



# E- Newsletter Number 5 April 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

## Spanning the ages

### Editorial

This has been an extremely busy spring and this Newsletter should give a good picture both of the broad scope of our Club's activities and of the wide age range of people in our local community with whom we interact.

**Youth activities** have been to the fore with our second annual Young Musicians' competition, Youth Speaks and the new Young Technology Tournament. What is even more rewarding is that our Business Partners have stepped forward to support these events. On April 9th the club will thank these sponsors; **Wheeler's** for funding Young Musicians' and **Fotogems** for excellent photographs of the event and **Chemring Technology Solutions** for funding the Technology Tournament. This sponsorship, as well as giving visibility to local companies, allows more of the Club's hard-earned funds to be devoted to charitable work. Many local companies provide support both for our activities and for those of our parent club, the **Rotary Club of Romsey** who we wish well for their **Romsey Charity Marathon** on Sunday April 27th. Through our two Clubs "Rotary in Romsey" is alive and well.

The Rotary Dentaaid project goes from strength to strength with funding arriving from Rotary Clubs throughout the UK. There is now a backpack version of our portable dental chair for rugged terrain areas where the original wheelie bin would be cumbersome.

**STOP PRESS** . After a long process we have secured a Rotary Global Grant of £30,000 that will send a team of dentists and 12 **Dentaaid** boxes to Timor Leste. We will give a fuller report in future newsletters .



By the time of the next Newsletter we will have started a new Rotary year and the editorial will be co-authored by the new President, Gren Lamb-Hughes. I wish him well for his year, a year in which the Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Keith Cameron, President  
John Gould, Editor

# Youth competitions 2014

## Rotary Young Musicians' event

On Saturday 8 February in the Lantern Theatre, Mountbatten School, the Rotary Club of Romsey Test held its second annual Young Musicians' Festival featuring talented musicians from schools in the Romsey area.



The Overall Festival Winner was Suzanne Poole aged 13 (left photo below) from Romsey School with a beautiful vocal performance of 'One More Day' by Chris Williams. Isabelle Fuller (right photo) aged 16 from King Edward VI School in Southampton won the instrumental category with her performance on the piano of 'Presto Agitato', a very demanding piece by Mendelssohn. Both Suzanne and Isabelle live in Romsey.



Prizes and certificates were presented by Lady Brabourne who congratulated the entrants on the excellence of the music performed throughout the evening. Lady Brabourne, an Honorary member of the Club,

shared her wide-ranging interest in music. She quoted Thomas Carlyle's view that "*Music is well said to be the speech of angels*" and that it has the capacity to inspire young people. She was delighted to thank the performers and wish them well with their continued enjoyment of music.



Other prize winners included Phoebe Venturi (Romsey Abbey Primary School) second place vocal and Abby Rudd (Mountbatten School) second placed Instrumentalist.

There were two Junior Awards (entrants up to school year eight) one of whom was 7 year-old Anna Loadman (left) and four merit award prizes. The two Festival winners went on to compete in the Wessex district final but sadly came up against much older competitors.

## Rotary Young Technologist

This was run by our club on Wednesday 11th March with help from the Rotary clubs of **Southampton West** and **Salisbury**. Sixteen teams of four from Mountbatten and Romsey Schools, Test Valley, Andover Harrow Way and St Anne's School, Southampton worked against the clock to solve a previously unseen task designed to develop their team-building, oral and writing skills as well as their ingenuity and model-making abilities. The two age levels were Foundation (ages 11-14) and Intermediate (14-16).

The challenge was to design and build in 4 hours a device that could move a 'radioactive meteorite' (actually a tennis ball) from inside a perspex box to a target 1.2m away within 30 seconds using materials that included lengths of wood, dowels, straws, string, elastic bands, screws, wire, glue and card.



The judging panel (Mike Thorne (Romsey Test), Graeme Davis (formerly at Boscombe Down), Andy Smith ( MD of Romsey-based Specialised Engineering Products) and Dr Janice Turner (Chemring Technology Solutions)) assessed the teams from planning to the final testing of their devices. Marks were for demonstrated team work, design analysis and accuracy in the construction of the grabbing device. They were very impressed by the range of workable ideas and by the motivation, team-work and construction skills exhibited by the participants. Clear winners were the A Team from St Anne's School, Southampton, Test Valley School won second place and 3rd place went to another team from St Anne's School. Town Mayor Ian Richards presented awards to the winners.



The Rotary Young Technology Tournament is a **CREST** accredited scheme. This British Science Association Award recognizes students' creativity, decision-making, problem solving and communication skills used during the Tournament.

## Youth continued...

### Success in public speaking

Rotary Youth Speaks is a nationwide competition and on February 12th our Club organised the first stage, a local competition between senior and intermediate teams from Romsey and Mountbatten Schools. Each team comprised a chairperson, a speaker and a proposer for the vote of thanks.

In the intermediate group Lauren Taylor (Mountbatten) spoke on "Mistakes". She acknowledged the character-building attributes of learning from errors of judgement and accepting mistakes with good grace. Max James (Romsey) asked "What's in a name?" citing strange names given to children by aspirational parents. He asserted that a name defines each one of us even though some more inappropriate names might lead to a life of stares and sniggers.

At senior level "Racism in sport" was discussed eloquently by Ewan Campbell quoting Martin Luther King's '*I have a dream*' speech. While sport may be a great equaliser, differences exist that are unworthy of a team or their supporters. Finally Chloe Lewis (Romsey School) asked "Have teenagers ever had it so good?" comparing the ups and downs of teenage life today with earlier days when the young had to go out to work.



The organiser and Master of Ceremony, Rotarian Mike Gratton noted that all the teams performed confidently especially in fielding questions from the audience. The judges, chaired by Larry Bartel the head of St Edward's School in Sherfield English, congratulated the teams for their authoritative, well informed and impassioned debates delivered with good timing and humour. They decided that The Romsey School were winners of both age categories. Plaques were presented by the President of the Rotary Club of Romsey Test, Keith Cameron and the Town Mayor, Councillor Ian Richards.

### Update

Romsey School's intermediate team went on to win both the Group (Test Valley area) and District (Rotary Wessex) competitions but were sadly eliminated at the Southwest regional competition in Exeter- one step from the National final.

## The older generation

### Reminiscences of Romsey

Memories were revived for over 200 of Romsey's senior citizens who attended the 15th annual 'Reminiscences of Romsey' in the Crosfield Hall on Saturday March 15th.

Town crier, Terry Hamer, announced the party of dignitaries including the Mayor of Test Valley, Town Mayor of Romsey, Caroline Nokes MP, Romsey Town Clerk and Mace Bearer. Also present were the District Governor of Inner Wheel and the President of Romsey Inner Wheel. President Keith Cameron welcomed guests to an afternoon of entertainment and enjoyment. At the start the Master of Ceremonies, Graham Hollier, singled out from the audience Reg Trowesdale, an amateur diver, who had taken Prince Charles down to see the Mary Rose in 1982 and Mike and Sheila West who were about to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Charles Burnett then showed photographs on the theme of 'Old Romsey at Work' focussing on large businesses that used to be important in the local working economy. In the 1950s Wills Nursery in Botley Road covered the whole of Tadburn with heated greenhouses before houses were built there in the seventies. Other businesses included Strong's Brewery and The Hampshire Preserving Company, whose premises burnt down in 1960, reconstruction suppliers Reco and the Wilton Carpet Factory. Continuing on the theme of Romsey's past Stephen Wood gave an insight into the history of Romsey Abbey since Saxon times. After a game of 'Call my Bluff' performed by the Presidents of Inner Wheel and the Rotary Club, there was a break for tea, sandwiches and cakes, provided by members of Romsey Test Inner Wheel.



For the remainder of the afternoon '*Mike Smith and the Entertainers*' performed well-known song and dance routines reminiscent of an 'Old Time Music Hall', with a few saucy numbers thrown in. Two members of the troupe gave monologues in the styles of Pam Ayres and Joyce Grenfell.

President Keith Cameron ended the afternoon by thanking all those who had made the event a success and especially the organiser, Norman Oldmeadow, and Master of Ceremonies, Graham Hollier, and all the Rotary and Inner Wheel supporting team.

## Upcoming events

- **Know Your Blood Pressure on Saturday April 12th** in conjunction with the Stroke Association will be held in the Romsey Cornmarket.
- **The annual Rotary Mayor's Picnic and Duck Race on Sunday July 6th** will be the first event in the year of incoming president Gren Lamb-Hughes. The event is much like a village fete for Romsey but this year it will be a chance to forget the recent floods that blighted out town. (Picture of flooded Memorial Park is from the [Woodley.net](#) web site).

- **Romsey Wish Week April 12-19** is a chance for people in the Romsey area to let us know about local need.



*Memorial Park, wet (winter 2014) and dry (Mayors Picnic 2012).*



## 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 Dentaidd to produce the Rotary Dentaidd 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

## Walk the Test Way 2014

Preparations for the walk are progressing at a pace. [Something Interesting](#) are improving the [WTTW web site](#) and [Pebble Graphics](#) are updating leaflets and posters ready to launch on June 1st.

We have recruited new charities who will use the walk for fundraising. The real gem may be [Help4Heroes](#) but we also have [BASICS Hampshire](#), [ClicSargent](#), [Countess Mountbatten Hospice](#), [British Red Cross](#) and [St John Ambulance](#).

As we did last year we will be running an Earlybird offer for the first 2 months of Registration at £7.50 for adults and children go free. From August 1st adults will pay £11 and children aged 15 and under £5.

The big change for 2014 is that the proportion of money delivered to charities will be raised from 75 to 80%. This will apply only walkers who use "Just Giving". This is a considerable incentive and should increase total income and also significantly reduce the administrative workload. Walkers using the old sponsorship method will continue to get 75%.

We hope that all Rotarians, Friends and Business Partners will do their utmost both to increase footfall and in consequence income in 2014. Our Target is to beat the £60,000 raised by last year's Walk.

## Diary

Meetings in Romsey Town Hall 19.00 for 1930			
Other events are highlighted in <b>Yellow</b> . Major events in <b>bold</b>			
Date	Speaker topic or event	Speaker/organiser	Venue
Wed 09 Apr	<b>Business Partners Meeting</b>		St Edward's School, Melchet Court
Sat 12 Apr	<b>Know Your Blood Pressure Day</b>	<i>Debs Bower</i>	Cornmarket
Wed 16 Apr	Quiz night with Southampton Clausentum and Romsey	<i>Gren Lamb-Hughes</i>	
Wed 23 Apr	Eastleigh Homegroup	<i>Lynne Ford</i>	
Wed 30 Apr	Hilliers: celebrating 150 years	<i>Robert Hillier, OBE</i>	
Wed 7 May	Council and Business meeting		
Wed 14 May	America, Illinois, Renewable Energy	<i>Adam Leemans</i>	
Wed 21 May	To be or not to be	<i>A Rotarian</i>	
Thurs 22 May	<b>Country House Soirée</b>		Mottisfont
Wed 28 May	British Red Cross	<i>Jan Treacher Evans</i>	
Wed 04 Jun	Club Assembly		
Wed 11 Jun	Visit to Winchester Cathedral		Winchester
Wed 11 Jun	Rotary Kids Out		Paultons Park
Wed 18 Jun	Topic TBC		
Wed 25 Jun	Presidents Handover		Ampfield GC
Sun 6 Jul	<b>Rotary Mayor's Picnic</b>		Memorial Park
Sun 8 Oct	<b>Walk the Test Way</b>		

## Who's Who (July 2013 to June 2014)

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