



# The Guildford District ECH



**Magazine of the Rotary Club of Guildford District**

[www.guildforddistrictrotary.org.uk](http://www.guildforddistrictrotary.org.uk)

**Issue No 16/17/2 - Autumn 2016 - President Pauline Herring**



**Service Above Self**

**Rotary**



**ROTARY  
SERVING  
HUMANITY**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I really don't know where the past three months have gone, the summer has disappeared and we are now facing the winter months. Maybe it is something about getting older that time seems to go quicker! It has been a busy time for me personally, but quieter for the club. Now however we are just about to go into a very busy period as people return from their summer holidays.

On 3rd August we were able to have the privilege of Geoff Rouse attending (what was sadly to be his last meeting), with his family when he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for the considerable contribution he had made to Rotary and his local community. Unfortunately despite a very brave battle Geoff has passed away and many Rotarians attended his beautiful memorial service. He will be greatly missed by Lynda, his children and of course us, his fellow Rotarians.

On a much happier note, at the same meeting we celebrated Don Flack's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with him and Anne at the golf club and it was lovely to see many of our Honorary Members there who were able to reminisce on past times with each other.

This weekend sees the second year of the Bikeathon, which looks to be even better and more popular than last year. This event will hopefully raise a good amount of money to give to the local charity of the Topic of Cancer with many Rotarians involved. This type of event certainly helps to raise our profile in the local community.

Next weekend sees many of us attending the annual District Conference in Eastbourne, another interesting and informative event, we will report back!

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October there is another annual event taking place, the Fish and Chip Quiz Night, a social evening (plus the benefit of raising a little money), a really fun evening with a chance to meet other local people and of course the most delicious fish and chips. In November many of us will go to St. Peter's school to undertake practice interviews with the older students, a really worthwhile activity which is really appreciated by the school and enjoyed by the participating Rotarians.

Christmas will be here before we know it and I hope many of you will be able to come to the Christmas party on the evening of the 19th December at RHS Wisley.

The Boxing Night Committee meetings are taking place and please keep this evening in mind, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. We really need people to book tables, so what businesses can you think of that might think this would be a good night out to take business colleagues, friends etc? Also please can everyone give a thought as to what unusual items we could Auction on the night.

As promised the questionnaire went out, thank you so much for the replies. Don is now busy analysing the returns, I am so grateful to him for undertaking this onerous task and we will of course report back to you as soon as we can.

Thanks everyone for all your support and I look forward to the coming few months up to Christmas.

*Best wishes – Pauline*

## FROM THE CENTRE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



Where are we in the fight to eradicate polio? What's left to do? And why does it cost so much? Rotary's World Polio Day event on 24 October will answer these questions and more. Health officials from our

partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative will join Rotary leaders and special guests at the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, to give a status update on the eradication campaign.

The wild poliovirus has caused fewer new cases of the disease so far this year than this time last year, but recent setbacks in Nigeria, which was re-classified as polio-endemic in September 2016, underscore the need for vigilance.

## R.I.B.I



Aquabox the water survival charity managed and run by the Rotary Club of Wirksworth has received the Queen's Award

for Voluntary Service, the United Kingdom's highest award for voluntary groups. The charity provides boxes of essential humanitarian aid together with a special filter to guarantee potable drinking water to people in crisis-hit areas. It recently sent 4,500 boxes to Turkey and the Lebanon to aid Syrian refugees and almost 2,000 have been shipped to earthquake-hit Nepal. Since the charity was formed in 1992 more than 105,000 boxes have been sent across the world.

## DISTRICT 1145



District 1145 Conference.– 14th to 16th October

Speakers who have been confirmed to date are:-  
**Maddy Boakes** ([Action on Hearing Loss](#)); **Chris Connors** ([CoCo's Foundation](#)); **Rtn Tom Yendall** ([Mouth and Foot Painting and Flat Spaces](#)); **Rtn Susanne Rae** ([World's Greatest Meal](#)); **Nicholas Owens** ([The Childrens Trust](#)); **Rtn Maureen Mwagale** ([Kaana](#)); **Rtn Richard Brown**; **RC of Brighton Soiree** ([Dental/Literacy Project, Zanzibar](#)).

**The programme starts at 2.10pm on Friday and ends at 5.30pm; Saturday 9.30 to 1.10pm; Sunday 9.45 to 1pm. There will be a short Sunday morning service at 9.20am.**



## HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY DON

The original "Gang of Four" who met in April 1975 to discuss the founding of a second Rotary Club in Guildford were to become the first President Sam Bannister, Senior Vice President Don Flack, Junior Vice President Henry Carew and Secretary Peter Longhurst. Sadly Sam and Henry have passed away and Peter was not well enough to attend on Wednesday 3rd August when over 65 members and guests gathered over lunch to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the 4<sup>th</sup> member, Don Flack. He is our first active member to reach such a landmark.

Over the past 41 years Don has been the cornerstone of this Club; his great commonsense and knowledge of all things Rotary has been of immense help to the presidents who have come after him. He is always available with sensible well balanced advice. He remains incredibly active, and not only in Rotary. He is a leading light with the Masons, still plays a mean game of snooker, swims regularly, plays golf to a good standard and has a great vegetable patch! Many have thought that he can't possibly be coming up to 90 - he is far too healthy!

To reach this milestone he has to have strong support and nobody could be more supportive than his wife Anne; recognised by the attendees giving a Anne a rousing round of applause. Don was also presented with a long service certificate and he responded to President Pauline's address by giving a humorous speech which included some amazing statistics of what things costs in 1926! It was a lovely occasion enjoyed by all, including 7 honorary members and 3 widows, in addition to regular active members of the Club.



## JIM'S SON WINS THE BANNISTER CUP



John Simmons, Chris Connelly, Barry, Jim

A glorious day heralded our Annual Golf Competition on the 14th September 2016 played over 18 holes at Guildford Golf Club. This was an improvement over our 2015 competition for the Sam Bannister Trophy which was washed out by torrential rain. Unfortunately this year, due to holidays and prior commitments, we were only able to muster 7 players and this included 3 "guests". For the first time we were unable to play a team competition and the scores reflected individual performances. Some good golf was played ( one had to look fairly

hard to spot it ! ) but Geoff Wilson managed a birdie 3 on the 15th hole and returned a score of 30 Stableford points to take the runners up place but the winner with a total of 35 points was guest Chris Connelly - the son of you know whom. Like any good civil servant Jim knew how to live in reflected glory!

It was a pleasure to welcome, once again, Alex Pollard, keeping up the family connection with our Rotary Club, and also to welcome John Simmons , the guest of Barry Gay. A good day was enjoyed by all and we look to continue this Annual event but only if we have more commitment from our Rotary members.



Alex Pollard, Noel, Geoff

*Noel*

## SPEAKERS CORNER



Guildford Rotarian **Chris Blow** is a retired architect who was heavily involved with the design and construction of Stansted Airport. Not only did he tell us about that but by using photos of many and varied airports from around the world he was able to offer a different perspective on the Heathrow versus Gatwick (or nothing at all!) debate in respect of where we should put the extra runway. Most of us had not the slightest knowledge of what goes into the design of an airport and Chris's clear explanation means that we now have a much clearer view. However our individual opinions on what is the right course of action for London have probably not changed!



Our own **Richard Honey** spoke to the breakfast group about his journey as a football referee. Having qualified in 2002, Richard spoke about the changes implemented by the FA to aid the learning of new referees – over 80% of which are under the age of 25 – from a classroom based course to practical courses. Richard also spoke about his local involvement with the Aldershot Referees' Association and the time he spends in mentoring, tutoring and developing the next generation of referees to become like Howard Webb. This helps to counter one of the biggest challenges to the first year of a young referee's journey – the chance that they may not referee again. It plays such a crucial part in the progression of young referees in the area and provides young people with important life skills (such as communication, control and man-management) and the ability to achieve their potential.



**Sam Hutchinson** heads up Project Aspire for Guildford Borough Council. The Council is determined to play its part in improving the health and well-being of Guildford's residents and to reduce social inequality. Project Aspire is about providing leadership, encouragement and support to all communities to build upon the talents and energy that we see every day to build true communities where neighbours can rely on one another. They seek to empower all communities to take an active role in the decisions that affect their lives. The project believes that every person matters - this fundamentally underpins all they do. They are committed with their partners, one of which is Rotary, to improving the lives of the residents.



Our own **Robin Freeman** looks after Rotary Foundation for the Club and one of the objectives coming out of the recent Visioning exercise was to understand more about what is Rotary's own charity. Robin therefore presented both to the Breakfast and to the lunch groups an excellent video explaining what Foundation is all about and what it has achieved. Robin also explained how it came about and how by donating we have helped virtually to eradicate Polio throughout the world and can all benefit those less fortunate by making regular monthly payments or leaving funds in our wills.



**Vicky Alexander** came to talk to her fellow Rotarians not about Rugby (of which she is an established coach) but about the advancement of social media and how it could help with raising our profile in the local community, explaining the many ways that we can use our phones and computers. Many of us had our eyes opened to the huge variety of social media platforms and realised how the world of communication is changing.



**Nick Wyschna** spoke to the meeting about his early life (he grew up in Guildford) and how he came to start the Guildford Fringe Festival which was set up in 2013 and is Guildford's open access multi-arts festival which runs every July. Based on the other 'Fringe' events around the UK, at Guildford Fringe Festival you get theatre, comedy, poetry, music, visual arts, kids events, workshops, talks and lots more! Nick had been a singer/ actor in many West End musicals and delighted the meeting with an ad hoc 'a cappella' rendition at the end of his talk.

## HOW SMART ARE YOU?

**Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?**



## Geoff Rouse Paul Harris Fellow

It is with great sadness that we heard that, after a long illness borne with great courage and fortitude, Geoff passed away on the morning of Thursday 15th September. His funeral on the 30th was attended by some 200 family and friends in a packed church..



Geoff joined the club in the Rotary year 1985/6 when he took over from Henry Carew at Barclays Bank; indeed rumour has it that Henry gave him no choice but to join! Over the years Geoff had done virtually every job in Rotary except Secretary. He was a leading light with the Boxing Night for many years, when he used his powers to persuade not only the girls from Barclays but also his own daughters to risk life and limb selling raffle tickets to the punters! He was President in 2001/2 and since then has been the driving force behind our Charity Walk, previously known as the Surrey Ad Walk. Geoff was awarded a fully justified Paul Harris Fellowship on the 3rd August in the company of his son and daughters (see above photo). He was extremely well liked and respected and here are a few thoughts from some of his friends and fellow Rotarians.

**Geoff was a wonderful, kind, interesting man and I will always remember the conversations we had in his lounge when I visited him. Of course his work and organisation of the 'Surrey Ad Walk' will always be legendary and we will all miss (but remember) him, every spring! - Pauline Herring**

**Very sad news. Geoff was a really hard working Rotarian and I am so pleased he was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship as a mark of our appreciation of his work as a Rotarian. He will be sorely missed. - Bill White**

**A great loss to all who knew him. A good man and a great Rotarian. Just the sort of person who made Rotary what it is. In sadness - Paul Marsh**

**A fantastic Rotarian who fully deserved his recent Paul Harris Award. He will be sadly missed - particularly his committee reports - Peter Ricketts**

**June and I are so sad to hear this news. A good friend to us all. He will be greatly missed - Ron Stock**

**Geoff was a great friend and mentor for me from when I joined 10 years ago. We always sat on the same committees and shared many good times - My young retriever also attended summer meetings in his garden digging holes while the meetings progressed. I also remember being rescued a mile down the road having put petrol in my diesel Golf after one such evening. His ticket selling for the Guildbury shows was second to none and he also instigated many successful events for Rotary held at his Cricket Club to say nothing of running our very successful annual charity walk. A kind, thoughtful, wonderful Rotarian and great family man. I will miss him hugely. - Jane Hindley**

Many years ago Judy and I had a holiday in Toronto and did some shopping in the Eaton Centre where I found a shop called The Bay. I found the best under garments ever made by Tommy Hilfiger (unable to buy here). A few weeks later at Rotary lunch I sat next to Geoff who mentioned he too was to visit Toronto. I took the bull by the horns and asked Geoff very quietly if he could visit The Bay and buy me 3 more pairs. On his return I asked if he'd had any luck to which he replied "see you later" But when the President asked if there had been any visits to other clubs or if there were any banners Geoff stood up and said about his visit to Toronto he said he had no banners but instead waved my underpants in the air. So embarrassing. I vowed one day I'd get my own back, but how could I top that. - Colin Sparrow

I first met Geoff over 20 years ago when we were doing similar jobs in Guildford, he for Barclays and me for Lloyds. We got on really well and I was delighted when, several years later, on joining Rotary I found that he was an established member of the Club. I was so pleased later on to take over from him as President; a hard act to follow! A kind man of great integrity, extremely hard working and someone who would help anyone. A true example of Service above Self. So sad. - Don Raffin



**Geoff was an always reliable member of a Committee. He came to meetings prepared, work done, work to be done; he achieved results. - Chris Parker**

**He will be greatly missed as a friend and a fellow Rotarian - Geoff Wilson**



## FISH & CHIPS SUPPER & QUIZ



Our third popular Fish & Chips Supper & Quiz takes place at Bramley Village Hall on Friday 21st October. The price remains the same at £12.50 per head, as does the format; starting at 7.00 pm with drinks and a chat at the bar followed by delicious fish and chips at 8.00 and then a new pictorial quiz set again by Don Raffin. The evening is targeted to finish at 10.00.

Although mainly a social event any surplus will go to Rotary charities including Polio Plus as Rotary is so near to eliminating polio throughout the world.

Tickets to the evening are available from Jane Hindley so please make up a table/team and get your tickets as soon as possible.

## BIKEATHON RETURNS

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual GDRC Static Bike Challenge took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October at Turnfit Studio, Bridge Street, Guildford in aid of local charity Topic of Cancer. From 8am to 7pm, 22 teams of 7 people completed an hour spinning class covering a total of 2125.7 miles.*

*The distance cycled by each team was collated & our own team, Rotary Riders, performed well but couldn't quite compete with the winners, Blackheath Riders, who completed an impressive 119.5km.*

*Topic of Cancer brought a display detailing their work and Chair Nigel Lewis-Baker and his able assistant Rosemary Gorman were on hand to talk about their work and tell everyone what happens to money raised.*

*Yoga and TRX were displayed in another studio and there was a Concept II (rowing machine) challenge which Pauline Herring & Peter Ricketts particularly enjoyed (is that the right word?).*

*Turnfit staff provided refreshments & homemade cakes for donations and Kevin Mack and his team from Rushmoor Rotary provided much needed bacon rolls and burgers in the car park.*

*Gilly Botte discussed the event on Friday evening's Drivetime on BBC Radio Surrey & having clearly made an impression, she was invited back to discuss how it had gone on Monday evening's show.*

*With money still coming in we are well on our way to achieving our £3000.00 target.*

*With many thanks to Turnfit, Andy Day, David Bingle, their team and indeed all who worked so hard to make it a success.*



Our new member Andrea and the team from Ericsson



Our Rotary team, the Rotary Riders

## INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

### TANZANIA GLOBAL GRANT

I am very pleased to report that our Global Grant has been authorised by our own District and the necessary officers in Tanzania. It is now with Rotary International for official Authorisation. The total value of the Grant is US \$53,566. Participating Rotary Clubs are ourselves, Moshi (Tanzania) who raised funds through various activities Canmore (Alberta, Canada) and Freiburg (Germany) making it a multi - national project.

This Global Grant seeks to offer help to over 209 disadvantaged youths. These are unemployed youths who have no means of getting out of the rut of unemployment and are presently wandering around aimlessly, taking drugs, sniffing petrol etc. It will provide these adolescents with knowledge, competence and the tools to achieve a life of self reliance on their own , so as to prevent them from being forced into illegal activities to survive. The youth unemployment is often described as a “Time Bomb” in Tanzania with 53.3% of the youth unemployed and only 40,000 jobs available for 700,000 graduates.

As mentioned this project is planned to help 209 youths start up in their own businesses and become self reliant. They will consist of 78 tailors, 60 hairdressers, 6 street vendors, 15 internet cafes, 12 in livestock, 12 cooks and 26 jewellery makers.

It is realised that these youngsters are either engaged legally by this work or they will organise themselves into gangs to earn money illegally from the communities they live in. It was this realisation by members of the Rotary Club of Moshi that lead to the inception of this project whose members are fully involved and determined to help the youth in their area to have a more useful life.

### SYRIAN FAMILIES

We had a good response to our request for toys and clothes for the Syrian refugees. Two families have already collected items and were very grateful. We expect a further visit from two more families at the end of October.

Please continue to collect items, as those items not required will be distributed to under privileged families in the Guildford area (just in time for Christmas).

*Peter Ricketts*

Chairman - International Committee



### THE BOXING NIGHT NEEDS YOU!

On Friday 24th February 2017 we will be holding our 40th (yes 40th!) consecutive Charity Boxing Night.

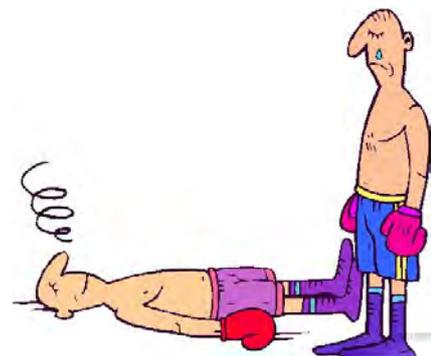
Although the main format will remain the same as for the previous years, with an excellent meal followed by bouts of Boxing arranged by Guildford City Amateur Boxing Club, we will be making it extra special.

For it to be a success however we desperately need some of those “money can’t buy” auction items plus some lovely raffle prizes.

Also we are looking for people to take tables on the evening, hopefully those that are able and willing to join in with the auction and spend well!

If you know of any suitable contacts who can provide items or who might be interested in coming please let Sandra Steer or any of her committee know.

### WE REALLY DO NEED YOU!



## MOCK INTERVIEWS



On Friday 11th November we will be attending St Peter's School for the 7th consecutive year to help give mock interviews to the whole of their year 11 students, around 180.

For those Rotarians who take part it proves to be a most enjoyable and rewarding experience. You meet some excellent and impressive young people and help them in their journey towards further education/employment.

If you have not put your name down to help don't worry there is always room for more volunteers. Please contact Ruth Allen.

You will find it a most worthwhile exercise which is much appreciated by the school, the parents and the students alike.

## THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

October - Welcomers: Ron Stock, Jonathan Bickerdike

5	W	Rob Mitchell - Surrey Sports Park
8	Sa	Bikeathon
11	Tu	Council Meeting
12	W	Seamus Gains - Surrey Search & Rescue
13	Th	Breakfast Meeting - Louise Punter - Surrey Chamber
14/16	F/Su	District Conference @ Eastbourne
19	W	No Lunch Meeting
21	F	Fish & Chips Supper
26	W	Business Meeting
29	Sa	District Council Meeting in Reigate

November - Welcomers: Noel Sutcliffe, Tony Jenkins

2	W	Steve Fletcher - "Guns"
8	Tu	Council Meeting
9	W	Sarah Cathcart - RHS Wisley
10	Th	Breakfast Meeting
11	F	Mock Interviews @ St Peter's School
16	W	Business meeting
23	W	Sarah Carvalho - "It's a Penalty"
30	W	Speaker TBA

December - Welcomers: Bill White, Peter Ricketts

7	W	Speaker TBA
8	Th	Breakfast Meeting
13	Tu	Council Meeting
14	W	Speaker TBA
19	M	Christmas Party @ RHS Wisley
21	W	Christmas Lunch/Business Meeting/SGM
28	W	No Meeting

## ANSWER TO HOW SMART ARE YOU?

**Mt. Everest. It just wasn't discovered yet.**

## AND FINALLY

### CONFUCIUS He Say...

Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.

Lady who goes camping with man must beware of future intent

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left.

Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room.

## The Guildford District Echo

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Guildford District  
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Winner of RIBI Club Bulletin of the year 2010-11



Editor: Don Raffin - Published four times a year

## HAPPY Birthday

October	3	William Rollin
	7	Brian Ireland
	19	Peter O'Keefe
	23	Heather Rogers
	25	Don Raffin
November	16	Chris Parker
December	2	Shahid Azeem
	6	Ron Stock
	6	Noel Sutcliffe
	30	Jane Hindley