



Meon Tidings No. 80 November 2017

Previous meetings

4th October.

Speaker was Rtn. David Warwick from R.C. Chichester Harbour Breakfast club.

David was born and brought up in Wickham and is a member of the Warwick family who run a very successful hardware and building supply company. However he has not been involved with this business. He does not live in Wickham and now resides in Chichester.

I found his talk rather difficult to follow but basically it appeared to be an account how he wrote his only novel incorporating various odd characters from Wickham in his childhood. These seemed to be named after the 6 bells in the tower of St. Nicholas Church. He also wrote reports for several local newspapers at a 1d per line when younger as he enjoyed writing.

His talk also wandered into some aspects of life in Wickham during W.W.2 when he mentioned the use of Chaff by Nazi aircraft to confuse British radar. Also about a top secret auxiliary army of men who were prepared to offer resistance to enemy invasion or occupation. There was no H.Q. underground bunker in Wickham but one in the Botley area!

Geoff Smith hosted and gave a vote of thanks.

18th October.

Speaker was Stephen Fisher who spoke extremely fluently without a note on "Spitfires of the Sea". These were quite a large fleet of fast small motor boats armed with guns and torpedoes that patrolled the English Channel and southern North Sea areas during the First World War. These were very effective in preventing the German fleet from using these areas. They were built by a few famous local yacht builders in our local area, although some parts were made in the U.S.A. and shipped to Canada for assembly. This was to circumvent the rules of neutrality as the U.S.A. did not enter the war until 1917.

This type of small war ships were also used in the second world war with equal effect. These were larger, and had a crew of up to 30 men. Some could make 50 knots and some were used as air sea rescue craft. All were built locally but Camper

and Nicholson's of Gosport were the best. However the ball bearings used in the engines were made in Sweden then a neutral country and imported either by aircraft or fast small specially adapted small ships .Several of the little ships have survived as house boats in local ports but air sea rescue boat 102 can still be seen restored at sea locally. The technical skills learnt from the construction of these ships were used by water speed record attempters including Campbell father and son. John Tonkin hosted and gave the vote of thanks.

20th

Call My Bluff Evening

Organised by Fareham and Fareham Meon clubs a very enjoyable evening was attended by 122 members and friends in the Southwick Memorial Hall. The tapas food was provided by Rotarian Antonio from his West Street restaurant. And the entertainment was based on a B.B.C. television programme from several years ago.

Three panellists tried to bamboozle the audience by challenging them to guess the definition of little known words such as Gaberlunzie, Absquatulate and Deipnosophist. (My spell checker only found the second word! Ignorant lot at Microsoft). The panel of "Celebrities" were Lyndon Palmer who wrote the script, Graham Lawrence and John Landaw. Duncan Colin-Jones was the M.C.

The programme was preceded by a short talk by your editor about the origins of Rotary and its Foundation. The evening raised £1,460 for Foundation Charities to be divided between the two clubs.



Duncan introduces the panel Lyndon, Graham and John



Some of the guests enjoying the Spanish Tapas

Future meetings and events

November

1st. Tomato, mozzarella basil salad; Lasagne with garlic bread

Speaker-Dr Donal Collins-Subject "Challenges facing G.P.s in 2017"- Host Peter Beasley.

Ladies meet at Jenny Billings Home

8th. Chicken, leek & mushroom pie with sauté potatoes & peas

6pm. Club Council meeting followed at 7pm by business meeting

15th. Sugar baked gammon with parsley sauce, roast potatoes & vegetables.

Speaker- Anthony Hasan- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance-Host James Fullarton.

17th. Senior Citizens Fair at Fareham College 10 30am until 1pm

22nd. Deep fried cod with chips, peas & tartare sauce

29th. Gourmet Dinner at Wheel House 7 for 7.30pm

Further ahead.

20th December Christmas Dinner at New Place Wickham at 7pm for 7.30pm. Black Tie. Book with Harvey Griffiths

26th January Snowwhite & The 7 Dwarfs at Stubbington Community Centre. Book with Paul Jones

Basics Bank Christmas Collection

Peter Pollard is hoping that during the next few weeks all members will donate as much as possible to help those in need in Fareham. Please ensure that any food stuffs are in date!

Polio Eradication News.

The latest returns show that there were a total of only 12 cases this year so far. About this time last year there had been 49 cases.

A further 5,000 crocus corms were planted on 10th October to extend the existing bed by the Cams Mill Pub. A new larger sign will be erected shortly?????

Nine Pin Bowling

Our team triumphed over the Hamble Valley team at the Crofton Pub. on 17th October. Meon took the lead from the first round and maintained this until the last bowl had been delivered. We were helped, of course, by one of the opposition managing to miss all nine pins on his last throw. Quite an achievement!

Apart from the sport it was a very happy evening with excellent fellowship and sportsmanship with a tasty supper.

Shelter Box News

Thanks to the spontaneous generosity of members and friends the club were able to purchase a total of four boxes in response to the recent hurricanes. We also bought one aqua box. A really super effort by all.

October 100 Club Lottery Winners

£100 A. Cann £50 Brian Ray £40 Sue Carpenter

A nice letter from a non-Rotarian winner was recently received by Richard Gardner.

We recently received the following letter from a non-Rotarian member.

Dear Richard

What a lovely surprise on our return from Cornwall, to find your cheque from 100 club. Thank you so much for sending it to me. We are happy to continue supporting you and appreciate all the brilliant work and fund raising Rotary does.

Many thanks and best wishes from David and Irene Gittings. (Lymington)

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As you will see I am on the air again having had a new hard drive fitted to my Lap Top at a cost of £95 . So sorry about the delay.