



Meon Tidings No.61 April 2016

Previous events and meetings. 3rd March.

Sheikh Fazle Abbas- Subject- Islam

Sheikh Fazle is Imam at the new Titchfield Mosque and required a separate top table with the President and his host Harvey Griffiths. This was to comply with the Islamic ban on alcohol, the rest of us drank what we liked except the separate top table three where water was freely obtainable! He wore a lounge suit with no tie and I didn't detect a beard until I was up close. He is a follower of the Shiite branch of Islam.

Fazle was born in Kenya and qualified as an electrical engineer but at the same time was studying the Islamic faith and eventually became an Imam. He admitted he did not know all there was to know about Islam and started his talk with four key tenets.

These are:- (1) Belief that he was made by God the creator who is the same throughout the world and called Allah an Arabic name by Moslems. They have many of the same prophets as Christianity including Jesus.

(2) He is committed to life according to the Koran or Quran. Islam is not just a spiritual life but covers all aspects e.g. dress code-modesty especially for women, diet and hygiene. The former can be interpreted from the wearing of the bourka or just covering the bosom and hair.

3) He said he believes in Islam because of his upbringing with Islamic parents and he also realised and was attracted to Islamic beliefs as a child.

4) He reconciles his strong belief with other religions and beliefs as the Koran decrees there shall be no tensions between and all are equal. Moderation is key.

He then opened the meeting to questions many of which he side stepped, including ones that had previously been submitted, especially when violence takes place in the name of Islam. He described this as hijacking of his faith. He surprised us when he said that Moslem women traditionally propose marriage to the man .Women are also equals to men in worship and property rights and do not have to walk behind their husbands. He said it never happens to him as he walks slower than his wife!

The evening was not as controversial as I feared it might be because I felt that the questions asked were not too controversial or were ignored. Harvey Griffiths gave the vote of thanks.

16th. B.B.C. South Today Journalist- Chrissie Sturt.

After spells as local newspaper journalist Chrissie answered an advertisement put out by the Southampton based T.V. station. She is clearly talented as she won the appointment from a field of over 60 applicants, 15 years ago. She is known to the Lawrences as her daughter attends the same school as one of their grandchildren.

The station broadcasts 7 days a week except Christmas day at breakfast, lunch times, a 27.5 minute spot after the central 6 o'clock news and again briefly after the 10pm central news. Chrissie covers general news such as floods, hospital and nursing home problems. Many other stories are gleaned from press releases such as the health issues from tic borne Lyme disease. Also social media such as Facebook and U tube are two other sources of stories. Carnivals, fetes and special anniversaries, such as the battle of Agincourt in 1415 are also reported.

When not on air reporters are involved with the planning team preparing for the next day's broadcasts. The running order is decided but can easily be changed if some important event occurs. Timing is carefully monitored to ensure that the output does not collide with the central programmes. It was a very interesting talk illustrated by except from past programmes that Chrissie has appeared in.

V.P.Graham Lawrence hosted and Chrissie with President Tony



Riviera Travel has donated £900 to our club charity funds as a result of Ian and Lynn Massie booking a holiday through these agents. This is the second substantial donation since Mike Sherwood's holiday booked through the same company. They offer a large range of holidays and are very successful. Why not use them next time?

Future events and programme in April.

6th. Prawn cocktail; Sugar baked ham with parsley sauce; Chocolate fudge cake
Speaker-David Brockington-Hill-The Spirit of Brooklands-Host John Lovell

Ladies meet at Wyn Gardener's home

13th. Cold meat mixed salad with hot baked potato

Fellowship evening

20th Pate with toast and fruit chutney; Breaded plaice goujons; Crème brulee

Speaker-Jim Simpson-By Motor Cycle from Kent to Tashkent –Host John

Freemantle

27th Chicken leek and mushroom pie with chips and peas

Council meeting at 6pm followed by business meeting

7th May District Assembly-All Officers and Lead Chairmen should attend.

13th May Auction of Promises- We have plenty of super promises but need a good crowd to raise as much cash as possible, so bring all your family, friends and neighbours for an enjoyable evening. Geoff Smith is waiting to hear from you.

News of shoe boxes arrival in Philippines from Pastor Roland Moore.

We were recipients of shoe boxes from your Rotary Club and I wanted to thank you. My name is Roland Richardson Moore and I am a full time missionary in the Philippines. We planted a new church in the Tanza Resettlement Area north of Manila last July 2015. There are about 1,000 children 12 years old and under in this area. And they are all very poor. We minister to them as best we can, but we are only able reach a small percentage of these children. We are in the process of launching the “ Living by Grace and Faith International Christian Ministry” We would love to host any short-term missionaries, or help get long term missionaries get started. You can also contact me on my email. Thanks again for helping share God's love to these children.

100 Hundred Lottery Club – Winners for March Draw

£100 T. Hooker £50; Mike Sherwood £40 ;Miss Massie.

Latest Polio Eradication News.

A total of 7 cases have been reported to-date. 6 are in Pakistan. These are confined to fewer districts in Pakistan. The other case is in Afghanistan. Last year at this time there were 21 cases. See on page 5 figures for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 until

February 22nd. The great news is that Nigeria, a former hotspot has had no cases since July 2014 so has now been declared no longer Polio endemic.

The government of Pakistan is working hard to ensure that the immunisation programme reaches all. But the three regions that are still endemic are tribal and remote. Currently there is a 97% coverage for all children under the age of five in 161 districts of Pakistan. A total of 35.19 million children were recently vaccinated in a campaign that stretched over four days.

Paul Harris- First but not First

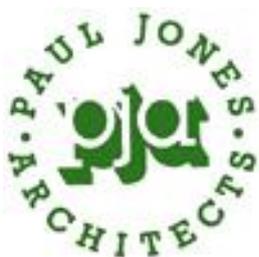
Was Paul the first President of a Rotary club? Answer is NO.

Was Paul Harris the first President of Rotary International? Answer is YES.

Although Paul was the founder and organiser of the first Rotary club in Chicago in 1905, the man selected to be the first President was Silvester Schiele one of the founding members.

Five years after 1905 there were 16 clubs, which linked up as an organisation called the National Association of Rotary Clubs. Two years later the name was changed to the International Association of Rotary Clubs, as Rotary was organised in Winnipeg Canada and then in England, Ireland and Scotland. In 1922 the name was shortened to Rotary International.

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February PolioPlus Update

Wild Polio Case Counts (as of 22 February 2016)

Country	2014 (calendar year)	2015 (to date)	2016 (to date)	Date of last case
Pakistan	306	54	1	17 Jan 16
Afghanistan	28	20	0	20 Dec 15
Somalia	5	0	0	11 Aug 14
Nigeria	6	0	0	24 July 14
Cameroon	5	0	0	9 July 14
Equatorial Guinea	5	0	0	3 May 14
Iraq	2	0	0	7 April 14
Syria	1	0	0	21 Jan 14
Ethiopia	1	0	0	5 Jan 14
Total	359	74	1	

Circulating Vaccine-Derived Polio Cases (as of 22 February 2016)

Country	2014 (calendar year)	2015 (to date)	2016 (to date)	Date of last case
Myanmar	0	2	0	5 Oct 15
Laos	0	7	2	11 Jan 16
Ukraine	0	2	0	7 July 15
Madagascar	0	10	0	22 Aug 15
Guinea	1	4	0	2 October
Nigeria	30	1	0	16 May 15
Pakistan	22	2	0	9 Feb 15
Total	53	28	2	