



President's message

The days are getting warmer. And so it is now the final few months of my role as President of Kingston upon Thames Rotary Club. One year is a short time in its 90-odd years of history. I set out some aims at the beginning of the year and we have just had our AGM when individual team and committee chairmen/women presented their reports on the club's activities. My thanks to all of them and to all our members for another good year.

We have achieved most of the aims set out at the beginning of the year. We have undertaken the major projects of Dragon Boats, Fireworks, and Xmas fund-raising with much effort from all involved to overcome and resolve the minor difficulties which arose. A high turn-out at Dragon Boats led to large amount of money raised. For various reasons, less money was raised both at Fireworks and Xmas, but fellowship was strongly promoted through these community activities. Meanwhile, the inter-club activity of *KidsOut* remains strong.

There have been other service projects including Senior Citizens' film shows, Young Chef, Youth Speaks, Adult Achievement, Business Games and Mock Interviews. A visit from Bad Bergzabern in September went well, and we have hosted two Rotary scholars, fulfilling the fourth object of Rotary. Our lunch meetings, though not always well attended, have featured a range of good speakers, as well as incorporating important club business and fellowship. This links to other objects of Rotary - fellowship and fun, underpinning service for the local and wider community

We have sadly lost two members, Harald and, more recently, Joanne—our tribute to her is included in the following pages. Over a quarter of our members are on leave of absence for health or personal reasons and recruiting new members remains difficult. On a happier note, the President's Night will be at the Holiday Inn on Friday 9 June. It will be a night to remember for the Indian vegetarian feast, which will also feature participative Indian dancing.

Finally, I would like to specially thank out Honorary Secretary, Mick Taviner for his support and his wise counsel, based on his long period of service to Rotary over many years.

President Ramesh

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President: Ramesh Kapadia

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.



Late last month we all received the desperately sad news that Joanne Boyd had lost her fight against cancer and had died on 19th March.

Until I retired a few years ago I had been Joanne's accountant for over 20 years and inevitably got to know her pretty well. I have also shared my Rotary life with her as she joined Rotary in 1993 just a year before me.

Joanne was introduced into Rotary by her mentor and former business partner, Nigel Gibson Horrocks, and was proposed by Past President Peter Fillingham.



Joanne Boyd

Whilst you think you can prepare yourself for the shock of losing someone special you can never be fully prepared, as I am sure those who knew her found when they heard the news.

As John Watts said to me, we have all lost a very friendly, happy and loving colleague and we will miss her Irish brogue, albeit a little anglicised by her time here.

Her funeral on 3rd April filled the church to the brim and bore witness to the hundreds of family and friends who will miss her dearly. Her own brave words read out during the service had everyone in tears. Rest in peace Joanne. In my memories you will always remain our youngest member.

Paul Hickson

Memories of Joanne

Joanne's father John Boyd had always been an active member of Belfast Rotary Club so she had been brought up in a Rotary environment. Joining Rotary was therefore pretty much destined. In fact, the connection through Joanne with John created a long term friendship between our Club and Belfast Rotary Club and is still reflected in friendship visits every few years. Mike Kingham remembers a particular visit with Joanne singing at the bottom of Mike's garden having been lead astray by Maurice Tate.

Even in those earlier days of Rotary, Joanne was young, in fact Joanne remained the Club's youngest member- until Simon Leo joined- and I am sure the members will not mind me saying our most attractive member.

When she moved onto the membership team we always used this to great advantage by sitting her next to a prospective member. With her witty repartee, radiant smile and deep understanding of what Rotary stood for, she would always fully engage and frequently convert a prospective member.

Mike Kingham recalls her wit when he became President. After telling the Club he was their servant he promptly got a message from her asking if he would come and dig her garden.

Joanne was a member of the Club's International Committee, supporting its links with our twin Clubs in Bad Bergzabern in Germany and Poissy in France and, before her children were born, participated in twinning visits.

Raising the family and running her business didn't always allow Joanne to come to our meetings but she would always brighten a table when she did. Having been brought up in Rotary she introduced Anna and Izzy to Rotary, securing them for our Xmas sleigh collections and bringing them, on one occasion, to our meeting when we had a speaker from Shelterbox. I am sure Patrick's time will come.

Vocationally she was extremely professional and by diagnosing a squint for my son, Tom, when he was three, and referring him to a consultant, she ultimately ensured that he has perfect eyesight now. John Watts says he will always remember Joanne for all the help she gave him when his eyesight problems arose and how she gave him support, at one time, by leaving the practice and personally taking him to Kingston Hospital Eye Clinic for treatment.

Everyone who she cared for will have a memory. We will miss you, Joanne.

Paul Hickson

100 Years of Rotary Foundation

A District celebration dinner is being held at the HG Centre in Woking on Saturday 6th May. More details may be obtained from Peter O'Keefe at peter.okeefe@btinternet.com

Treasurer's Topics

Congratulations Simon!

You will probably remember that for the last 3 years, Simon Leo has participated in the *Movember* fund-raising event and has donated the sponsorship, which he raised, to our Club for disbursement to charities of our choice. Simon suggests, however, that he likes the money to go to charities working with young children and/or those people who have contracted cancer.

This year, Simon has raised a record £2,206, which the Club will round up to £2,250, so that 3 donations of £750 each can be made. Those selected by Council and approved by Simon are:

- ♦ **Marie Curie.** This charity which, as most of you will probably know, supports people and their families who are having to face cancer. We recently had a talk by somebody from Marie Curie, who assured us that if we donate funds to the local branch, they will be used to finance their work in the Kingston area.
- ♦ **Express CIC.** This is a Community Interest Company based in Kingston, helping children with autism and their families. They have collected on our tree for the last 2 years and also on our sleigh last year and we have formed a favourable opinion of them.
- ♦ **Disasters Emergency Committee.** Exceptionally this year, it has been agreed that we would send money in support of the terrible famine in Africa. Moreover, Simon has also offered to match this donation with a like amount from his firm, Hill, Johnson & Leo, so that £1,500 will be donated.

Members will also be aware of President Ramesh's initiative in suggesting that we use the Charley Box receipts for 2 weeks, also to support the DEC appeal. The sum of £274 has been collected and Council agreed that this would be doubled up, so a further £548 will be sent. We are very grateful to Simon for all his efforts and appreciative of the money (now totalling over £4,000) which has been raised to support the work of various charities. **Brian Stickland, Treasurer**

Booming Business Game

From bunny ears to bound books and from bookmarks to Easter bunnies: the children of King Athelstan and St John's Primary Schools made and sold, bought and banked their way through a SATRO Junior Business Game. With club sponsorship and business advisers from Kingston, Riverside and Surbiton Rotary Clubs it was a busy, fun and rewarding day for all.



This is what some of the children wrote afterwards.

"Wherever you come from, if you listen to each other, you can definitely work as a team. I have learnt that you should listen to each other's opinions."

"I loved how we met new people from a different school. A lot of responsibility comes with every job and I found that out today."

"I learnt that being in a business is much harder than I originally thought it was and I learnt that it doesn't matter that you are not familiar with your colleagues, it is surprisingly fun and educational. Thank you for the opportunity."

John Cannon

Purple4Polio Tea Party

I gave a talk at Felpham Community College recently. In conjunction with Bognor Regis Rotary Club, their school council had organised a 'purple4polio' tea party.

It was well attended by children, staff, parents local councillors Rotarians and the press.

The children had done some amazing research into polio and made great use of videos and Power-Point—a great template for us to follow, I think. **Paul Hickson**





Daffs Galore!

Mike has seen spring and Easter in with a riot of colour with his tubs of glorious daffodils for sale.

Due to his hard work in potting up hundreds of bulbs and selling them on to all of us eager Rotarians (and others), he has made hundreds of pounds for charity.

Thank you, Mike— not forgetting that famous farm from whence the bulbs originally came of course!

RotaKids help the homeless

A homeless person living in a cardboard box is befriended by a street pastor who takes them to the Joel Centre for a bed and food. From there they are introduced to selling the *Big Issue* and finding a way out of their homelessness. This is the synopsis of a play devised and put on in Assembly by our King Athelstan RotaKids to raise awareness in their school of the plight of the homeless.

Always wanting to help make a positive difference to people's lives one of them suggested, and they all agreed, that they should focus on homeless people for the spring term. At the end of term they had a sponsored cardboard box "sit in" to raise money for the Joel Centre. Kingston Rotarians should be so proud of all the effort these young people are putting into being RotaKids. Thank you most especially to the School for its unstinting support. **John Cannon and Lynda Rowland**



The Mary Preston project

The Mary Preston Project Committee has had a change to its previous 60 + years. In the past we have fundraised and achieved sponsorship to send "someone in need of, or who would benefit from, a holiday non means tested".

This mission statement still stands but instead of the committee being hostesses and residential etc we have now decided for a variety of reasons that it might be better to support financially another group or family to have a break. So the committee is inviting projects to be submitted for consideration in the year 2018. We will continue to fundraise with our Graham Child Christmas Carols as well so we will be pleased to get continued sponsorship from our Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs.

In 2017 the committee is providing support for ten Young Carers from Kingston on a weekend break in July that is being organised for them by the YMCA.

Please would members give some thoughts to a possible project that can be put forward to the Mary Preston Project Committee for consideration for 2018. I am happy to give you more information about the project if you get in touch with me and thank you for your continuing support.

Lynda Rowland

Membership news

Some of our members have volunteered to give a talk about Rotary to groups such as early retirees, with a view to encouraging these groups to consider joining Rotary.

Do you know of any groups that might welcome a talk from us? The focus will be on what we do in Rotary and in our Club in particular. Please let Alan Stevenson know if so.

Jackie Webber

Calling all car enthusiasts

Here is an opportunity not to be missed! Janet, Alan and I, together with friends, have the opportunity to visit a private car collection that is second to none. For anyone who loves cars please have a look at the link below or chat to Janet or me to find out more. You will be blown away by what you see! There are only a few tickets left for this summer spectacular in July which is in support of the Farnham Lions Club on their 50th anniversary. www.farnhamlions.org.uk

Lynda Rowland

Club visit to Kew Gardens Saturday 6th May 2017 at 11 am

You are invited to join us for a special seasonal guided tour of Kew Gardens followed by time to explore the Hive. We will meet at the Victoria Gate entrance sharp at 11 am.

Places are limited so book early not to be disappointed!

Jackie Webber, Club Service Committee jwebber7475@gmail.com

The Hive

The Hive is a unique structure, inspired by scientific research into the health of bees. Designed by UK based artist, Wolfgang Buttress, it was originally created as the centrepiece of the UK Pavilion at the 2015 Milan Expo.

The installation is made from thousands of pieces of aluminium which create a lattice effect and is fitted with hundreds of LED lights that glow and fade as a unique soundtrack hums and buzzes around you.

These multi-sensory elements of the Hive are in fact responding to the real-time activity of bees in a beehive behind the scenes at Kew. The sound and light intensity within the space changes as the energy levels in the beehive surge, giving visitors an insight into life inside a bee colony.

Porridge and Rice



We have received this lovely photograph from the Charity Porridge and Rice, for which, as members know, Kesh Jethwa has been collecting school uniforms for children in the Nairobi slums. Thank you Kesh for your continuing support of this worthwhile charity.

KidsOut 100 Club Draw

The draw was held at the New Malden Club meeting on 10th April Congratulations to Allan Cobbold who has won the £400 first prize and to Peter Fillingham who won the second prize.

HAPPY
EASTER



Inner Wheel

'It's a lot of fun' with Inner Wheel!

March was a busy month for us. Our Spring Fair was a lovely event, even though the weather was not particularly spring-like. Our stalls did good business and we had great fun entertaining our visitors – and we all enjoyed a very tasty lunch. The profit, which will go to local charities, was over £1,700, so we are delighted with that. I believe there are some photos somewhere, but you'll have to wait for those, I'm afraid!

Our March meeting was our International Service Meeting, and our speaker was Camilla Johnson from "Link to Hope". She had us on the edge of our seats with graphic slides and stories about the poverty stricken villages in Rumania which she visits on projects organised by the charity. Her enthusiasm shone out and she was a truly inspirational speaker. She told us that the shoe boxes we filled and sent are often the only "way in" to begin helping.

Early April, of course, saw three of us going to our Association Conference in Nottingham. And we had such a good time. Not sure whether Nottingham knew what hit it with over 2,000 women, but we behaved ourselves (honest!) and enjoyed our visit to the city. The programme was, as always, extremely good. Starting with a Service – which was led at short notice by my friend Val (a Yorkshire woman from Cornwall and with a wonderful sense of humour) – and which raised over £5,000 for Canine Partners. Our wonderful Malcolm Wells later spoke about Canine Partners, and we also heard from Young Carers and "Goalball" – a charity for the sport which is now part of the Paralympics. We made a presentation to BEAT (our Association President's charity – beating eating disorders) and their speakers were truly moving. One father who had lost his clever, pretty and talented daughter had us all in tears telling her story. He made one particularly poignant observation at the end – that his son had felt left out whilst everyone had concentrated on his sister and her problems; he'd understood how much she'd needed it and of course, like everyone, he hadn't wanted to lose her, but we should give thought to the siblings of sick children, shouldn't we?

John McCarthy was our main speaker on Tuesday, and what an amazing story he had to tell; whilst we know the outline of his story, he described it for us in more detail and – importantly – how he had felt, and how he and his fellow captives had coped. A very unassuming man, but how strong he was when he needed to be. Our main speaker on Wednesday was Lydia Slack, a hill farmer's daughter, who had us in stitches with her stories of life on an isolated farm, all told with a straight face.

We enjoyed a concert by "Classic Buskers", two extremely talented musicians who played some classical favourites on an accordion and a variety of wind instruments. They had a great sense of humour as well. When we met one of them at breakfast the next morning we rushed to get their business card – only to discover that was their last ever performance! Then for our last night party we took over the Pryzm Night Club. We had a great time there – and so did the staff who, we think, were delighted to have well-behaved dancers, who knew all the words, and weren't sick or picked fights! The DJ loved us, and so did the crooner who sang some OUR old favourites in between the disco songs. There ARE photos of Nottingham, but we're only just back, so – next time! Although I believe you will by now all have seen MY highlight of Nottingham, meeting Robin Hood!

At our May meeting, our original speaker has had to pull out, but I'm on the track of someone else, and as soon as that is confirmed I will let you know. You are, as always, welcome to come and join us. I hope you have by now realised that we have an awful lot of fun in Inner Wheel!

Yours in friendship Bobby Child

Save the date

Inner Wheel President's Evening
Kingston Rotarians and families are invited
to join Kingston Inner Wheel
President Valerie at her special President's
Evening at Imber Court on
Friday 2nd June.
Put the date in your diary.
More details to follow.



Kingston Riverside

Big plans for the future!

Following a quiet couple of months, it is evident from a meeting today, that big plans are beginning to be put in motion for 2017.

Last year a number of successful fundraising events enabled us to support small local projects such as *Kingston Young Carers* and *Inspire Sport*. In the case of *Inspire Sport* working alongside members of Riverside, on the Rotary Christmas Tree and Surbiton Farmers Market, has given their leader, Maggie, the confidence to organise other fundraising projects.

Following the wonderful Wobstacle Party held last Summer for *Kingston Young Carers*, it has been decided once again to invite members of this wonderful organisation, to come along for a fun afternoon of climbing over a giant inflatable in a swimming pool, followed by pizza!

Other events we are actively hoping to be involved in are *KidsOut* (you are never too old to dress up as a Superhero or a TV character), and also the Dragon Boat Race, where we are hoping to repeat, if not exceed, the sum raised last year, by selling strawberries and cherries. There will also hopefully be an opportunity for everyone to experience a new social enterprise that is being set up by Katherine and Chris, two of our members, which will eventually provide young people with some paid work experi-

ence whilst learning certain life/job skills. Without giving the game away, and to keep you all in suspense, we in the Club believe it is going to be 'Flipping Amazing'.

Riverside are also establishing great links with Surbiton Farmers Market, assisting them with the setting up and taking down of safety barriers. They are also extremely generous in letting us hold raffles and other fundraising projects, and matching monies raised.

Several weeks ago we hosted an evening at Canbury Works, which is a great venue for meetings, and is providing local people who are starting out in business, advice and the ability to rent a 'hot desk'. The subject was 'Keep India Polio Free', and a very interesting talk was given by Hilary Buzasi, Jackie Webber and John Cannon, all of whom had taken part in the immunisation project in January. I think it provided such tangible proof of the amazing work undertaken by Rotary Clubs and their members. Quite literally it is changing peoples' lives.

Membership is an area that is going to be a priority this year, as we are still trying to gain enough members, in order to be Chartered. So if you know of anyone who would like to join us, then please do put them in touch. Our e-mail address is kingstonriversiderotary@gmail.com

Yours In Rotary. Alison Webb, Secretary

LUNCH MEETINGS

DATE	SUBJECT & MENU	SPEAKER	V.O.T.	HOSTS
13	Rotary Scholar Mediterranean chicken stew & stir fried beef	Janelle Cronk	Hilary Buzasi	MCCORMACK, M Webb*
20	Rotary Scholar Moroccan lamb tagine & pork loin	Chris Basham	Paul Hickson	STEVENSON (note change), Chandler*
27	Club Visioning at 9am in the Antoinette Hotel followed by lunch at 12.45pm Lamb stew & beef lasagne	tbc	tbc	STICKLAND (note change), Frost*
MAY 4	Club Business Meeting Braised chicken and pork & leek sausages	President	—————	MAUND (note change), Gabb*
11	Refugee Action Kingston Shepherds pie & beef stir fry	Sanja Djerie Kane	Paul Hickson	ROWLAND, Horstman*
18	Club Assembly NB evening meeting at 6.45 for 7pm Lamb hotpot & beef stroganoff	Vice President	—————	KINGHAM, Rayner *
25	Shale Gas Fracking for Oil Fisherman's pie & chicken, pork and chorizo stew	Peter Carson	tbc	BUZASI, Waller *
JUNE 1	Club Business Meeting Creamy chicken pesto & Italian meat balls	President	—————	BACON, Bellias*
8	Speaker tbc Roast chicken & sweet & sour pork	tbc	tbc	WATTS, Colley*

Please note that there are now **TWO** hosts only on duty per week. 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. Please would members apologise if unable to attend, otherwise, regrettably, we may have to charge you to cover costs**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		
APR 22	District Assembly at St Catherine's School, Bramley at 9am	Vice President
27	Club Visioning Antoinette Hotel at 9am	President
MAY 16	Paul Harris Fellows Lunch	Gabb
18	Club Assembly	Vice President
JUNE 2	Inner Wheel President's Night at Imber Court	Inner Wheel
9	Rotary President's Night at the Holiday Inn	Kingham
14	KidsOut at Chessington World of Adventures	Johnston
18	Regional Assembly in London	Taviner
JULY 6	District Council in Reigate at 6.30pm	President
16	Dragon Boats	Maund
SEPT 15-18	Visit with Bad Bergzabern (Schwarzwald)	Watts

Happy Birthday

APR
19th Hilary Buzasi
MAY
20th Jackie Webber
21st Jeff Horstman
25th Paul Hickson
30th Ian Rayner

Copy for next issue to Anne by 10th May or sooner please