



Meon Tidings No. 74 May 2017

Web site. farehammeon.rotaryweb.org

Previous meetings and events.

5th April. Vice-Admiral Dick Melly –Falklands Conflict- A personal experience.

Dick joined the Royal Navy aged 17 and at the age of 28 was Lieutenant on aircraft carrier Hermes as Damage Control Engineer. The invasion by the Argentines began on April 2 1982. The task force to recapture the Falkland Islands was put together in a remarkably short time. Some of the preparations included fitting Hermes with a false deck to cope with tons of extra stores. Her normal displacement was 23,000 tons but sailed with an extra 5,000 tons. She was one of 127 ships: 43 Royal Navy including aircraft carriers Hermes and Illustrious, with escorting destroyers; 22 Royal Fleet Auxiliary and 62 Merchant Ships. All the M.O.D vessels had broad black stripes painted on their sides to make them more distinguishably from Argentine ships. First stop was Ascension Island where they stayed for three days to enable extra stores to be loaded.

All the large fleet were shadowed on their way by Russian ships and aircraft. A total of 27,000 personnel took part. Earlier the R.A.F. undertook 8,000 mile flights to bomb Argentine positions and especially the airfield. Hermes had a complement of 11 R.A.F Harriers, 16 Sea Harriers and 20 helicopters. She was escorted by type 42 destroyers and also had U.S. supplied side winder missiles.

The fierce ground fighting and air attacks from the Argentine mainland caused much damage and loss of ships. Quite early in the conflict the old light cruiser Belgrano was sunk as it was thought that she posed a threat to our fleet. Earlier an enemy submarine was also sunk and 75 enemy aircraft were shot down. British casualties were 258 killed with 777 wounded the other side lost 649 men with 1068 wounded, also 11,313 were made prisoner. Paul Jones was the host.

April Winners of 100 Club draw

£100 Maureen Pollard £50 John Tonkin £40 D.K. Massie

Thank you to those members who have recently joined or obtained new entrants. So far this calendar year we have ten new entries. This is great but more are needed so everyone please do your best to help. The chance of winning is excellent because the number of members is limited to 100 and the prizes are good because we return at least 50% of the receipts in prize money. Also, each month for 11 months of the year we give 3 prizes plus one big prize in the 12th month, the last one being £700.

That all adds up to 34 prizes in a year which is excellent odds between 100 members. In addition to that; participating helps raise funds for our involvement in the local community.



The Civil War in the Meon Valley 1642-1660

Speaker-Duncan Colin-Jones.

Charles 1st was an Anglican but his wife was a Roman Catholic. The fighting began on quite a small scale with a skirmish between loyalists and parliamentarians near Southwick. This involved Colonel Norton. Eventually the dividing line between the two antagonists was from Titchfield to the Wash. The largely rural areas supported the King leaving the more populated and industrial areas to the parliamentarians. Local important sites often changed hands and both sides levied taxes on the local populations.

Charles 1st painted by Van Dyck

Looting was rife on both sides and many churches and houses were occupied by the soldiers and were desecrated. The eventual leader of the Parliamentarians, Oliver Cromwell, did not appear in the area until February 1645. Major battles were fought at Winchester where the Mayor tried unsuccessfully to save the city from being ransacked by paying £1,000. Other local towns and villages such as Fareham, Bishop's Waltham, Cheriton and Colden Common were also centres of conflict. Much loss of life and destruction occurred until the major battle at Naseby which resulted in the end of the war with parliamentary supremacy.

The defeated King tried to escape to France but was captured and imprisoned in Carrisbroke Castle on the Isle of Wight. Here in a first desperate attempt to escape Charles got stuck by his head in the bars of his cell. Later another attempt was foiled by his guards who summoned the Governor of the castle who greeted the King with the remark "Your Majesty, I have only come to wish you farewell".

Enroute to London for his trial he was briefly imprisoned in Hurst Castle on the mainland. The trial before 59 Commissioners was held in the Royal banqueting hall in Whitehall. He was found guilty and beheaded on 30th June 1649.

John Freemantle Hosted.

Future events and meetings.

31st May- Race Night with a difference.



This event is being held to raise funds for the District matching grant in memory of P.D.G. George Buckley South Ugandan Jaipur Limb Centre. George was a well known, long serving Rotarian and popular D.G. who lost a leg due to a soccer accident when he was only a teenager. He then became a school teacher specialising in handicapped youngsters. In later life after retirement he became a great supporter of the J.L.C. and on a visit to an existing Ugandan centre had a leg made. The materials used are cheap, using old motor tyres for the moulding of the foot and plastic drain piping for the leg. He also made about fifty humanitarian trips to Roumania to create soft play centres for orphans with special needs at the many terrible orphanages after the fall of the Ceausescu communist regime. Part of the proceeds will be used to support the Rotary Foundation.

All the races are already sponsored at the rate of £25 each and it will cost only £10 to sponsor a horse on the night. The cost of the buffet meal is £15

Please come in your hordes with your friends to support these wonderful causes!

3rd May. Crispy Duck spring rolls, Roast loin of pork with glazed apple and vegetables.

Speaker-Ian Gray-Subject-Palmerston Forts- Host Roger Kidd

Ladies meet at Maureen Clark's home

6th May District Assembly at Mountbatten School Romsey. If you are a Lead member please support President Elect John Lovell and learn about the projects to support next Rotary Year.

10th May. Chicken, leak and mushroom stroganoff with rice.

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

17th May. Cottage pie with vegetables, Bread and butter pudding with custard

Speaker T.B.A?

24th May. Chicken and bacon salad, parmesan with peas



Guess who these lovely Ladies are supposed to be. (Circa 1988)

(Answers next month)

Polio News

Still only 5 cases in the World so far in 2017!

But remember there must be three consecutive years without any cases before the World can be declared Polio free.

Another 5,000 purple crocus corms have been ordered to double our planting at Cams Mill.

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