



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

"The Spokesman"

(formerly "The Croydon Chronicle")
The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Croydon
(Founded 1921)



Club No. 62 ... United Kingdom ... District 1145

The Rotary Club of Croydon meets at The Croydon Masonic Halls, 73 Oakfield Road, Croydon, Surrey. CR0 2UX. We meet on Tuesdays at 13:00.
The Club website is at www.croydonrotaryclub.org.uk or www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=869

Issue 43 – March & April 2018

The President's Message



A few weeks ago several members of our Rotary Club were invited to attend the opening of the new "Early Years Outdoor Learning Environment" at Broadmead Primary School in Selhurst - a local school with which, as Croydon Rotary Club members will already know, we are developing a very positive and active partnership.

The "Early Years Outdoor Learning Environment" is excellent and by far one of the best new school facilities I've seen in Croydon for long time. It offers the School's youngest pupils an intensification of experience which is impossible to create within the confines of a conventional classroom. It enables them to stretch both their imaginations and physical capabilities and also to develop the levels of self-confidence and self-reliance that will equip them to navigate their way through the complexities of living in the 21st Century.

The philosophy behind the School's "Outdoor Learning Experience" was perhaps best expressed on the cards which confident youngsters handed out to us - their guests. And what was printed on the cards is well worth reproducing here:-

"LET THE CHILDREN PLAY, STOMP IN PUDDLES, CLIMB TREES, DIG IN THE DIRT, GO ON A BUG HUNT, MAKE MUD PIES, ROLL DOWN A HILL, BUILD A CUBBY, MAKE A DAISY CHAIN, CREATE A GARDEN FOR FAIRIES"

And finally the card included a poem which I suspect wasn't written by a 5 years old primary school pupil but it certainly says everything that a 5 years old primary school pupil would want to say to us:-

DIRT ON MY SHIRT

There's dirt on my shirt
And leaves in my hair
There's mud on my boots
But I don't really care

Playing outside is so much fun
To breathe the clean air
And feel the warm sun

To stomp in a puddle
Or climb a big tree
Makes me quite happy
Just look and you'll see

Peter Spalding – President Rotary Club of Croydon

In Memoriam

Long serving members of our Club will be saddened, to learn that Graham Bateman died on Good Friday after a long illness dominated by an ever increasing and aggressive form of dementia.

He was for many years my predecessor as Honorary Secretary of our Club, a director of Roberts & Burling, who were for a time, leading suppliers of tiles and building materials in Croydon, South London, Surrey, Kent and Sussex.

Through his efforts, largely, the revival was brought about of then Darby & Joan Club, now the Croydon 60+ Club, which had fallen on hard times, following destructive storms at the end of the 1980's, illegal selling of old and decrepit cars on the site and other anti-social activities. Graham and the committee after many years of endeavour, negotiated a deal with Westminster Health Care, whereby a new purpose-built Care Home was erected on the site, incorporating the then Darby and Joan Club. We retain the freehold at 58 Addiscombe Road whilst the Care Home has a lease, all worked on by Graham. The home was opened by Lord Weatherill in 1997 and Westminster Care has since been superseded by Barchester Care.

Many members of the Club are still involved with the project.

Edward Handley

Club Matters - District 1145 Assembly 2018

District 1145 assembly 2018 & President Elect Preparation Seminar 2 (PEPS2)

On 21st April 2018 the District Assembly was held in the morning at St. Catherine's School, Bramley near Guildford. The event started with a short and enjoyable performance by a Rotary Young Musician of the year followed by a presentation by the District Governor for 2018-19 rotary year David Easton, who then asked each of ADG's to report on their individual areas of responsibility. Our own Graham Harker as District 1145 Vocational Service Chairman gave the Vocational Service presentation. All the participants to the Assembly attended this presentation.

Following coffee participants joined groups as follows:

- Secretary – Barbara Harker;
- Foundation – Roger Davis;
- Community Service – Peter Spalding;
- International – John Cheetham
- Membership – Loraine Davis;
- Vocational Service – Brian Jones;
- Public Relations – Christine Jones;
- Compliance – Brian Street.

After the breakout sessions, everyone except President's Elect were free to go home. The afternoon was for Presidents Elect to have a session with the Assistant District Governor for Area 6, John Brewer.

My sincere thanks to everyone who came along and assisted by attending the breakout sessions.

Loraine Davis

Club Matters - Officers and Council Members 2018-2019

The following have been elected officers and/or members of the Council for the Rotary year 2018-19 :

President	Lorraine Davis
First Vice-President & Compliance	Chris Dighton
Second Vice-President	Pat Painting
Secretary	Barbara Harker
Treasurer	Colin Coates
Immediate Past President & Community Vocational	Peter Spalding
Youth Services	Brian Jones
Programme, Speakers & Communications	Joe Trickey
International	Graham Harker
Eurostar & Sport	John Cheetham
Foundation	Brian Street
Fund Raising	Stephen Kirkman
Membership	Chris Jones
	Richard Wragg

Non-Council Members

Kids Out	David Milsted
Christmas Collection	Graham Best
Examiner	Oumesh Sauba

Barbara Harker Club Secretary

Club Matters - Museum of Croydon

Guided tour of the Museum of Croydon, the Riesco Gallery, and the Exhibition Gallery **May 25th – 11am start.**

Members will be aware that one of our recent speakers at a recent lunch meeting was Emily Lansell, from Croydon Council's Museum and Archives Team. This talk raised much interest within the club. As a consequence, Emily has kindly offered to lead a special tour for our club members (and partners) on:

Friday May 25th, starting at 11.00, meeting in the Research Room, Lower Ground Floor, Croydon Clocktower, main library entrance, Katharine Street, Croydon.

Subject to interest in the visit we may need to limit numbers – please let Jim Spinks know if you would like to attend by:

e-mail: jimspinks@aol.com or telephone on: **01883 372186**

Jim Spinks

I attended the final session of the RYLA week in which 50 or more students, all sponsored by Rotary clubs, reported on their experiences at the High Ashurst Centre near Dorking. The course is conducted by the staff of the Surrey outdoor learning and development centre. 'Our' two students, both in the sixth form of Thomas More School, Ryan and Nele (a German exchange student) reflected the very positive atmosphere of the week, summed up in the words of one student: 'we have been together for five days and now we feel just like a family'. They arrive at the centre, mostly knowing no-one but they are helped quickly and effectively to bond with each other through ice-breaking activities and through taking part in the week's team activities in which they are encouraged to help and support each other. In the final session, which seemed well rehearsed but had received only the minimal planning, all the students took part in a happy, confident, enthusiastic and, at times spontaneous, presentation: a testimony to the success of the course.

The students had been divided into 5 teams for the week, all involved in the same range of activities, which included a 10 mile hike (in very muddy conditions), rock climbing, building a kayak and canoeing, climbing ropes and organizing a dinner for invited parents and Rotarians. They spent one night in Yurts (tents), enjoyed a camp fire and had to organize themselves for various domestic tasks.

In this final session, each team member spoke from the stage describing what they had done, and what they had learnt. They stressed in particular that they had learnt to trust each other, to overcome their fear of heights, to support each other, giving each other confidence, and to cooperate. They had had opportunities to take on organizing and leadership roles. The personal accounts were interspersed with musical performances given by the students, one sung to piano accompaniment and there were two violin and piano duets.

On July 10th, Ryan and the school's deputy head, who was instrumental in identifying the students, will be guests of the club. (Nele will have returned to Germany) and Ryan will give us a short account of his week.

This was my second RYLA week but in both years the atmosphere at the Centre has been heart-warming. Next year, if we continue to support RYLA I should like to invite a Rotarian to join me at this final session. If you feel interested, let me know. RYLA makes an excellent contribution to the personal and social development of young people. It is an example of Rotary making a difference and it has the potential to attract parents to join Rotary. It is very good value for money.

Joe Trickey Youth Services Representative

In September we had a visit from David Cross, District Chairman for Foundation, who spoke about how Rotary Foundation is an endowment fund dedicated to 'Doing Good In The World', and over the past 100 years has spent over \$3 billion on humanitarian programmes across the world. This includes spearheading the movement to eradicate polio across the world, as well as facilitating projects which address Rotary's Six Areas of Focus: Peace and Conflict Resolution, Disease Prevention and Treatment, Basic Education and Literacy, Water and Sanitation, Maternal and Child Health, and Economic and Community Development.

In October we held a World's Greatest Meal lunch event. Members, partners, friends and guests were entertained and kindly donated funds towards End Polio. The funds were increased by a unique auction of a Rotary teddy bear sporting an End Polio jumper. Guest speaker, Paul Hickson, spoke about his and his wife's experience working with the End Polio team immunising the population in India.

In November we created a community partnership with Broadmead Primary School and joined with the Head Teacher, Sarah Hunter, and pupils planting crocus bulbs. The purple colour of the flowers is symbolic of Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio. We were also joined by Councillor Toni Letts, Mayor of Croydon, who praised the pupils for their work. As part of the project the pupils also learned about the disease of polio and Rotary's ongoing campaign. Crocus bulbs were also sold to club members to plant at their homes. The funds raised from this contributed to the clubs overall monies collected for End Polio.

In December I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and with surgery, recovery and recuperation I was unable to do much towards further fund raising. However an opportunity arose with the Purple Pinkies day and I set out my ideas to our President and other members who had been involved with the planting of the crocus bulbs at Broadmead Primary School.

So in March this year Sarah Hunter and the pupils at Broadmead Primary School joined in our celebration of Purple Pinkies day. A number of pupils had their fingernails dyed pink, using a non toxic dye, representing what happens to indicate the children across the globe who have been vaccinated against polio. Whilst not a fund raising event it gave was a great opportunity for the pupils to learn more about Rotary's End Polio campaign.

Meanwhile, throughout the year the club participated in the Purple For Polio Jam Jar collection. Members were given, for free, a jar of plum jam and, when the jar was empty and cleaned, they collected their small change in the jars and when full brought them to the club for collation and adding to the fund.

Overall we had a successful year raising over £1,000.00, from various events that is due to be tripled by the Gates Foundation, and we had a lot of fun whilst we did it.

Stephen Kirkman - Foundation Representative



On Tuesday 28 February 2018 I attended lunch at my Rotary club after a three month absence. It was great to meet up with friends again who were genuinely pleased to see me. So what had caused my absence?

For that we need to travel back to 23 November 2017 when I had a random blood test at my GP surgery. A week later the results were in and it showed that my PSA count was “a little high” but worth further investigation.

Things snowballed from there. Two days later I attended the urology clinic and met with a consultant who explained that my PSA count needed further investigation.

Another two days and I was having an MRI scan and another two days later I had a biopsy which confirmed I had prostate cancer. It was, thankfully fully contained within the prostate.

I won't go into the details of the mechanics of the biopsy other than to say it hurt. Eighteen samples were taken.

Whilst waiting back in the hospital reception area I felt faint and had to rest in one of the consulting rooms.

The next day 6 December I was admitted to hospital for a week due to sepsis. An intensive course of antibiotics helped. On 18 December I had a bone scan to check that any cancer had not migrated into the bones. Thankfully that came up clear.

I recovered in time to enjoy Christmas with my relatives in Rome. This was a welcome relief from what had been a month of problems.

During my visit with my consultant on 28 December we had agreed that a prostatectomy was to be the best option and would be performed in mid March. So I was surprised when I received an appointment letter to attend St George's Hospital for a pre-operation assessment on 11 January 2018.

On 23 January I was back at St George's Hospital for my surgery. My consultant had told me that the operation would be “robot assisted”. Under usual circumstances this involves five incisions across the abdomen to allow access for lights, camera and tools. It should be a simple operation with an overnight stay and discharge from hospital the next day.

Due to complications, my operation required ten incisions, a loss of a litre and a half of blood and twice the amount of time in theatre. As a consequence there was no way I was ready to go home the next day. However, the next morning someone, accompanied by two clip board carrying flunkies, arrived at my bedside to tell me I was to be discharged that day. I asked if he had read my case notes, or perhaps had mistaken me for Lazarus, and told him I was not going anywhere.

Later that week my consultant surgeon came to visit me and I told him what had happened. He was both annoyed and frustrated. He said he recalled a time when doctors decided what was best for their patients rather than administrators trying to release beds. He said I was going nowhere until he said so. I never saw clip board carriers again.

It was Monday 29 January when I was actually discharged. I was fragile, but glad to be going home.

During those months I had seen and experienced the best of the NHS. The hard work and dedication of not just the medical staff but also the ancillary staff who kept the wards clean and the patients fed.

About a week later a nurse came to my home to remove the surgical clips. Surprisingly less painful than I had imagined and certainly less than everything I had already been through.

Since then it has been a slow and deliberate recovery regime which is still ongoing but good enough to allow me to attend and enjoy my Rotary club lunch. I found that others in my club had also had either the operation or radiotherapy and were now leading full and happy lives. That cheered me up even more.

My latest follow-up visit with my Consultant showed that my PSA was 'undetectable' and we are all happy with that.

So what is the point of me writing this piece. Well, apart from it being a little cathartic it does hold a message to all men of a certain age. I never had any physical symptoms of prostate cancer and it was a random blood test that showed that the PSA levels needed further investigation.

I implore you. When you have an opportunity, sooner rather than later, arrange a blood test with your GP. The best that can happen is it could save your life. The worst that could happen is the opposite.

It really is about time !!.

It's about the time that passed so quickly from start to finish of my diagnosis and surgical procedures. But more than that, it's about time you booked your own PSA blood test.

Thanks for taking time to read my story - just don't let it become yours.

Stephen

ROTARY CLUB OF CROYDON – GOLF DAY

On 24th April 2018 Croydon Rotary Club held its annual Golf Day at Farleigh Golf Course. There were 40 golfers that played in 10 groups of 4.



One of the 4-balls - **Tony Shelton-Smith, Neil Shelton-Smith, Neil Tutt and Rotarian Graham Harker** on the first tee.

There were 80 that attended the dinner in the evening at which the prizes were presented.



The **Team prize** for the highest aggregate number of points by a team was won by the team of **K.F.Liu, Y. Keung Liu, Pang Hing Chai and Manying Kit** with a score of **106 points**. The presentation was made by the President of Croydon Rotary Club, Peter Spalding.



Gary Chatfield won the **first prize in the Stableford competition** with a score of **36 points**. The presentation was made by Croydon Rotary Club President, Peter Spalding.



Ken Jackson won the **second prize in the Stableford competition** with a score of **35 points**. Ken is a member of **East Grinstead Meridian Rotary Club**. The presentation was made by Croydon Rotary Club President, Peter Spalding.



The prize for the **longest drive** on the 9th Hole of the yellow course was won by **Gary Chatfield**. The presentation made by the President of Croydon Rotary Club Peter Spalding.



The prize for the **nearest the pin** on the 3rd hole of the Blue course was won by **Catherine Frost**. Her father Tony Man accepted the prize from Croydon Rotary Club President Peter Spalding on her behalf as she could not attend the dinner.



The **Douglas Rawling Cup** was awarded to the highest scoring Rotarian golfer in the Stableford competition. It was won by **Raj Patel** a member of **Croydon Jubilee Rotary Club** with a score of **34**. The presentation was made by Croydon Rotary Club President Peter Spalding.

Douglas Rawling was the longest serving Rotarian in Croydon Rotary Club with over 70 years of service – he lived for 102 years.

Graham Harker

ROTARY CLUB OF CROYDON – MAY FAYRE 2018

On a cloudless, sunny Bank Holiday Monday on 7th May 2018 with record breaking temperatures Croydon Rotary Club ran two stalls at the Beddington May Fayre to raise money for the President’s charity – Croydon Hearing Resources Centre.

Pictured are members of the public at the **Tombola stall** which had two sets of prizes – one for the adults and the other for children. All prizes had been donated to make the stall a success as was the time given by Rotarians to organise and man the stall.



The second attraction was a **Water and Wine stall** with members of the public asked to choose a bottle which was either full of wine or water. If they chose the wine, which was also donated, they took it home. Pictured is the May Queen and her family trying their luck. The little girl in the foreground is showing the prize she won on the tombola.

Graham Harker

Speakers Update

MARCH 2018:



On 6th March 2018 the speaker was **Emily Lansell** (pictured on the left). Emily is from the **Museum of Croydon** and she spoke about the Croydon Collections that she manages and the rooms available for the display of materials. Further details of the availability of the Museum can be found on its website.



Colin Coates was the speaker on 13th March 2018 when he spoke about his recent visit to **Myanmar (Burma)**. The talk was illustrated with pictures showing the sights and sounds of the country.



Brian Street, the speaker on 27th March 2018 took as his topic **Family Histories**, a topic he is particularly interested in. He spoke about how to get started in researching your family history and the various sources of information.

APRIL 2018:



Martin Boiling was the speaker on 10th April 2018 when he spoke about **the Woodland Trust**. The charity formed 45 years ago aims to PROTECT and RESTORE natural woodland and CREATE new woodland. He highlighted the 640 acre site south of Epsom at Langley Vale which is being developed.



Catherine Pleasance spoke on the charity **Canine Partners** on 17th April 2018. The organisations' mission is to train assistance dogs to transform the lives of people with disabilities. There are an amazing variety of tasks the dogs can do to help their partner.

Graham Harker

30.04.2018

Rotary Club of Croydon - Programme 2017-2018

JANUARY 2108

Mon 08.01.18	Deadline for copy of The Spokesman (to be produced 16 th January 2018)	Roger Davis
Tue 09.01.18 13.00	The John Gent Collection (Part 2)/Raid John Hickson	Edward Handley
Tue 16.01.18 13.00	The Mayor of Croydon Coun. T. Letts	Peter Spalding
Tue 23.01.18 13.0	Review of new meeting arrangements	Peter Spalding
Tue 30.01.18 13.00	Parkrun Ian Wesson	Ian Wesson

FEBRUARY 2108

Tue 06.02.18 11.15	COUNCIL MEETING	Peter Spalding
Tue 06.02.18 13.00	Business Meeting	Peter Spalding
Tue 13.02.18 13.00	VOCATIONAL TALK Prince Charles, Bombs & Barry (Partner's Lunch) Barry Buttenshaw	Graham Harker
Tue 20.02.18 13.00	History of Adult Learning in London Christine Jones	Christine Jones
Fri 23.02.18	Rotary Day – Purple Pinkie Day – Broadmead School	
Tue 27.02.18 11.15	Fund Raising Committee	Richard Ford
Tue 27.02.18 13.00	Link to Hope Camilla Johnson	Richard Ford

MARCH 2108

Thu 01.03.18 19.00	District Executive/Team Meeting Reigate Baptist Church	Graham Harker
Tue 06.03.18 13.00	Museum of Croydon Emily Lansell	Jim Spinks
Thu 08.03.18 19.15	District Council Meeting Reigate Baptist Church	Peter Spalding
Mon 12.03.18	Deadline for copy of The Spokesman (to be produced 20 th March 2018)	Roger Davis
Tue 13.03.18 13.00	Myanmar (Burma) Colin Coates	Colin Coates

Tue 20.03.18 13.00	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Peter Spalding	
Tue 27.03.18 13.00	How well do you know your ancestors? Brian Street	Brian Street	
<i>APRIL 2108</i>			
Sun 01.04.18	EASTER DAY		
Tue 03.04.18	No Meeting		
Fri 06.04.18	RIBI Conference (to 08.04.18) Torquay		
Tue 10.04.18 13.00	Woodland Trust Martin Boiling	Stephen Williams	
Tue 17.04.18 13.00	Canine Partners Catherine Pleasance	Graham Best	
Sat 21.04.18 09.00	District Assembly/PEPS2 St Catherine's School, Bramley	Loraine Davis	
Tue 24.04.18	Golf Day Farleigh Golf Club	Richard Wragg	
Mon 30.04.18	Deadline for copy of The Spokesman (to be produced on 8th May 2018)	Roger Davis	
<i>MAY 2108</i>			
Tue 01.05.18 11.15	COUNCIL MEETING	Peter Spalding	
Tue 01.05.18 13.00	Business Meeting	Peter Spalding	
Mon 07.05.18	Beddington Fayre Bank Holiday		11.00
Tue 08.05.18	No meeting (Following Beddington Fayre/Before Eurostar)		
Thu 10.05.18	EUROSTAR – SONDRIO (to 13.05.18)		
Tue 15.05.18	No meeting (Following Eurostar)		
Tue 22.05.18 13.00	Croydon Skylight Centre Rosie Birch	Chris Dighton	
Wed 23.05.18 19.30	Theatre Visit – Wimbledon Theatre Beautiful – The Carole King Musical	Bernard Adams	
Fri 25.05.18 10.00	VOCATIONAL VISIT – Croydon Clocktower Emily Lansell	Jim Spinks	
Tue 29.05.18 13.00	Morris Dancing (5th Tuesday) Nuala O'Neill	Peter Spalding	

JUNE 2108

Tue 05.06.18
13.00

1666 and All That!
Chris Boulton

Chris Boulton

Tue 12.06.18
13.00

CLUB ASSEMBLY

Loraine Davis

Tue 19.06.18
13.00

Croydon Chamber of Commerce
Annabel Fogden

Peter Spalding

Thu 21.06.18
19.00

District Executive/Team Meeting
Reigate Baptist Church

Graham Harker

Tue 26.06.18
19.00

Handover Meeting
Addington Palace Golf Club

Peter Spalding

Mon 02.07.18

Deadline for copy of The Spokesman
(to be produced 10 July 2018)

Roger Davis

Graham Harker

Ref: Rot.Cal.Web.2017-18

02.05.2018

GREY
YELLOW
GREEN
BLUE
PURPLE

TUESDAY ROTARY MEETINGS
SPEAKERS/MEETINGS ARRANGED
COUNCIL MEETINGS
YOUTH SERVICES
EUROSTAR

NOTES:

1. Th 12.07.18 District Council Meeting

And finally, **A little Poem, but so true it hurts!**

Another year has passed
And we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
And winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About 'Living in the Past'
We used to go to weddings,
Football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers,
From parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches
And wile the night away.

We used to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
Come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel
To places near and far.
Now we get sore asses
From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs
And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
And watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is,
And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...

.....before you're too darned old!!

That's all Folks!