



Resounding success For Dragon Boats Challenge

A record number of entries, good weather and incredible enthusiasm made this year's Dragon Boats Challenge a resounding success. Kingston Rotary Club's annual event, now in its 17th year, has become one of the Royal Borough's most popular events, attracting thousands to the riverside to enjoy a full day of fun activities for the whole family. This year, the winning team was TK from TK Mechanical Services raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. We expect this year's charity fundraising to top last year's amazing 59k. Well done to the 53 teams that competed!

I have never heard so many people thanking Rotary in Kingston for facilitating such a great event ... (President Phillip).

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Visits, diary & lunch meetings

Inner Wheel & Kingston Riverside

President: Phillip Holt

Secretary: Janet Bacon

Editor: Anne McCormack

To contact Kingston Rotary Club please email: bacon@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.



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Dragon Boats: a big thank you from the President

Without the help and support of Club members, family, friends, fellow Rotarians from other Clubs, the Scouts, local businesses, the Royal Borough of Kingston, and especially the Mayor and her Consort, Kingston Rotary Club would not have been able to facilitate such an important event. A very special thank you to the organising team that has put in so many hours to facilitate the event: Brian Stickland, Janet Bacon, Mike Kingham, John Watts, Paul Hickson, but especially Simon Leo (pictured below left) who has lived and slept Dragon Boats for many months.

What a day!





Dougie Reynolds remembered

Pauline Woods has added her memories of Dougie to those printed in last month's newsletter:

“What a character: always full of fun and mischief, I remember getting a lift with him one night from The Rose Theatre. He dropped me off in Surbiton, his driving to say the least was a bit like a rally driver, how we got home safely I do not know. He kept telling me how bad his eye sight was. When I remember Dougie I always smile; such a lovely, caring, mischievous man . I also remember the day of the Remembrance service in the Market Place when he did not feel very well. I escorted him into All Saints and he said it was worth feeling unwell just to have a lovely lady accompany him into the Church.

Voluntary Service Overseas

Over the past few years most members will have received boxes for collection of their 'small change' in aid of Voluntary Service Overseas, a very worthy organisation familiar to us all.

The International Committee, through the Club, is proposing to make a donation to the VSO and would welcome receiving contents of your collecting boxes or any donation to help with this.

We are due to hear from Imogen Povey, a recent volunteer, at our lunch meeting on 28th September, and it would be helpful if any donations could be handed to me, Brian Stickland or John Watts as soon as possible. Thank you. **John Gabb**

Restaurant Evening Monday 11th September

Your friendly Club Service Committee has arranged a fantastic restaurant evening on Monday 11th September at the [Wheatsheaf, Esher Green, KT10 8AG](#). We have managed to secure their private room but there is a maximum number of twenty so **FIRST COME FIRST SERVED**. Two or three courses are available at £24.50 or £29.95 plus 10%. Please put your name on the board that will be circulating at lunch or let me know as soon as possible to secure your place!

Deadline for booking is 31st August. I will be asking you to choose your food a couple of weeks in advance to make serving easier. The menu has been circulated by email already but please let me know if you didn't receive one.

We do hope you can join us but reserve early!

Anne McCormack

020 8398 5245; anne.jeff@dial.pipex.com



How your money was spent

Young Carers Festival...supported by the Mary Preston Holiday Projects

On Saturday 1st July 2017 I took a trip to Fairthorne Manor in Southampton to the YMCA Young Carers Festival. Eight young people (there should have been ten) from Kingston Young Carers group and three leaders were sponsored by the Mary Preston Holiday Project for a three day/ two night (under canvas) "time out".

When I arrived at the site it was truly amazing. All around were things to do, for example paddle boarding, water polo, zip wires, bouncy pillow, cricket, football sessions, face painting, abseiling...so much to do and see that I was blown away. I texted the leaders and found our group down by the paddle boarding. They were in the water with helmets and buoyancy aids on boards, and they were soaked. But laughing and integrating so well .

When they had finished that activity we went back to the tented area, where we hung up all the wet clothes and got ready for lunch. Lunch arrived which was Chicken baguettes, crisps, fruit, drinks and chocolate.

I talked to the youngsters about their previous evening, There had been a magnificent firework display and the fun fair had opened at 7.00pm until 11 pm with all the rides being free. A late night drink and then bed, each in their own one-person tent. Up for breakfast and then a fun filled day.

Hamble Valley Rotary members were running the additional food tent and I spoke to them about the Festival. They have been helping with this event for over 12 years and believe it to be an amazing thing for young people. Over 1400 young carers from all over the country attended this event, and to think we can support some of these well-deserving young people is very rewarding. I urge you all to Google Young Carers Festival, Southampton, Fairthorne Manor. You will be able to view all the information and watch a video.

Next year is Kingston Club's chance to submit to the Mary Preston Holiday Projects Committee any idea that is worthy of consideration. Thank you all for your continued support. **Lynda Rowland**

Emergency toiletries for Kingston Hospital

Lynda and the Community & Vocational Committee have identified a project that we can all help with without too much effort. Many patients arrive in the hospital without essential toiletries and we can help by filling drawstring bags to provide an emergency pack to tide someone over for a night or two.

Please get your bags from Lynda and return them to her filled with new items such as toothpaste, tooth brush, comb, soap, shampoo, deodorant or anything else you feel might be useful.



President Phillip visits the Thames Boat Project



President Phillip visited the Thames Boat project on the day of the Dragon Boats Challenge and received the following information about their good work.

Hundreds of people discovered the River Thames Boat Project, a registered charity, at a recent Open Day. Visitors were delighted to realize that the *Thames Venturer*, a 29 meter Dutch Barge built in 1908, can provide full access for those with limited mobility and wheelchairs via a special gangway and lift. Below deck are 12 berths, 2 fully accessible showers and toilets, a full kitchen galley and a massive saloon area!

Homemade cakes were the most popular thing of the day, with people sitting under the sun canopy on deck or in the comfortable wheelhouse, watching the children playing Splat the Ship's Rat and Hook a Duck, whilst talking to the volunteer crew about the charity's activities.

The charity was especially proud to welcome on board Cllr Julie Pickering, Mayor of Kingston, Baroness, Campbell of Surbiton DBE (Patron), and President of the Kingston Rotary Club, Phillip Holt to launch the sale of their first ever colouring book for children. The River Thames Boat Project was also a chosen charity for the Kingston Rotary's Dragon Boat Races.

The Project runs bespoke therapeutic cruises and educational activities for the local community, making the River Thames accessible for those who have mobility and other issues. Seventy volunteers, trained in dementia and disability awareness help the charity which specialises in taking the elderly, or disabled, vision impaired, ex-servicemen and those with medical, special needs and mental health conditions.

Many local groups cannot afford a therapeutic cruise, so if you, or your organisation would be interested in sponsoring or fundraising for a cruise to help a local group, please do get in touch. 020 8940 3509 info@thamesboatproject.org www.thamesboatproject.org

President Phillip broadcasts on Rotary Radio!

In case you missed President Phillip's broadcast about Dragon Boats on *Rotary South Today* on Saturday 29th July you can follow the link at <https://clyp.it/n5mkcshp> to hear it.

The good news stories are getting out there!

News from our Rotary Scholar, Eric Morgan

To my friends in the Rotary Club of Kingston,

I hope this letter finds all of the club members in good health and in the highest of spirits.

I am writing from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, my current duty station with the U.S. Army. I would again like to thank you for sponsoring me as I pursued my degree in London. It was one of the most extraordinary experiences of my life, and I have each of you to thank for helping to make this dream a reality. I am proud to have been an ambassador for Rotary, and look forward to continued service in the United States and around the globe.



Since my return to the United States, I have had a very exciting period filled with various training activities that have led me to the starting point of my Civil Affairs career. As I mentioned in my presentations to the club last year, Civil Affairs soldiers are responsible for executing five core CA tasks: civil information management, foreign humanitarian assistance, nation assistance, population and resource control, and support to civil administration.

My training has included the 'Civil Affairs Assessment and Selection' course. The selection course was essentially a U.S. Army-style 10-day interview. It was filled with rigorous physical challenges and mental exercises, with very limited sleep. Overall, it can certainly be said that it posed several significant emotional demands as well! After giving the course my best effort, I was fortunate enough to be 'selected' for the Civil Affairs program.

Upon receiving orders to Fort Bragg, I was directed to proceed to the famous U.S. Army Airborne School. This was a 21-day course that trained and certified me to parachute out of various military aircraft. I completed 5 jumps, with mostly soft landings. My second jump was especially soft, as I landed directly in a swamp! I am now continuing in my training pipeline for Civil Affairs specialization courses, which include: 6 months of language training (my language is yet to be determined), a regional analysis course, and the U.S. Army SERE course (which stands for Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape). Within the next year, I will become a qualified Civil Affairs officer and will serve as a team leader within a regionally-aligned Civil Affairs unit. Whether I deploy to Latin America, Europe, Africa, or Asia, I am certain that my missions will positively impact international communities. I am eager to send reports of our positive impacts on communities in need of humanitarian assistance after my deployments.

I hope each of you has had an excellent start to the year and all of your endeavours continue to achieve tremendous success!

Cheers, Eric Morgan CPT, U.S. Army

Surbiton Festival

This well-established local festival takes place on 30th September in Victoria Road, Surbiton. If you can help Surbiton Rotary Club in stewarding the event, particularly during the Parade, please get in touch with Bill Locke or Phil Sida on bullock@btinternet.com or Philsida@talktalk.net

Project Support School Toilet in India

Kingston Rotary Club, through its International Committee, has recently supported the construction of a toilet in a school in India through the Vidya Trust UK. We have received the following letter of thanks.

Ramesh Kapadia

Swajan Shiksha Samiti (SSS) is a primary school (being registered as a society in the year 2006) in a place called Ghati which is a small agrarian village in Jaunpur, a region in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, India. This school has a rich history of individuals as well as community initiative for the cause of quality education for children in remote villages.

Our school located in a remote belt of Central Himalayas is very much different from those where teachers only focus on teaching the curriculum. In this school, providing subjective knowledge is not the only motive of the teachers. Instead they strive to make the children responsible, active, and highly connected with their local surrounding. The school is not run by the authorities but by the children themselves under the supervision of the teachers. An equal number of tasks at the school are managed by the students which induces the skills of leadership, ownership and accountability at an early age. In the working of the school, parents also play a major role as an integrated community. This whole combination of children, teachers, parents and other associated persons has been a unique feature and strength of our school since its inception in spite of financial and resource constraints.

Vidya Trust, UK has been our avid supporter in this journey and we would not have made so far without their generous support and belief in our work.

As the school crossed 10 years we were in need of repairs especially the building premises and toilets. The SSS school in Ghati was pleased to be able to improve the toilets for its 100 children over the summer break in 2016-17. This involved renovating the two existing toilets and constructing a third one to meet the needs of the children and staff alike. The entire work included plumbing, flooring, putting tiles on floors and walls, painting, changing taps and some minor electrical repairs. As has been the culture of the school, the teachers and students worked alongside and gained many skills in the process. It would be appropriate to add here that they also learnt to appreciate the importance of manual labour which is fast depleting from our society.

Last but not the least we are grateful to the Rotary Club of Kingston upon Thames for its grant to cover the cost. A small plaque is displayed to recognize this contribution, for which the Trustees are grateful.

Naveen Jhajharia
(For Swajan Shiksha Samiti, India)

Recent news

from our scholars Janelle and Christopher

Janelle has now submitted her final report to Rotary International following her successful Rotary grant application to study at The London School of Economics. Her chosen field of studies was an MSc in Human Rights and her excellent report covers the courses she studied and the impact these had on her professional goals. Janelle is still interested in pursuing Human Rights law and no doubt she will make good use of the knowledge she has acquired during her year at LSE. She will be returning to California on 23rd August and I am hoping it will be possible for Janelle to visit us before she leaves.

It has been a great pleasure to act as Host for Janelle during her studies here and to welcome her parents to Kingston in December last year. John Cannon and I enjoyed meeting with them and showing them around our ancient and historical Royal Borough. Janelle has been a wonderful Ambassador for Rotary, joining us at District Conference, visiting our club and sharing her experiences and aspirations for the future. Participating in the Rotary Service project *Kids Out* with her partner Chandler. She has worked extremely hard, coping with a new culture and a completely different style of teaching, completing her dissertation which involved interview-based research which at times she found quite a challenge owing to the nature of the interviews. Janelle is a very exceptional young woman. We wish her all the very best for the future and look forward to hearing from her from time to time, so we can share in her future plans and professional development.

Meanwhile Christopher has been living on the Isle of Sheppey in the hope of trapping plenty of mosquitoes for his research. He tells me that this year there have not been so many as in previous years but fortunately he has acquired sufficient supplies to conduct his research. Chris has now returned to London and is spending many hours in the laboratory at The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine writing up his findings.

Chris is returning home to Atlanta on 15th August but will be returning on 19th September for a short time to take two further exams, so we hope to see him at some point before his departure. **Hilary Buzasi**

Lunchtime and evening talks

We are very grateful to Paul Hickson who has been busy booking speakers for us well ahead. We hope this will allow members plenty of time and scope to invite friends and guests to something that might interest them.

The four family meetings a year, on the fifth Thursdays in the month, will be held in the evenings so that we can do justice to key speakers. We will advertise these well in advance so please do bring others along.

Two lunches a month will be devoted to project updates and members interests so don't be surprised if we ask you to tell us about your hobbies or interests outside Rotary!

Here is a taster of some of the talks that are coming up so do put them in you diaries and do invite guests. It goes without saying that Inner Wheel and our other Royal Borough Rotary Clubs are most welcome. Bookings should be made no later than the Wednesday before the meeting before 12 noon. junekingham@aol.com

17th August (lunch)

District Governor James Onions. This is our annual visit so do come along and hear the latest from District 1145. An opportunity to ask questions

24th August (lunch)

Our very own Pauline Colley will be updating us on the International Committee's *Lend with Care* programme. This scheme lends small amounts of money to third world entrepreneurs and, when repaid, can be invested in more entrepreneurs. The nice thing is that we can follow their progress and see the improvements that are made to the lives of their families by our loans.

31st August (evening)

We are delighted to welcome Alistair Kelly who will be telling us about the history and work of Royal Star & Garter Home which is now housed in its lovely new home in Surbiton. This charity, until recently in Richmond, celebrated its centenary last year and has been caring for ex-servicemen since 1916.



7th September (lunch)

'Guess who is coming to Christmas'. Jeremy Webb will be talking about plans for our Christmas collections this year.

Talks continued

14th September (lunch)

The Mayor, Councillor Julie Pickering will be telling us about her mayoral year to date and we will be presenting her with honorary membership of the Club. Many will know how supportive the Mayor is of our Club and all we do in the community so do come along and bring friends and family.



21st September (lunch)

We are delighted that **Zac Goldsmith MP** has agreed to visit us for lunch today to talk about his Richmond Park constituency. This is the first time he has been able to come to lunch with us and we expect a good attendance for what will be a most interesting and lively meeting. We will also be presenting Zac with honorary membership of the Club.

28th September (lunch)

Imogen Povey will be talking to us about her VSO project in Kenya.

12th October (lunch)

Lene Wood comes from *Dementia Friends* and will be updating us on the impressive work of this charity

26th October (lunch)

Commander Jim Morfield comes from Kingston Fire Station: a subject sadly very much in the news of late

2nd November (lunch)

We are always delighted when **Sir Ed Davey MP** can come to lunch to tell us about life in Parliament. This time his talk will be ‘Life as MP for Kingston upon Thames—AGAIN!’ This lunch is not to be missed so please book it in your diaries. This is a great opportunity to bring guests.

9th November (lunch)

Paul Marsh will be speaking about ‘My Year as President of the Law Society’.

30th November (evening)



Ewan Ward Thomas from the Mary Rose Trust is our key speaker for this family evening meeting. He will be telling us about Henry VIII’s flag ship and about the new museum, recently opened which displays thousands of artefacts recovered from the sea: a truly unique discovery preserved for future generations using cutting edge conservation, science and technology. Bring family and guests to hear this amazing story of loss and recovery!



Join Rotary on the Riviera

Registration is now open for the 2018 Rotary Conference which is taking place in the stunning seaside resort of TORQUAY from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th April 2018.

With iconic palm trees, a beautiful marina, sweeping sandy beaches and its fascinating Agatha Christie connections, it is a perfect place for the RIBI Conference.

If you register before 31st December 2017 you will be eligible for an Early Bird Discount.

www.rotarygbi.org/what-we-do/conference/2018-conference/



Polio Newsflash

We have received the following newsflash from District Governor James Onions that HM Government has contributed an extra £100m to the Polio Fund.

This morning [4th Aug] the UK government has pledged a further £100m to end polio. This is a fantastic amount. To put into context compare pledges:

Rotary International \$150m
UK \$130m
EU \$61.4m
Germany \$11.2m
Spain \$5m
And EasyJet has pledged \$5m

Please remember to return your Purple 4 Polio Jam Jars to Brian—full of coins not jam! Thank you

We should be truly proud of our UK national commitments. You will also see good reference to Rotary in the notes to editors. Hopefully they will be used by UK Press.

Full details are on the Rotary GBI website at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/uk-leads-push-make-polio-history/>



*Passiflora 'Star of Surbiton'.
My first flower! Watch this space for
'Star of Kingston'. Anne*



Inner Wheel

Canine Partners—charity of choice

We started our new year with a great evening in July when our speaker was the lovely Malcolm Wells, well known to many of us, from Canine Partners. This is the charity that our new President, Dorly, has chosen to support during her year. And it was very much the Dorly “Show”, as she was presented with the chain of office handed over by Valerie, Rotary President Phillip gave her some beautiful flowers – and of course there’s a great photo of Dorly with Malcolm. Some of us wished he’d been able to bring one of the dogs with him, but actually, he doesn’t need that, he is so engaging and entertaining all by himself! (Even a waggy tail – you need to have been there!!)

We are looking forward to our President’s Tea Party at Dorly’s home when we will raise some money for Canine Partners, and a number of us enjoyed a meal out together at our now annual “Pizza Evening”, where a small profit on the evening provided another donation to the fund. We are looking to arrange a visit to the Canine Partners’ Centre on one of their Open Days, and anyone who would like to come with us would be most welcome. I’ll let you know!

Our next meeting is on the 12th September and our speaker is on “England’s Jane”. No prizes for guessing which “Jane” that might be! Shirley Andrews is an expert on this particular “Jane”, so it should be a very informative evening. Please come and join us. BUT please remember that we will be at our new venue, Imber Court. All the same rules apply – it’s 7 for 7.15 p.m. and the meal is a buffet style with a choice and costs £15.50. It would be good to have some support from Rotary on this first night of the next era of Kingston Inner Wheel Club’s history, so do come – just let Betty Griggs (or me) know by the **Thursday** before, please.

And, at the risk of getting shouted down, can I put in a tiny mention that we have our Early Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, the 22nd November – this will be in aid of local charities as our Christmas presents to them, so keep the date free and we’ll let you know more details nearer the time.

Yours in friendship
Bobby Child





Kingston Riverside



A big thank you to Riverside Rotary for selling strawberries and raising money at our Dragon Boats Challenge in July: a popular addition to the event and a good advert for Rotary!.



LUNCH MEETINGS

DATE	SUBJECT & MENU	SPEAKER	V.O.T.	HOSTS
AUG 17	District 1145 District Governor Lamb hotpot and beef stroganoff	James Onions	President	STICKLAND, Horstman*
24	The Lend with Care programme Fisherman's pie and chicken, pork & chorizo stew	Pauline Colley	John Watts	WATTS, Webb, Jeremy*
31	Evening meeting: 6.30pm for 6.45pm The Star and Garter Home Creamy chicken pesto and Italian meat balls	Alistair Kingsley	Marion Webb	BACON, Colley*
SEPT 7	Guess who's coming for Christmas This year's Christmas collections Roast chicken and sweet & sour pork	Jeremy Webb	—————	McCORMACK, Frost*
14	Presentation of Honorary Membership to the Mayor and Mayoral address Turkey escalope & steak & ale pie	The Mayor of Kingston, Cllr Julie Pickering	President	KINGHAM, Kapadia
21	Life as MP for Richmond Park and presentation of Honorary membership Chicken in black bean sauce & roast pork with calvados sauce	Zac Goldsmith MP	President	ROWLAND, Rayner*
28	Project in Kenya Grilled turkey breast & pork, bean & paprika cassoulet	Imogen Povey	Keith Maund	BUZASI, Webber*

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		Contact
AUG	12	Inner Wheel Garden Party 3pm
	31	Family evening meeting: Hotel Antoinette with a talk on the Star and Garter Home
SEPT	11	Restaurant Evening at the Wheatsheaf, Esher 6.45 for 7pm
	15-18	Visit with Bad Bergzabern (Schwarzwald)
OCT	6-8	District Conference, Bournemouth
NOV	3	Rotary/Round Table Fireworks
	4	District Council at Reigate at 9.30am
DEC	15	Christmas Party at Churchgate House, Cobham

Happy Birthday

AUGUST

- 16th Lynda Rowland
- 18th Bob G-Pees
- 25th Alan Stevenson
- 30th Chris Frost

SEPTEMBER

- 5th Anne McCormack
- 19th Laurie Chandler
- 27th Trevor Boullin

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