

# The Ashtead Rotary Newsletter



Service Above Self

Dear Members,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter. Whilst August is always a quiet month for Ashtead Rotary and many of us are enjoying a well-earned break, there have been some long-awaited events occurring for our members, as you will see. This month's issue will be shorter than usual because of the holidays, but I hope you will enjoy it upon your return from exotic parts and that you will begin our new 'term' well-rested and ready to embrace the start of Autumn with an enthusiasm for our new projects and a renewed perspective for our old. Enjoy!

Best Wishes,  
Sharon.

## Alan's Birthday

Congratulations to one of our most respected and long-serving members, Alan, on the occasion of his seventy-fourth birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Alan's Rotary career began many years ago and he has served the Club in different capacities, including the Presidency, twice. Most recently he has distinguished himself as a skilful and compassionate Welfare Officer.

May this be the start of a happy and memorable year for him and his family. Happy Birthday Alan!

## Canine Partners

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August, Members of Ashtead Rotary Club attended a most enjoyable visit to the Headquarters of this most inspiring and worthy charity, situated just outside Heyshott, Midhurst, West Sussex.

Over one hundred Members from other Rotary Clubs as far afield as Chatham braved the appalling weather to hear an inspiring and lively speech by Malcolm Wells, the National speaker for the Charity, who gave a brief history of its formation and explained the ethos behind the work that goes into establishing partnerships between man and dog. There followed an amazing display of ability by one of the older demonstration dogs, which included loading a washing machine, undressing a disabled companion and retrieving fallen objects (including a credit card from a flat surface-how



many of us have struggled with this, even WITH hands?)

The humour and sense of fun that these dogs display in the course of their work has to be seen to be believed-and it is deeply infectious; despite dealing with the most unpleasant afflictions, the disabled partners of these remarkable dogs spent the whole morning laughing. It was wonderful and a very humbling experience.

There are now 260 partnerships in the UK and the number is rising; Those Ashted Rotarians present at the Open Day were Len Woods, Joy McAllister and Sharon Bagley ( accompanied by husband Kelvin), all of whom would recommend a visit if further occasion arises.



#### Congratulations

Whilst Joy was enjoying the most excellent outing to Canine Partners, she was in the process of becoming a Granny! Phoebe was born at 11.18am, weighing in at a respectable 8lb 4oz and everyone, including Joy, is doing well. Our warmest wishes to Joy and her family and welcome to Phoebe.



#### Visits to Other Rotary Clubs

Never one to miss an opportunity, Julie's ceaseless efforts on the Club's behalf have continued throughout August, when she has enhanced fellowship with other Rotary Clubs with a series of visits to Leatherhead, Ewell, Dorking Deepdene, Epsom and New Malden, accompanied at times by other members of Ashted.

This enterprising action has led to a summer of entertainment, pleasure, renewed friendships and the sharing of ideas, which is the essence of Rotary.

Well done, Julie!

And Finally.....Police are looking for three hardened criminals, following an accident between a concrete mixer and a prison van.