



# Thames Link

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*The occasional newsletter of the  
Rotary Club of Twickenham upon Thames*

[www.tutrotary.org](http://www.tutrotary.org)

## From President Ian



The dual presidency concept to which Mike Kelly and I were committed never really stood a chance with the so sad and tragic departure of Mike before the

current Rotary year commenced.

But true to form and expectations the team who had committed themselves to a two-year term continued to provide the club with the necessary stability to ensure it was business as usual.

This year commenced with the annual putting competition, which was admirably, as ever, organized and orchestrated by the one and only David Kilvington, who this year had to dig deep to justify his explanation of the choice of this year's winner.

We were off to a good start and Dick Redman Managed to find a plenitude of good speakers who entertained us, added to our knowledge and increased our awareness of things Twickenham. Awareness of the 'outside world' was again prompted by Charlie Erskin and Ken Smith with the club's visit to Grey's Court Gardens in Henley at the end of June.

One of the highlights amongst many memorable occasions was the splendid frugal (?!) meal hosted by Binod and Sushma Amatya. I suggest that we

refer to the evening as a fellowship evening - frugal it certainly wasn't but the friendship was the keynote of the evening.



An evening that was made even more meaningful with the visit of Badan Nyachhyon, the past



president of RC of Mount Everest Lalitpur. Badan and his wife Shobha, guests of Binod and Sushma. Badan had been Binod's main link in Nepal in

sorting out our long-running endeavours to obtain a global grant for the programme that the international committee had been fostering for the past two or more years. Shobha had been "volunteered" to help Sushma provide a wonderful meal. It was a delightful evening, which underlined the power for good of this organization, enabling us to contribute to the fund for our annual giving to The Rotary Foundation.

Another occasion that I found totally captivating was the presentation of awards to the members of the Heathfield Junior School chess club, which was pioneered by Ken Smith. With the help from many club members and from members of other clubs in 'Area 3' the chess club membership has increased to some 70-plus children.

Since July 2017 we have been delighted to welcome two new members, Mike Jefferies and Chris Hack and to welcome a returning member (from Guildford) Neil Ritchie.

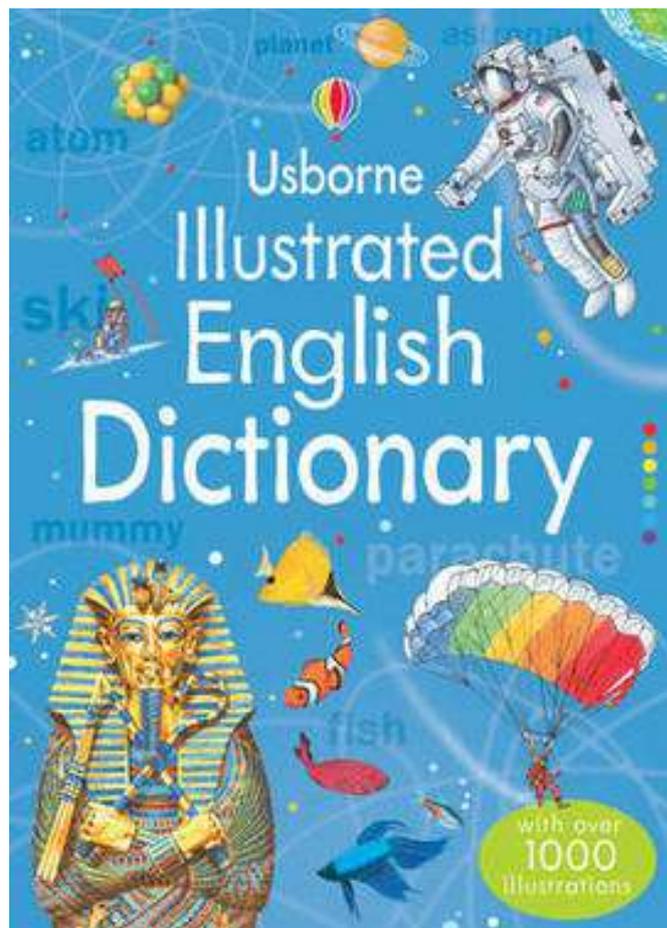
We now have our celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club's charter to look forward to on Friday 21 September 2018 at the Lensbury Club when we shall have the opportunity to recognize the value of the club's founder members and those who contributed to making the club so successful. Our thanks are due to Alan Holmes, David Kilvington, Jack Ingram and Bill Stevenson for the organization of this event.

**Ian Cave**

### **A brief history of the Dictionary Project**

Lovely illustrated dictionaries were distributed to primary schools in the Twickenham and Whitton area for the last time this July when sadly the project came to an end. As I was involved from the beginning I felt that this brief personal history of the project would be appropriate. About ten years ago, Colin Bryant of the Rotary Club of Battersea, Brixton and Clapham suggested that RIBI should encourage all clubs in the British

Isles to purchase the Usborne Illustrated English Dictionary and give them to all the nine-year-old pupils in the Primary Schools in their area.



Colin had access to a source that could provide them in bulk at £3.50 each (later increased to £3.60) provided clubs ordered them in December for delivery in the following May/June. This compared extremely favourably with the retail price of about £15.00 and paid in advance.

I approached the Head Teacher of St Mary's C of E Primary School in Twickenham who was most enthusiastic and thought these would enhance their ability to teach English and all-round use of books.

In the first year we purchased enough for one school - St Mary's. These were so well received that in the second year we gave them to three schools - St Mary's, St Stephens, and Archdeacon Cambridge.

Rotarian Charles Baroudi thought that this was not fair to the Whitton Schools that did not receive any and so I suggested we raise more

money and present to all ten schools in the TW1 and TW2 areas. This was agreed and for about seven years we have supplied:

Archdeacon Cambridge CE Primary School, Bishop Perrin CE Primary School, Chase Bridge Primary School, Heathfield Junior Primary School, Nelson Primary School, St Edmund's RC Primary School, St James RC Primary School, St Mary's CE Primary School, St Stephen's CE Primary School and Trafalgar Primary School.

During these seven years Club members often said we were spending too much on this one project and that children no longer used dictionaries, but by boosting funds from outside sources, including donating money given to me for "charitable" purposes instead of 80<sup>th</sup> birthday presents etc., we were able to keep the project going in all these schools until 2017, when the Club finally voted to end the project in 2018.

Over the years I had frequently encouraged Club members to attend the presentations of dictionaries at school assemblies so that they could see for themselves how well they were received by pupils and staff, and the "faithful few" who attended these functions found it very inspiring.

Head teachers said they could appreciate the financial implications of the club's decision and gladly accepted our final gift of fifteen books for each of the school libraries and they assured me that they would be used by years 5 & 6 in class work. A sad but seemingly inevitable end to a multi-year project that we hope has helped to stimulate the love of books in primary school pupils.

Paul Kershaw

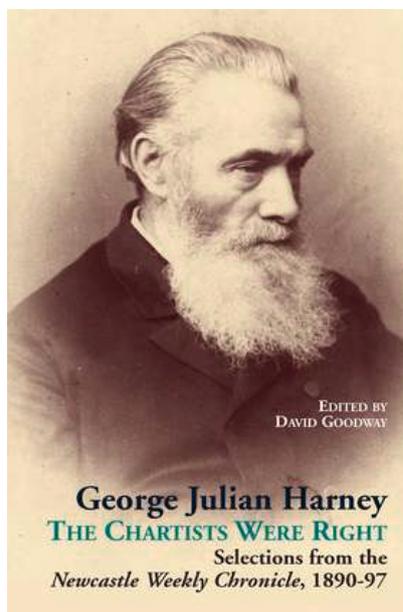
### Talk on Metropolis Necropolis

Whilst I have put some money into the charity coffers with my talk on The Foundling Hospital it occurred to me that other talks could be put together to increase the funds in that account. As

we have such good treasure hunt setters in Peter and Alper I thought I would tackle the first of these hunts, in memory of famous people who are no longer with us.

Peter kindly gave me the full set of clues and answers and after much consideration I decided to use some as a base, but to use a clearer West to East trajectory to put some new ones in. So with the help of this machine called a computer and that wonderful set of letters-www I began. The presentation begins at St Dunstan's with Holy Angels in Cranford and flies to the Old Burial Ground, Barnes Common.

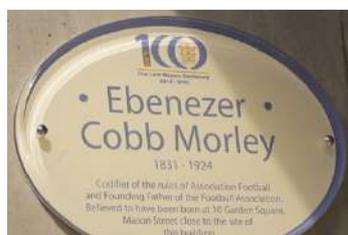
Getting the lowdown on the characters we meet along the way was very interesting. Some we knew quite well - Tony Hancock, Fulton Mackay OBE and Roy Kinnear. But others brought new people to the listeners- Neil Aspinall, Thomas Twining and George Julian Harney. Some had adventurous lives, some died in the line of duty and many had murky backgrounds.



I tried this presentation out on my Spelthorne Local History U3A group. It was well received and I am now seeking other outlets for it. If any donations are received then the club charity account will

benefit.

Of course I had already begun to think of how last year's hunt of London Pubs - "Another Firkin Pub Quiz" could be put together into a talk. I am also hopeful that this year's quiz- with a subject



of trees could be put together. If you are lacking a copy of the

quiz sheet contact Alper or Peter, they will gladly take your £10 for a copy of the clues.

**Ann Galgon**

### **Our microfinance project.**

Since the club started this project with Lend with Care in 2013 we have contributed to loans to 65 entrepreneurs in various developing countries. 46 of the loans have been fully repaid and none of the loans have defaulted. Here are four of the people who have repaid their loans.

**Chreb Khleang** borrowed £770.75 and repaid it over 12 months. She and her husband grow rice paddy on a four hectares of farm land in Cambodia.



They grow only wet season rice as their rice paddy is far away from the irrigation system. She

used her loan to purchase a small plot (about one hectare) of land to grow more wet season rice to increase their sales in the marketplace.

**Elizabeth Irene Villa Suing** is 34 and a single mother with two young children. She lives in the town of Catamayo in Ecuador and works as a butcher in the local market mainly selling pork meat. She repaid her loan of £1417.18 over 18 months.



Elizabeth used the loan in order to buy more animals to raise because she knows the quality of

the animals when she has raised and fed them herself.

**The Horeb Group** is based in Chipata district of Eastern Zambia. They repaid their loan of



£2222.70 over 6 months.

The group has a membership of 16 women aged between 22 and 65.

They run small-

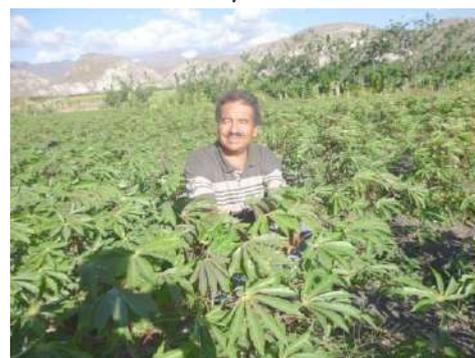
scale market and grocery stalls in order to meet the needs of their families and eradicate poverty. They



applied for this, their thirteenth loan, to use as top up capital. **Bridget Ngoma** is a member of this group. She is 29 years old single

and has one child. She runs a grocery stall by the roadside and she used her part of the loan to order books, cooking oil, sugar and salt for her stall. Bridget has received business management training and she has found setting savings goals useful in her business.

**Segundo Narciso Riofrío González** is a farmer from a rural community in Ecuador called 'San Francisco'



which is near the town of Catamayo. He repaid his loan of £696.20 over 9 months. Among the crops he grows

are cassava, sugar cane and maize. He requested the loan in order to purchase organic pesticides as well as pay for three agricultural labourers to assist him apply the pesticide and plough and prepare another part of his land.

**Komi Elissa** is a retailer and is 42 years old. He repaid his loan of £1420.55 over 12 months.



He and his wife live in the in Anié, in Togo. He started his business selling grocery

products in 1999. He obtains his supplies on the main market of Lomé, before selling them in his shop. Komi used half of the loan money to replenish his stock of general food products including boxes of milk, tomatoes, pasta and bags of gari (a processed form of cassava). The other half of the loan allowed him to diversify his business by buying detergents and soaps.

**Mark Scudamore**

### **Toys, music and Rotary publicity**



Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day on 29 July was something of a disappointment for the organisers; after a spell of several weeks of hot weather the clouds and rain appeared and so the huge crowds of previous years were seriously diminished. However, our Rotary stall selling children's toys, DVDs and CDs as well as vinyl records, was one of the bright spots and proved to be a great success. Les Rushbury was, as always, ever-present throughout as well as chief erector and taking-downer of the gazebo, which was definitely needed on a day such as this. **Margaret Gilroy**

Smith provided all the publicity material and engaged several punters in conversations about Rotary and possible membership. The stall was fully manned by a rota of club members and we made a net profit of £190 for the club's charity fund.

**Alper Ozturk**

### **A Snapshot of our speakers this spring**

We have a wonderful speaker secretary - Dick Redman - who manages to find a cross section of speakers throughout the year. I may also say not just this year but for a number of years. When booking speakers you never know how good they are going to be and if everyone, even anyone, will enjoy their presentation.

Whilst we have had many military-related presentations earlier this year our speakers took on a totally different War perspective. In February Dick had three speakers in succession, talking about the First and Second World Wars. My first thought was war overload, but how wrong could I be.

The first was David Ivison on the Royal Parks in WW1. It certainly opened my eyes to what had happened in all London's Royal Parks during that time. I knew a little of Richmond Park and Bushy Park. My grandmother had told tales in my infancy. Also, being a Mortlake girl I had seen some of the devastation inflicted on the men of the Star and Garter Home. But that really only touched the surface. The billeting, number of hospitals etc. was incredible. A fabulous talk.

Then came Doctor Helen Baker. Her topic covered the Belgians in East Twickenham.



Who knew that the Ice Rink where I had spent many a happy Saturday morning in the 60s had so many connections to Belgium? In my teens a group of my school friends and I tried an Ouija board in a very dark corner of the rink. The glass moved and scared us rigid. I now know that it was probably a Belgian worker in the munitions factory, the building on the site during WW1, trying to tell us his story. The extent of their community here was amazing. Also amazing was the way in which Rotarian Ken Smith could put some information into his own family history. It was wonderful to see a speaker give individual information to one of our own.

To cap this period of time we moved to WW2. Barbara Marlowe gave us a talk on growing up as part of a Jewish family in Warsaw during that conflict in the heart of the war. Her harrowing, funny, insightful talk, whilst covering a period of extreme hardship and fear, was inspirational, warm and of course had a good outcome.

At the end of this period I felt I had short changed Dick for putting them all together. But you should never judge a book by its cover, or in this case a trio of talks by their subjects. It was an informative, warm and interesting three weeks.

**Ann Galgon**

**Visit to Turner's House, Sandycombe Road, Twickenham on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Our thanks to Jane Scherer for providing a small party of members and partners, with a really excellent and informative guided tour of the

recently restored house, where arguably our most famous painter, lived for around 15 years (up to about 1825) with his father.



The house has been taken back to much as it would have looked in Turner's day and although quite small has some very attractive architectural features, which were very much influenced by Turner's friendship with Sir John Soane, the famous Victorian architect.

Jane is a volunteer guide at the house and has done an incredible amount of research work about both painter and the house and gave us a most interesting tour of both house and the attractive garden.



**Gordon Peel**

**Visit to Greys Court house and Gardens, Near Henley, on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Our thanks to Charlie and Ken and Charlie's friend, Hans, who led our party of around 22 on a really enjoyable walk around the lovely old

gardens, set in the beautiful Chilterns and with the gardens possessing many fine specimens. There have been buildings on the site since the



11<sup>th</sup> Century, originally inhabited by the de Grey family, hence the name. Sir Felix & Lady Elizabeth

Brunner bought the lovely old house in 1937 and set about carrying out an extensive renovation project. It is, unlike most NT properties, fairly small but has a very 'homely' feel about it.



Lady Elizabeth left the house on her death to the National Trust in around 2003.



She hoped that the house and gardens would provide 'a haven of peace and quietness for those in need'.  
**Gordon Peel**

**Rotary international Convention**

In June Yvonne and I attended the 2018 Convention in Toronto. 24,000 Rotarians and partners from all over the world joined in the

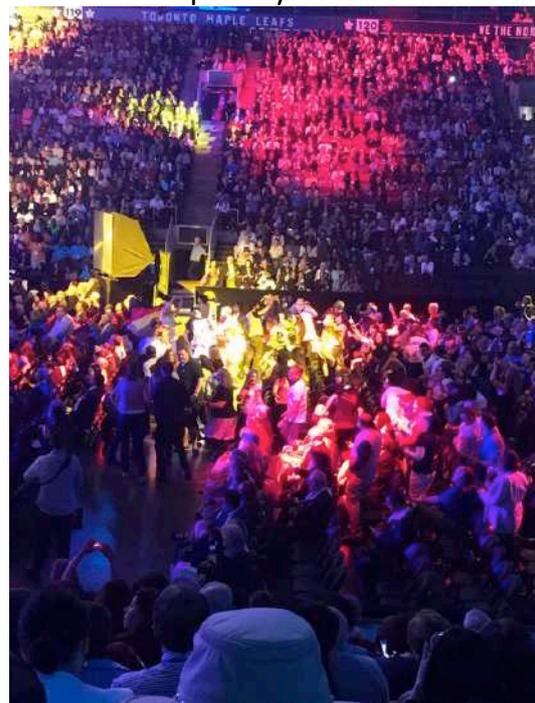
many sessions over the four days and many friendships were made or renewed. Princess Anne, president of Save the Children UK, made a special appearance during the opening ceremony.



Among the impressive list of speakers was Laura Bush, former first lady of the United States, wife of former President George W. Bush, who

spoke about her work as an advocate for literacy, health care, and human rights. Other speakers were Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand and former administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization and Caryl Stern, president and CEO of UNICEF USA.

The following photo is an attempt to show the huge crowds of Rotarians and friends who attended the plenary sessions.





The 110th annual Rotary International convention will be held from **1 to 5 June 2019 in Hamburg**, a beautiful port city with many attractions. This is one of the closest conventions to our shores and therefore also the cheapest to participate in and until the 15th of December 2018 you will still get a very much discounted rate - and many RIBI members will attend. Yvonne and I will be there and we would be pleased if other club members would join us for a really memorable few days. Please let me know if you are interested - many Rotarians from our District 1145 have already booked.

**Jan Doskar**

### **Heathfield Junior School trains future chess champions**

Throughout each year for the last 10 years our club members together with those from the Rotary Club of Twickenham have taught the finer arts of chess each week to pupils of Heathfield Junior School. The success of this school club is owed to Mrs Primi Pathal, a teacher at this school, who has championed chess to develop the potential of their pupils.

This year a bumper 63 pupils participated in the annual competition, which is open to all pupils of the school to compete for the Heathfield Chess Cup. The standard of pupils was very high and successive heats narrowed the final match down to two pupils. This year's winner was Mikail Acar (from year 5) who narrowly beat Gurbir Nagpal (from year 4) into second place after a memorable well-fought match.

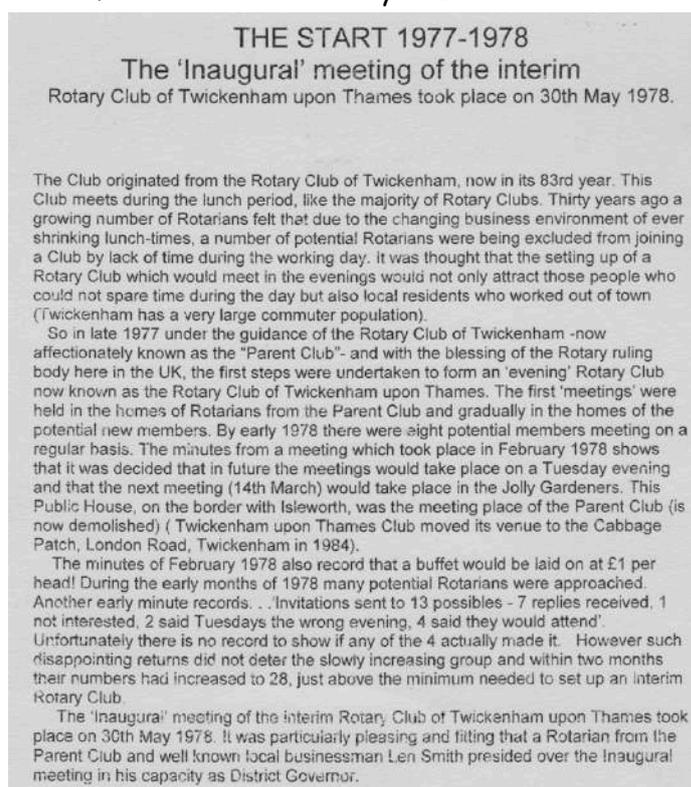
The award this year was given by President Ian at a school assembly.



**David Gregory**

### **Tales from the archives**

2018 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of the Rotary Club of Twickenham upon Thames. As I was looking through the club's archives I came across the following piece written at the time of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008.



**Ken Smith**