible for the running of the club.
- Community Service – dealing with service to the local community
- Fund-raising – primarily focussed on our major fund-raising 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

Friends and Business Partners

We continue to develop our Friends and Business Partners scheme. The Club has joined the Romsey and District Chamber of Commerce and we are in discussion with a number of local businesses to join our scheme. This quarterly Newsletter is one of our means of keeping to touch with individuals and organisations with whom we collaborate.

We will be issuing invitations to our Friends and Business Partners to attend a special meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 27th.

Meetings and events

Meetings in Romsey Town Hall 19.00 for 1930			
Other events are highlighted in Yellow . Major events in bold			
Date	Speaker topic or event	Speaker/ organiser	Venue
Wed 03 Jul	Council and Business Mtg		
Sat 06 Jul	District Council and Handover		Mountbatten School
Sun 07 Jul	Mayor's Picnic	Bill Gidley	Memorial Park
Wed 10 Jul	"A Journey " (Club Member – Job Talk)	Neil Duncan	
Wed 17 Jul	Quiz Night	Paul Grainger	
Wed 24 Jul	"All that jazz"	Julie Horton	
Wed 31 Jul	"Cobnor Activities Centre"	Gary Palmer	
Wed 07 Aug	Council and Business Mtg		
Sun 11 Aug	President's Lunch	Partners event	
Wed 14 Aug	"My Life with the Stars"	Martin Radford	
Wed 21 Aug	DG John Eade Visiting		
Wed 28 Aug	Trip to Isle of Wight		
Wed 04 Sep	Council and Business Mtg		
Sat 08 Sep	Romsey Show, Stewarding	Tony Abbott	Broadlands estate
Wed 11 Sep	TBA		
Wed 18 Sep	"Explor Scouting in Romsey"	Robin Taylor-Milton	
Wed 25 Sep	Jazz Evening with partners		Kimbridge restaurant.
Wed 25 Sep	Council and Business Mtg		
Dates of other major events			
Sun 06 Oct	Walk the Test Way	Greg Hall	
11 -13 Oct	District Conference	Keith Cameron	Plymouth
Wed 27 Nov	Friends and BP evening	John Gould	
Sat 8 Feb	Young Musician	Jon Livingstone	Mountbatten School
Wed 12 Mar	Young Technologist	Dave Healey	Crosfield Hall
Sat 15 March	Reminiscences of Romsey		Crosfield Hall
Sat 19 April	Know your blood pressure day		Cornmarket

Sports and Social

Throughout the year we take part in knockout competitions against other Clubs. Though we did well in darts and snooker and are still "alive" in golf, the crowning glory of our Rotary year was our victory over Fordingbridge in the Rotary Wessex skittles final on June 20th. The evening was not without incident since we discovered that the neutral venue in Hythe only had a set of children's skittles - about the size of a ketchup bottles. After some frantic telephoning we all dashed to the Ship Inn at Redbridge who provided not only an excellent, full-size, skittle alley but food for the 16 players and a good result.



Who's Who (July 2013 to June 2014)

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