



Elfstravaganza

Our colourful 'Elfstravaganza' on Christmas Eve in Clarence Street raised not only a massive £939 on one day alone but also helped to raise shoppers' spirits as they battled through the rain to find those last minute presents! Well done to Mike Kingham for organising and enthusing us!

The *Rotree* construction was made possible with the help of generous grants and sponsorship and around 30 charities took the opportunity to raise money for their individual causes, both at the *Rotree* and out and about with the Sleigh. Figures have yet to be confirmed but a first assessment suggests our receipts total a gross £19,800 excluding expenses (more details next month). Thank you to Allen Cobbold, Jeremy Webb and all our Community Partners who helped make our Winterfest such a great success.

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Inner Wheel News

News from Kingston Riverside

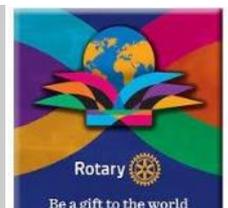
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Secretary: Mick Taviner

Editor: Anne McCormack

To contact Kingston Rotary Club please email taviner@kingstonrotaryclub.org.uk.

Kingston Rotary Club meets on Thursdays at 12.45 to 2pm at the Antoinette Hotel, 26 Beaufort Road, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2TQ. There are occasional evening meetings. Please check the diary at the end of this newsletter.



Rotree Roundup



The Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Roy and Mrs Manisha Arora have given us enormous support throughout the whole project and were out there collecting on Clarence Street with us, raising money for their chosen charity, Kingston Hospital's Dementia Appeal..

The *Rotree*' project is now in its second year and has been a great success. Located in Clarence Street where our Club has always run its Christmas charity collection, it is now part of a wider annual appeal for local charities.

This wider appeal includes local street visits by Santa's Sleigh, a two day collection on the M25 Cobham Service Station and this year a charity concert, 'A Carol of Carols', featuring a Military Wives Choir in the impressive All Saints Church.

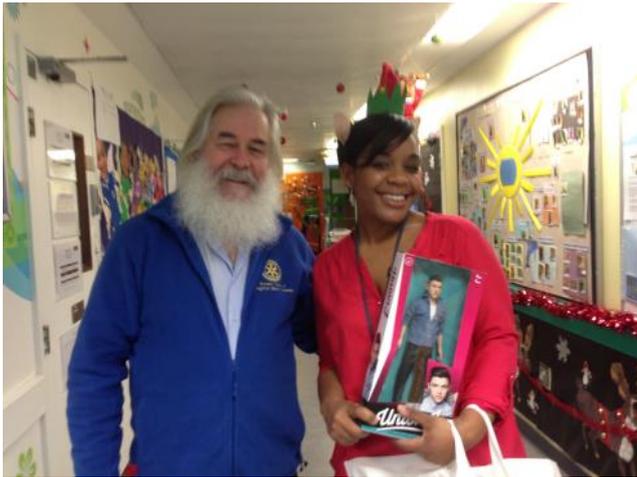
The *Rotree* itself is a landmark contemporary take on the traditional Christmas tree. This year, standing at 11.5 metres tall, it has promoted not only the Rotary brand locally and internationally but has also facilitated some 30 local charities to make appeals on their own behalf.

The 'Rotree' concept is designed each year by students of Kingston College and generously sponsored and built by the construction industry working in the Royal Borough. This year, the lead was taken by the 'Berkeley Group,' without whose help our voice and help in the community would be the smaller.

Allen Cobbold



Being Santa



The month of December saw many members and Friends of Kingston upon Thames Rotary Club helping out at the *Rotree* and other venues, for me mostly, as in previous years, as Santa. To become Santa is like putting on a mask and becoming an unknown person, a character of childhood belief. The faces of the young children (and their parents) were a picture of wonderment. To engage with the children and to enter into their world of fantasy was a fantastic experience.

My visit to Bedelsford School, which caters for children who have a wide range of physical disabilities and profound and multiple learning difficulties, was very special for me and to engage with them was a privilege. I know that all the Santas that have become part of Kingston's Rotary Christmas experience have left a great impression there, making Xmas an exciting time for them.

One day at the *Rotree*, waiting for the next child to come up and tell me what they wanted for Christmas, a young lady handed me a large plastic shopping bag full of brand-new, unopened boxed character dolls and said that she had been told that the Rotary Santa, would know what to do with them! Accepting the gift with sincere and grateful thanks, I wondered where they could go. I spoke to our hardworking organiser, Allen Cobbold and then we had an idea. The next afternoon on Christmas Eve, my wife Mee Len and I visited Kingston Hospital's Sunshine and Dolphin Wards for children, to donate the toys on behalf of the Rotary Club of Kingston upon Thames and, of course, the kind young (anonymous) young lady. Although not in Santa costume and not able to visit the children themselves, I met a lovely staff member from the wards (picture above) and it was a special moment for us both. This is what Rotary is all about.

Phillip Holt

In the Party Spirit

Jolly jumpers, funny hats and colourful bow ties were the order of the evening when around 56 members and friends met up for a splendid Christmas dinner at the Cobham Curve in December! Thank you to Mike Kingham for organising such an enjoyable occasion, including a mad paper aeroplane race!



FOUNDATION MATTERS

MILL PROGRESS

You will be pleased to know that the Maize Mill in Kafutwe, Malawi, is progressing well. Just take a look at the picture and you will see a difference from the one in our December newsletter. They hoped to have the shell finished by Christmas and aimed to buy the Maize Mill itself in January. Stella Kasiry, from the Rotary Club of Bwaila will then make a visit to the installation when complete and report back to us. The actual building which will house our machinery has been funded by the Friends of Malawi Association. Their support is crucial, as we are not allowed to fund buildings with our District Grant. Like many organisations they too were closed during the Christmas/New Year break so we shall await further updates in the New Year.



POLIO PROGRESS

When we look back on 2015, it may well be seen as the year the tide irreversibly turned on polio. Wild poliovirus is more geographically constrained than it has been at any point in recorded history. As of 10 December 2015, 66 wild poliovirus cases have been reported from the only two remaining endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, compared to the 324 cases found in nine countries during the same period in 2014. Vast improvements have been seen in Pakistan with more than 80% fewer cases in the country than in 2014. In part, this is thanks to the establishment of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), which serves as a platform for increased government ownership of the polio programme. The EOC has played an important role in the implementation of new strategies such as health camps, which have reached almost 350,000 people in high risk areas, with additional health services alongside polio vaccines this year. Encouragingly the number of inaccessible children has declined to just 35,000 in comparison to 300,000 in 2014. (taken from the PGEI report 16/12/2014)

INDIA - NATIONAL IMMUNISATION DAY

Paul and Christine are off to India again with 102 other Rotarians from Great Britain to take part in the last Immunisation programme using drops. They will be joined by Rotarians from U.S.A., Japan, Belgium and Luxemburg. Just remember well over 170 million children under 5 are immunised during each National Immunisation day. Well done Paul and Christine for volunteering to go. What fantastic Rotary service and a real credit to our club and Inner Wheel.

2015 has been a great year in the fight against polio. We are not finished yet but so close that we can now see the end in sight. So we must continue to keep the END POLIO NOW CAMPAIGN in the public domain and keep those funds coming in to finish the job completely. **Hilary Busazi**

Link Clubs

The International Committee is looking into the Link Club visits for 2016. In order to help arrangements, it would be useful to know which Members will be interested in participating. There are no itineraries or costings yet. These will be firmed-up when we have a better idea of numbers.

POISSY: 20–22 MAY 2016. This is an outgoing visit to Poissy and may include a visit to Paris. We have suggested a visit to one of their locally supported projects. This visit may be a hosted or can be hotel based.

BAD BERGAZABERN: 23-25 SEPTEMBER 2016

This is an incoming visit. Their incoming President has requested that we include a visit to a show (musical) and to Windsor. Our preliminary thought for a musical is *The Lion King*. As you will appreciate, to get a block booking for a London based show, the booking has to be made sooner rather than later, hence the call for numbers. Nearer the time, we will also be calling for hosts.

There will be a board circulating for the next two weeks. It would be appreciated if more Members become involved with these visits, they are always great fun, interesting and a great way to expand your Rotary friendships. Once we have a better idea of numbers, the Committees can start to put further ideas together to formulate full itineraries. **John Watts**

News from Barry Lloyd

Former member, Barry Lloyd receives our newsletter regularly and was particularly interested in our Malawi Maize Mill project. He sends us the following greeting from Spain and some information on another Malawi project very close to ours.

Very many thanks for the newsletter, it is really great how well the club are doing, and now it seems, with so many diverse activities. My Fellowship has an interest in Malawi through a photo journalist from The Costa Blanca News, she has been working in the village of Lilongwe, some five hours drive from Kafutwe.

My very best wishes to all members of Kingston Rotary Club and their families for Christmas and that 2016 is a happy and healthy year for everyone

One Step Malawi



I first met Nikki Luxford some six years ago, when she was working for the *Costa Blanca News*, the main English language newspaper there. I required a photo journalist to take a photo and contribute a short piece on a charity presentation my Rotary Fellowship was holding. Since that time Nikki has attended all our presentations and we have been very satisfied with her work, which has assisted us to be known within the area that we cover.

During 2013 Nikki visited a number of small villages, near Zomba in Malawi to teach English and Maths. She went, first of all, for four weeks, followed by two further periods of six and two weeks respectively. She then went on to assist in the building of a school, for this project, 50,000 bricks were required!! In Malawi a brick costs the equivalent of one Spanish cent. My own Fellowship assisted with funding, as did the Lions, Royal British Legion, and Javea U3A. Nikki obtained her target, and the school was built. It was following this project that she started her own charity, *One Step Malawi*, paying all her own expenses, so all monies raised went directly where it was needed. During her time in Malawi, she contributed articles to the CBN detailing her work with the addition of photos. Over this period Nikki assisted teachers and villages with first aid, worked in a malnutrition clinic. All this work was to benefit orphans and children.

In May 2015 Nikki took leave of absence from the newspaper to spend a year in Malawi, as a volunteer with the charity RIPPLE Africa, in addition to her work with *One Step Malawi*. With RIPPLE, her work has mainly been with a fuel efficient stove (Changu Changu Moto) apparently there are 40,000 of these stoves constructed with benefits to the householder and the environment. She also assisted a women's group to become established with a small business.

My own Rotary Fellowship has now provided 40 mosquito nets. These will go in the New Year to the girls dormitory so as to ensure they are protected, and not off school with Malaria, which Nikki caught herself upon her second visit to Malawi.

As a result of her work with RIPPLE, Nikki has been offered a full time position with them doing project development, volunteer/visitor coordinator, fundraiser and PR. She regards this as an incredible opportunity, especially as she is so passionate about Malawi, and loves the work the charity does. Her time will be spent between Malawi and their U.K office in Buckingham. Nikki's home is in Spain, she was educated here, and lives with her parents, who went out with her on one of her short spells! Nikki also spends time when in Spain giving talks to various organisations about her work, and in fact her first experience at public speaking was when I invited her to be a speaker, during one of my monthly spells as President, and she appears not to have looked back!! **Rtn. Barry Lloyd**

SATRO Junior Business Games: come and help

The Club is sponsoring and helping to deliver SATRO Junior Business Games at Coombe Junior School on 2nd March 2016 and Tolworth Junior School on 3rd March. This is being done in conjunction with New Malden and Surbiton Clubs as part of Rotary in the Royal Borough. We are inviting you to help with their delivery.

These games are for Year 6 children (10 year olds). They give the children the opportunity to experience running a business for a day with the guidance of adults.

The games take place in the schools. The children are put into non-friendship teams of 6 to 8, and the teams create companies to manufacture and sell bookmarks. The teams give themselves names, assign roles and create their bookmark designs and marketing programmes. They buy resources and make and sell the bookmarks while running bank accounts. The team making the greatest profit wins.

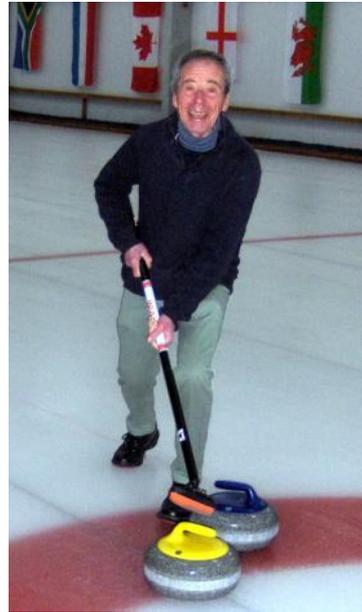
In the afternoon the children make presentations on their learning. The day is expertly run by SATRO but they need adult volunteers to act as advisors to the teams and take on other roles such as buyers, suppliers and bankers. These roles don't require great expertise, more a willingness to help the children get what they can from the day: the role is to encourage, suggest and keep the teams focussed. Full briefing is given both before and on the day and Jules Hall who runs them is brilliant with her guidance.

These days are always great fun and very rewarding for the adults and it is a joy to be involved with the enthusiastic youngsters. If you can, and would like to help with either or both these games, please could you let me know.

John Cannon

Curling

Over twenty members and friends enjoyed a fun-packed day at the curling rink in Tunbridge Wells on Sunday 10th January. A great way to extend the Christmas spirit into the New Year! Thank you Mike!





Inner Wheel

Sixty Years of friendship



We have got the New Year, 2016, off to a great start. World Inner Wheel Day is on the 10th January, and marks the date of the very first Inner Wheel Club meeting, 92 years ago. At the request of our National Association President, Trish, we had a coffee morning on Saturday the 9th in aid of Parkinson's, as sadly, Tish's husband suffered from this, and we were delighted to raise money for the Society, along

with many other Clubs up and down the country. We had excellent coffee, and cakes, a successful raffle—and raised £150.

At our Club Meeting on the 12th January, I was able to report that I had duly presented our donation to help the Syrian Refugee children at the orphanage in Bad Bergzabern, at their Rotary Club meeting just before Christmas. We were so pleased to have been able to help in a small way, and we were sent a lovely picture of some of the children (below).



Our lovely Pat Amey is celebrating an amazing 60 years of membership of Kingston Inner Wheel (photo above). We presented her with a certificate to mark this achievement, and a yellow rose – and she presented us with some custom-made stands on which to hang the

many banners from other Clubs that we have acquired over the years. Our previous stands had gone missing—probably thrown away by someone in frustration at not being able to fold them down and fit them into our box! The new ones are completely take-apart-able!!

We were delighted to welcome some Rotarians, in particular Laurie Chandler and Doug Reynolds who made the *KidsOut* 100 Club draw – the big one! Sadly, none of US won a prize – Laurie didn't manage to “fix” it for us! Perhaps next time.

We were also delighted to have with us a new member, Barbara, who is transferring to us now she has moved into the area, and two more ladies who are going to join us. Our membership is growing, which is good to know.

Our speaker was local stained glass artist, Simone Kay, who told us so much about the history of working with stained glass, about glass itself and the other tools of her trade, and she showed us pictures of some of her work which was absolutely amazing. So many different styles and ideas, and all beautiful. She had taken part in a project which invited people to make a little video of what they did on the twelfth day of the twelfth month in 2012. On that day she had made a little window of a snail. (Called “Brian”, of course). But the work involved in creating this lovely object was incredible and fascinating to see.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, the 9th February, and this time it will be at my house. We are going to celebrate Chinese New Year, so there will be a demonstration of how to make wontons (come prepared to have a go at that), a truly Chinese theme to the whole evening, and a Chinese takeaway (alternative will be available so long as we know in advance). Whilst my house is not as big as the Antoinette, I can fit quite a lot of people in! And would be very happy to do so, so please don't hold back if you would like to join us. You can let either Betty Griggs know if you're coming, or me, and we look forward to having some Rotarians join us.

Yours in friendship, Bobby Child

***KidsOut* 100 Club Winners**

The Winter Draw took place at the Inner Wheel dinner on Tuesday 12th January 2016. The first prize of £400 was won by Laurie Chandler; the second prize of £100 by Pat Jarvis; and the £50 third prize by G Howells. Congratulations to the winners!



Kingston Riverside

Happy New Year

During December members assisted on the Santa Sleigh collection (photos below), helping to raise over £300. This was a completely new experience for most members and one which saw me walking around dressed as a Christmas Tree, complete with lights.

A few days later, it was our turn to shake buckets outside the Bentalls Centre, to raise funds for the Trussell Trust, who run local Foodbanks. As someone who volunteers at a Foodbank, I know how important they are to so many people, especially just before Christmas, when our Foodbank, helped over 16 families in one night. A record number, providing much needed food to over 50 people, together with some treats. It is good to know that through an organisation such as Rotary, much needed funds are raised, to help local families.

Another local project that has been visited is the Joel Community Trust, which is a permanent night shelter. Steve Ransome made contact with their manager, and it is hoped that members will be able to do 'shadow' visits, and eventually be able to assist with cooking and other tasks. Their aim is to work with guests to move them into longer term accommodation.

The past year has been an interesting one, and whilst we have still not achieved the magical number of members to become chartered, this is our aim in 2016.

Looking forward to another year of Rotary friendship. **Alison Webb, President**



LUNCH MEETINGS

DATE	SUBJECT & MENU	SPEAKER	V.O.T.	HOSTS
JAN 14	'Concorde' Roast chicken & sweet & sour pork	Peter Watling	Laurie Chandler	KINGHAM , Rayner,* Waller
21	Southborough High School & Bangladesh Exchange Turkey escalope & steak & ale pie	Jaker Ahmed	President John	NICHOLS , J.Webb,* Willner
28	'The M Room' Chicken in black bean sauce & roast pork loin	Dr Helen Fry	Stan & Helen Moss	STEVENSON , Bellias, Chandler*
FEB 4	Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond Cluster Turkey breast & bean & paprika cassoulet	Probation Service	Laurie Chandler	STICKLAND , Colley*, Frost
11	East End to Africa Chicken fricassee & puff pastry & chilli con carne	Stan Moss	Phillip Holt	WATTS , Gabb, Hickson*
18	Current Magistrates Guidelines Seafood ragout & sausage toad	Trevor Strong	Douglas Reynolds	BUZASI , Kapadia*, Thompson
25	The History of Tolworth Mediterranean chicken & stir fried beef	Bob Phillips	Anne McCormack	McCORMACK , Webber*, Johnston
MAR 3	Project feedback No speaker Moroccan lamb & pork loin	_____	_____	HOLT , Horstman*, Lifford

The person named in CAPS is the 'Cash Host' responsible for the money. The asterisk denotes 'Microphone and greeting Host'. Lunches should be paid for in cash to help reduce the Hotel's bank charges but If you need to pay by cheque it should be made payable to 'The Rotary Club of Kingston upon Thames'. To apologise or book in guests, contact June Kingham on 01372 376665 or junekingam@aol.com by 12 noon on the Wednesday before. **NB Please would hosts be available by 12.30pm or arrange for a deputy should you be unable to attend. Please would members apologise if unable to attend, otherwise, regrettably, fines will apply to cover costs.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		
JAN	26	Inner Wheel Birthday Dinner , 7 for 7.15pm at Imber Court. Final details to follow. All Rotarians and partners welcome
FEB	10	Senior Citizens Film Show, Town House, Kingston University
	21	Sing with the Military Wives at the Rose Theatre
MAR	2&3	Satro Junior Business Games at Coombe Junior School (2nd) and Tolworth Junior School (3rd)
	9	Senior Citizens Film Show, Town House, Kingston University
	24	Youth Speaks senior competition at the Holiday Inn, Kingston
APR	1-3	RIBI Conference, Bournemouth
	3-8	RYLA—YMCA/Southborough
	11-13	Inner Wheel Conference in Glasgow
JUNE	24	President's Night
		NEW PRESIDENTIAL YEAR
	7	Lunchtime visit to our Club by new District Governor, Frank West
	17	Dragon Boats

Happy Birthday

JAN
28th Keith Maund
FEB
3rd Maurice Tate
12th John Watts
25th Neville Coleman
28th Keith Waller
MAR
8th Adrienne Rinsche
13th Phillip Holt

<p>Copy for next issue to Anne by 10 FEB or sooner please</p>
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