

**December  
2020**

# Spokes



Web site link: [www.chichesterrotaryclub.org](http://www.chichesterrotaryclub.org)

## Santa's magical moment

OUR CHRISTMAS collections at the Cross are wonderful. Each year I look forward to them and the role of Santa, letting my beard grow unimpeded from October onwards. John Parham competes with me and this year he has won hands down. He must have a secret fertiliser!

*By our President  
Mike Evans*

It is a magic moment when, as Santa, you catch a child's eye. Normally they are walking alongside a parent, quite often being dragged along by one hand. Their sagging boredom changes instantly, they snap upright and their face fills with joy. It is a magic moment, and I love it. Parents' normal response is to give the child coins to put into the bucket. Joy all round with the act of giving; everyone is uplifted.

The organisation needed to get the Christmas collections under way has been extraordinarily difficult this year, like trying to get approval from French fishermen. The resulting Cloth of Gold gazebo for Santa looks splendid, but needs to be erected and dismantled at every Rotary collection as well as being taken to and retrieved from storage at the Prebendal School. Bruce had volunteered for this relentless task even before most of us knew about the problem. Many thanks to him.

This Christmas will be the first that Jo and I have not spent with family, initially with our parents, then, when we had children, making our parents come to us and finally our grown children making us go to them and their children.

That last option led to a very peculiar Christmas in Australia. Mid-day temperatures up to 40C, a shopping mall broadcasting carols – In the Bleak Midwinter- is not the same when the dressed up Santa has sweat running down his face.

Christmas lunch was a fine ham, but cold and with a salad! A BBQ in the evening. And they don't broadcast the Queen's speech at 3.00, instead we went for a dip in the sea to cool off.

Sadly, we are unable to invite the widows to our Christmas Lunch and so they also each received one of our Rotary cards.

I am full of admiration for how many members have joined in with our Zoom meetings and for Stan for finding us interesting speakers who are prepared to perform on what, for them, is such a lifeless platform. Also for David, our Zoom Master, who has orchestrated events with such wonderful skill.

To date we have no Covid cases reported in our Club. Projected vaccination rates will see most of us immune by Easter.

I am looking forward to the end of April when we may all be meeting in person. Until then, look after yourselves, so we can help others.

*Over its 100 years this Club has often shown resilience to survive and give service. In that tradition, lets close off this year in good spirits and enjoy a happy Christmas, some in our own families, but all in the family of Rotary.*



# Christmas collectors at the Cross 'unmasked'



*Top Left:*  
David Rigglesford  
and Richard  
Hancock



*Top Right:*  
Rachel and Dick  
Hammond



*Centre:*  
Lynne Brechin and  
Richard Plowman



*Bottom Left:*  
Shirley and John  
Parham

## Further collections cancelled

FOLLOWING ADVICE from our Club H&S officer, the remaining collections at the Cross for Tuesday, 22nd and Christmas Eve have been cancelled due to an increase in Covid-19 variant transmission rates.

On behalf of the Club our Secretary, Dick Hammond, commented: "I would like to thank all those who have been organising and supporting the collections, and I would especially like to congratulate Doug Price, Bruce Brechin and John Parham for their hard work and daily commitment to keep the show on the road."

"Their disappointment must be countered by the excellent results from the collections so far and the warm, welcoming reactions of the Chichester public to the Rotary presence in our City at this difficult time."

# Spokes and Holley

AS I WRITE THIS column it has got me thinking of just how Christmas has changed for me over the years.

Those during WW2 are a hazy but happy memory, but from 1955 onwards I can remember many of them.

Remembered especially is Christmas 1956, and that was because I was doing my National Service in the Army and became a victim of 'Asian Flu' which was rushing across the world at that time.

Most others were of the normal traditional nature spent with family and friends. In recent years though with the coming of the computer age it would seem that nobody plays party games any more.

They seem to be staring at a screen for much of the day. Now we have ZOOM and I have to admit that I like it.

After a quick educational session to find out how it works, from my nine-year-old grandson who is an expert in such matters, I was able to arrange a Zoom meeting with all 15 members of our family, all of which are in various stages of 'Lockdown'.

Families in this country no longer seem to live in their original location and like ours are disbursed far and wide.

So during this coming 'Lockdown Christmas' I wish you all a Happy and Healthy time, and if you too are having a Family Zoom, remember the host has the ability to mute or expel any member who is too rowdy.

## **CLUB PROGRAMME 2021**

**(ZOOM MEETINGS START  
AT 2.00PM)**

**Monday 4th January  
Club Council**

**Tuesday 5th January  
Speaker: James Lovell,  
'The Work of Dementia Support,  
Tangmere'**

**Tuesday, 12th January  
Business Meeting**

**Tuesday, 19th January  
Fellowship Meeting**

**Tuesday, 26th January  
Speaker: Valerie Box  
"The Work of Parkinson's UK"**

**Monday, 1st February  
Club Council**

**Tuesday, 2nd February  
Fellowship Meeting**

**Tuesday 9th February  
Business Meeting**

**Tuesday, 16th February  
Speaker: Dr Helen Fry,  
'Bugging the Nazis in WWII'**

**Tuesday, 23rd February  
Fellowship Meeting**

**Monday, 1st March  
Club Council**

**Tuesday, March 2nd  
Speaker: Joanne Kondabeka  
CEO, Chichester Foodbank**

# Talk from Geoff Saunders, author and adventurer

GEOFF SAUNDERS (pictured), author and adventurer, Zoomed in as our guest speaker on Tuesday, 10th November.

His talk centred on *Reports From Coastal Stations*, and is the title of his recently published book. His talk followed his journey to all those far-flung stations around our coast, and his reasons for doing so, are outlined below:

MANY OF US have awoken early or late to hear the soft tones of the BBC delivery of the Shipping Forecast, warnings of gales later, good becoming moderate. And then: 'Weather Reports from Coastal Stations', observations of actual weather from around the fringes of our islands, names familiar yet remote. How many people go on to wonder about the coastal stations themselves, from which the weather reports emanate?

Are these wild and weather-battered lighthouses or coastal guard stations, once warmed against the winter gales by smoky coal fires but now deserted? Or do people still actually gather the data, read barometers and rain gauges before preparing their stylised reports for transmission?

That was the genesis of my idea, to visit each of these far-flung coastal stations, find out what is there and then write my own report.

I daydreamed often of what it would be like, of how to accomplish a journey to each of these locations, of whether it should be in winter or summer, or in my madder moments, both. Perhaps I could visit them all on a single journey around the extremities of the islands.

Clockwise, starting with Tiree, would be the direction in which they are read, so perhaps that was the way to go. That would certainly be fun, and the journey around the extremes would be a real challenge too.

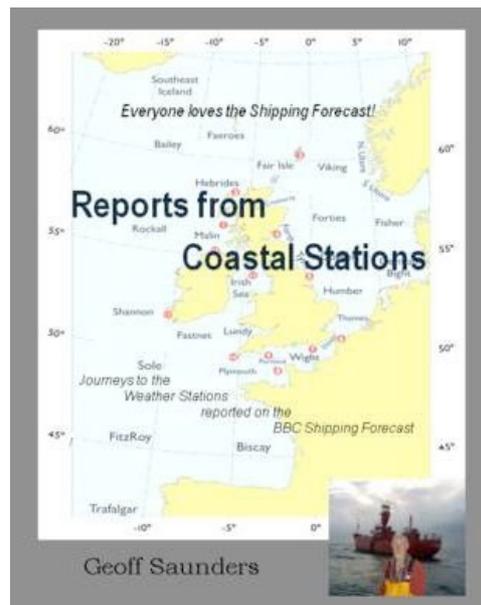
But then reality struck home. If I waited until I had the time to do this, it would never happen. Little did I realise just how difficult it would be, nor how long it would take, to visit them all irrespective of the season. Nor did I realise how much fun I would have

Somehow there were always other things that came first. Not insignificant things either. I have been very lucky in my travels, both for work and pleasure. Indeed, sometimes when faced with the question on an immigration form, 'Business or Pleasure'? I have been hard pressed to decide.

There is never an option that says: "It's a pleasure doing business here." My family have always given me great support for those travels, sometimes joining me, and sometimes just wishing me well as I set sail for some distant horizon. Their support would be needed again if I were to undertake these rather curious journeys nearer to home.

Hearing the BBC Shipping Forecast over many years it can become hypnotic. But a forecast is just that, possible future weather. To make a forecast you need reliable observations, from many places.

Robert Fitzroy was the first to establish a series of Coastal Observation Weather Stations, and gather the information to produce the first weather forecasts. He actually coined the term 'Weather Forecast'. The BBC still reports these, though not as frequently as it did. Now you need to be up late or early to catch the Weather Reports from Coastal Stations.



Born in Dublin, Geoff graduated from Trinity College and began a life of travel. Work took him to all the continents of the world, and across most of its oceans. In his sixth decade he indulged a long held dream to join the crew of a square-rigged ship sailing the Pacific.

Over the years since he has had many adventures, including sailing to Antarctica and other places besides.

Though now retired, Geoff's recent work involved training project groups in science and engineering businesses. Along the way he found time for his own projects; raising a daughter and writing a book to name but two.

The book: *Reports from Coastal Stations*, came about from an almost casual observation about the BBC Shipping Forecast, and led to a Radio 4 interview on *Excess Baggage*.

# Great excitement at Abbeyfields, Chichester

*Ian Peterkin explains*

THERE WAS GREAT excitement among the residents of Abbeyfield, Chichester, the youngest being well into their 80s, when Jackie Woollett, Abbeyfields's House Manager in Chichester, explained to them all that she was amazed to find she had been awarded a BEM, for services to care home residents in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Which should have read 'single-handedly looked after all the residents needs throughout Lockdown'.

The two sheltered housing properties depend upon the live-in house managers and their deputies and when Covid-19 struck earlier this year and unfortunately the Deputy House Manager at the largest property was recuperating from an operation, the general manager debated what could be done to relieve Jackie from time to time.

All domestic staff would normally help with cleaning, laundry and general support had been sent home on full pay to reduce footfall and protect residents.

Bringing in an Agency staff member on a weekly basis was discussed though this would bring in new footfall, not a favourite idea of hers.

Jackie decided on a solution that she felt would not leave her residents in the hands of strangers and she knew a friend who would

look after her beloved dog 'Kye' so she would simply move into Oakshade until further notice.

For several months thereafter Jackie planned and shopped on line for supplies, cooked, cleared, cleaned, did laundry, liaised with residents' families, devised activities to break the boredom and even took on some hairdressing for residents.

An amazing feat and so well deserving of her British Empire Medal

## *A Christmas message from Nigel Proctor*

JOHN PARHAM informed *Spokes* that he has been in contact with Janice Walters, Nigel Proctor's sister, enquiring after Nigel at his Westampnet Care Home

He is pleased to report that Janice is hoping that visiting might resume in the not to distant future and thanked John and many others for their kindness to Nigel.

Janice went on to say that Nigel sends his best wishes and greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all members of our Club.

John and Shirley visited Nigel on Monday, 21st December and communicated through the window of his room which enabled them to personally pass on best wishes to him from all at our Club.

## District Governor makes virtual visit

OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR, Nick Drake (pictured right), paid an arranged visit to the Club on Tuesday, 24th November. Nick, who has just recently recovered from Covid-19, gave us all an uplifting talk about the constraints that Rotary finds itself in and the many innovative ideas that District Clubs have managed to make during the pandemic.



# Merry Christmas

*and a Happy New Year  
to you all*

*With special thanks and best wishes to all  
those who sent in articles and pictures  
during the year, your contributions have  
been truly immense.*

**Spokes**  
*will be back in  
January, 2021*



## **200 Club monthly draw results**

*The results of the DECEMBER 200 Club draw  
are as follows:*

**First prize £80:** John Parham Syndicate

**Second Prize £50:** Eddie and Sue Saunders

**Third Prize £32:** Barbara and Jimmy Castle

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRIZE:**

Dinner at the Horse and Groom,  
West Ashling: Rachel Hammond

*Could winners please provide Richard  
Hancock with their Sort code and bank  
account details for payment of winnings.*

A big thank you to all those participating  
in our Fundraising initiative.