A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe at the time of writing that my year as President is already almost over. It has been both a tremendously enjoyable and busy year. I am very grateful to all of those who have made the role not only possible but hugely enjoyable, through all of their hard work and support.

We have had a successful year both in respect of fundraising and our social activities. The annual Bridge Day and Christmas High Street Collection are regular fixtures on our Rotary calendar and they proved to be as popular and successful as ever.

We also embarked on a new project this year that brought all of the three Guildford Clubs together. This saw us come together to raise funds in the High Street to raise money to help the disaster relief programme in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan struck in November last year. The clubs also joined together to help run the International Last Night of the Proms at GLive in aid of the Guildford Rotary Eye Project. Most recently, Rotarians from the three Guildford Clubs enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship, thanks to the generosity of Sue Lawson opening her house. We had a lovely evening and were blessed with the combination of fantastic weather and Sue’s stunning garden. I am hopeful that we will co-operate more in the future both to raise funds for the many good causes that Rotary supports and also to come together as Rotarians.

One of the highlights was going away with our club on a Battlefield Tour of Ypres and the Somme to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War. It was an informative and enjoyable experience but also at times a sobering and emotional journey. It was good to see so many Rotarians and their partners make the pilgrimage to remember those young men and women who gave their lives so that we can continue to live in a society which not only makes possible but encourages the values and work that we as Rotarians consider to be so important to the welfare of the communities in which we live.

We were also very happy to host a number of different events in connection with Youth Speaks including the Area and Regional Finals. The standard of the public speaking by the young people involved was incredibly high and it gives us great pride to be able to be associated with these events.

There are a number of other events, not mentioned here but shown on the subsequent pages that have also contributed towards making this, such an enjoyable and successful year. I am mindful that all of these things are only made possible by virtue of the generous and tireless support that all the members of the club contribute to. Most recently the majority of the club’s members came together at the Holiday Inn to participate in the ‘Visioning’ project. This was intended to give all the club’s members the opportunity to express their hopes and aspirations for what the club will look like in the future. We are all intimately aware of the positive outcomes that Rotary achieves in communities both locally and internationally. We all have good reason to want to ensure that the work of Rotary continues and that it remains a vibrant and relevant organisation for years to come. My hope is that this project provides a platform for that continued success.

It was a pleasure to be able to support the Charity, Headway Surrey. We were able to make a meaningful contribution to raise funds to support their vital work. In consequence we also acquired a new member, Oliver McGeachy, the Chief Executive Officer of Headway Surrey, who became a Rotarian this year. Oliver has already proven himself to be an active and valuable member of the club and we are delighted that we can count him amongst our number. We look forward to his being a member for years to come.

It is then fitting then, that I should come full circle to thank all of you for making this as successful and enjoyable a year as it has been. We recognise that in coming together through the Rotary family we are able to achieve more together than we would be as individuals. That I have been able to serve Rotary and the community in which I live, has only been made possible by the help and support that you have so generously given to me and it is for that, I wish to thank you all.

Grant Connell
The Rotary year continued with our usual Bridge Day at Gate Street Barn on 14th November. In the same week we took part with the other Guildford clubs in an emergency street collection in aid of the Philippines disaster-relief and visited Skillway, following up the matching grant celebrated in September 2013 - see the previous Bulletin.

Eyes down for lunch at the Bridge Day

Skillway Director Humphrey Davis (far left) hosted the visit on November 18th and showed us the new machine tools in action.

President Grant joins forces in the High Street on November 17th

Our quiz team (President Grant, Secretary Chris Blow, Andrew Jackson and friends) were outright winners at the Rotary Club of Leatherhead annual event on November 30th, and acquired a handsome trophy for President Grant's display cabinet.

For Keeps!
Christmas comes with the annual carol concert at Holy Trinity Church, our Christmas dinner with friends at the County Club and our High Street collection, assisted by choirs outside the Guildhall in the rain.

The Vivace Chorus under the baton of Jeremy Backhouse in fine voice.

the two Presidents, Grant (Rotary) and Anna Cartwright (Inner Wheel) under the Christmas star
January is always the month for our hosting of the Guildford heats of the two Youth Speaks competitions, both intermediate and senior, at the Guildhall, and this year January saw the award of two Paul Harris Fellowships to supporters of the Eye Project.

Fiona Miles receives her award from RIBI President Nan McCreadie, the first woman to hold that post.

and Rhona Finn gets hers too, photographed here with Fiona and John Miles

Guildford Rotary Eye Project had been chosen, thanks to John Miles' excellent planning, at the G-Live family concert Last Night of the Proms on 17th May, and £1500 was raised for the cause. Club members sold programmes, the profits from which came to the project along with the proceeds from a retiring collection.

YOUTH SPEAKS

The winning intermediate team from St Peter's School

The members of the Inner Wheel preparing the buffet, served while the adjudicators did their work.

The winning senior team from Guildford County School
Two highlights of February and March were an Area Final and the Regional Final of Youth Speaks which our club was invited to host at the University of Surrey (pictured on the left).

The April 2014 edition of Rotary Today carried this centre-spread, which gave Sam Das a certain amount of pride.
By way of commemoration of the centenary of the First World War, a group of members, partners and friends made a pilgrimage to no fewer than fifteen notable sites in Flanders and on the Somme. The organised tour we had chosen was entitled "All Quiet on the Western Front" provided by Leger Holidays, with all our arrangements made by Barrie Hill. A big thankyou to him.

We started in Poperinge, before three nights in a hotel at Mouscron which provided our base. We were fortunate to have an excellent guide.............. that's him with the stick.

in the square at Poperinge,

and reviewing the past day over dinner

at the grave of the youngest solder (14 years old) to be killed in WW1, at Ploegsteert

We were present at the sounding of the last post at the Menin Gate at Ypres on the Tuesday evening and all of us returned with special personal memories, 1914-2014.

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Closer to home, and the in same week, thanks to Mike Ellis, we took part in the national Rotary "Pulse and Blood Pressure Testing" or "stroke prevention" initiative at the Tesco store. We thank the HASTE Academy for all their help, without which the event could not have taken place.
Lisa Dimbylow from SATRO - 4th November 2014
Lisa introduced us to the Science and Technology Resources Association, 30 years old and based at the Surrey Technology Centre on the Research Park. They have 680 volunteers who deliver events to promote careers in science and technology in 400 schools in Surrey. They reach 18,000 students per year, targeting those from low-income homes. They hold workshops called "Discover Science", have a festival at the Brooklands Museum, run a business game with six Guildford schools, conduct a Problem-solving Challenge for 1000 students (RGS was runner-up this year), take mobile vans/classrooms around schools to teach construction skills (for 430 students last year, 60% of whom with learning disabilities) and mentor 15 students from each school. She quoted "life-turning" examples.

Debbie Collins from Macmillan Cancer Support - 11th November 2014
Debbie introduced herself as an ex-nurse who became a radiotherapy specialist and worked for Macmillan from 2003-2008, since when she has worked as a volunteer. She outlined the history of Macmillan from its founding by Douglas Macmillan whose father died of cancer in 1911. The NHS has seen the need for multi-disciplinary teams to serve cancer patients, related to disease-oriented or site-specific groups and employing best practice and case conferences. In Surrey there are 4000 new cancer cases per year and six deaths per day. Early diagnosis means that patients are living with cancer longer and are no longer hospitalised during treatment (comprising surgery, radio- and chemo-therapy and hormone therapy). Overall there are 2 million in the UK with cancer and that will double by 2030. At present half are reached by Macmillan. Macmillan relies heavily on donations (especially from their Coffee Morning) to support their grants to individual patients and the new services of family support. The aim is that "no one faces cancer alone".


Speaker Rotarian David Spurrell - 2nd December 2014
David was previously a full-time youth leader and now, being so much involved with youth activities in Rotary, gave us a reminder of the Rotary "family": Rotaract, Interact and now Rota-Kids. He spoke about the first of these in 1250, the newly-chartered one at Sandcross Primary School, Reigate, where 10 pupils are members, all with designated jobs. They have a market garden project and make up (shoe) boxes to support a school in Gambia. Moving on to Interact (= International Action), he talked about the club for 11-18s at the Warwick School, one of four in 1250. Membership is mostly girls, These clubs find favour with Ofsted. Most important are the keenness of the school and the leadership of one of the teachers as well as "securing the succession" when student move on. The Warwick School Interact Club sold refreshments to raise money for Autism Allstars, held a fund-raising quiz on then anniversary of their charter and raised £500 for Surrey Young Carers and also held a barbeque for Save-the-Children. They had previously raised £850 for our Eye Project. David then spoke about the eight other Rotary youth initiatives.

Malcolm Roberts, Friend of Rotary- 9th December 2014: a photographer's stories

Newest members Adrian McDowell and Oliver McGeachy - 6th January 2014
They talked about themselves in a lighthearted way. All-in-all, a fun start to the New Year. Adrian entertained us with stories from Bangor County Down from his days as Town Clerk and Chief Executive, quoting firstly from Mark Twain when he (not MT) attended a function in Belfast where he had not seen so many politicians "since he visited a state penitentiary." Oliver took us through his career from his Socialist upbringing in war-devastated Clydebank to the gas supply industry and then journalism and publishing, before his social conscience "cut in". Low-salary work in the voluntary sector dealing with homelessness and drug-dependency led to his "jack of all trades" job with Headway Surrey. Under his leadership, Headway has ceased to be insular and now also caters for stroke patients as well as head injuries and maintains a much higher profile. His most telling quote was from Arfer Daley's side-kick Terry McCann: "That's that social conscience of yours at it again. It'll get you into trouble....."
Peter Carson - 20th January 2014
As an independent oilfield consultant, Peter gave a technical talk about Shale Gas Fracking. This concluded with a show of hands to demonstrate, with the extra understanding imparted, whether members are in favour of shale gas fracking in the UK. Generally they are.
The reasons can be summarised as follows:
1 64% of the UK has underlying Kimmeridge Clay, a rich source rock.
2 For power supply UK relies now upon 40% gas (of which 47% is imported and 53% in decline), 30% on coal and nuclear 20%. Other renewables make small contribution.
3 In the USA, with vast lands, shale gas has brought the cost of gas down fivefold.
4 UK regulation is very protective, demonstrated by the example of a site near Fernhurst, where wells can be sunk 5-8,000 feet in preparation for horizontal drilling into shale for a distance of four miles. "Fracking" means hydro fracturing, whereby cavities in the shale open up under high pressure whereupon sand and water are pumped in to force out the entrained gas.
5 Concerns about contamination of aquifers are addressed by in-built controls.
6 Concerns about quantities of sand and water used in the process are valid and in spite of recycling many, many vehicle movements are needed to and from fracking sites.
Under questioning by Rodney, Peter explained that plans have a real chance of short-term success and local supplies of cheaper gas can be realised. He cited the example of Dutch gas used to heat greenhouses leading to UK imports of Dutch flowers. Another question: how long will supplies of shale gas last? Worldwide shale gas supplies could last four times the supply of conventional natural gas.

Cherisse McMullan - 3rd February 2014
As manager of Guildford's Homeless Outreach Support Team, Cherisse told us about the work of her team of four. Commissioned by GBC, with a renewable two-year contract, their aim is to reduce homelessness and rough-sleeping in the area and build trust with their clients. They try where relevant to return clients to their home areas and assess the needs of the most vulnerable, linking with many agencies, police, emergency services, CAB, etc. No client is rejected. Average nights see 5-13 clients and monthly figures are 16-30, peaking in winter months. Clients are referred to the 16-bed night shelter known as Number Five.
She explained their involvement with drug users, the problem of eviction from hostels which can take place suddenly with only 24 hours notice, and Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) which was invoked on 51 nights in 2013. GBC funds the staffing of this team, but they depend on donations for clothing, food and travel for their clients. Guildford was the first place outside London to offer this service.

Charles Faithfull - 17th February 2014
As Inter-Agency Liaison Officer (ILO), Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), Charles gave a well-illustrated and illuminating talk on his work. The role of the emergency services and especially the FRS has developed in the last ten years, principally due to terrorist activity. The equipment carried by the FRS has outstripped the simple uniform worn 30 years ago, and mobile labs and decontamination shelters are needed, for example. The current flooding in Surrey had brought teams from the north of England and involved rescue activity with RSPCA, AA and ambulance services, emphasising the need for inter-agency liaison. In reverse, specialist local teams are available to work abroad rescuing from collapsed buildings.
Turning specifically to the role of the ILO, he referred to collaboration with the police especially in London and described the three levels of activity: Bronze "at the coal face", Silver where an incident commander is responsible for "tactics" and Gold where senior officers lead. He enumerated his own qualifications (primarily experience), objectives (reducing risk) and training for public order, firearms use and extreme events (Chemical Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear).
In answer to a question, he explained the colour coding used in the services: Red for FRS, Blue for police, Green for ambulance service and Brown for military.

Rtn Peter Walker - 24th February 2014: Talk, the charity helping stroke victims with speech problems
Professor Angus Dalgleish MD FRCP “Cancer Treatments – the future” - 3rd March 2014
Prof Dalgleish is medical director of charity the Cancer Vaccine Institute. Mike Ellis explained to the large gathering of Rotarians from many clubs that the aim of the meeting was to enhance understanding of the treatments applied in cancer care today and potentially impart information on treatments of the future. Cancer was described as “a disease of misbehaving cells which have failed to respond to the pattern of programmed cell death” he said. Prof. Dalgleish described some clinical studies which he and his colleagues in the UK and abroad are carrying out in prostate cancer, melanoma and pancreatic cancer. The new products being tested are described as “cancer vaccines” although these are given to treat cancer not prevent it.

Mike Ellis, the Mayor, the Speaker, Pres Grant Connell

Mike Miller-Smith of "Aerobility" and Operations Manager Brian - 17th March 2014
This charity provides opportunities for disabled people to fly light aircraft. This is seen as improving self-esteem and giving a sense of achievement for people with all sorts of disability. Keynotes are "removing barriers", "changing perception" and "demystifying disability". The organisation flies from Blackbushe, Tatenhill and Prestwick, owns five aircraft, one being a Tecnam fitted ex-works with hand controls, as well as balloons. It provides for 400 disabled people per year, 12 of whom have done their first solo flights and 7 of whom have achieved licences. The age range covers 8-92! We watched a remarkable film of an overhead firework display at the Paralympics from the wingtips of a light plane piloted by a disabled soldier who had been treated at Headley Court. Aerobility has fund-raising events, including abseiling from the new Heathrow Tower. Wow!

Lucy Sharma from the fund-raising team at Challengers - 14th March 2014
She told us about this special charity which started in 1979 and now helps 1400 families in Surrey, open 7-days-a-week 50 weeks in the year, providing activities for disabled children. Weekend help is most important for parents and without Challengers the summer holiday can be a "nightmare endurance test". 1 in 20 children have some sort of disability and 92% get no support. The 8% who do get it from Challengers and there are three on the waiting list for every one benefiting from Challengers. 24% of those at Challengers have been excluded from other services because of their disability - no child is excluded from Challengers, which gives one-to-one care. Last year they moved into their new £1.1million centre. They have 600 staff in total over Surrey and Hampshire, with 25 full time staff and an annual running cost of £600K. Lucy read out a moving letter from the parent of an autistic child, reflecting a degree of desperation relieved by the service from Challengers.

Louise Brown from the fund-raising team at Winston's Wish - 14th April 2014
She told us about this Chichester-based charity which helps 30,000 families each year nation-wide with bereaved children. Specialists and therapists, plus a helpline, help children up to 18-years-old with grief and life breakdown. She noted that 40% of those in prison were bereaved as children, that one child in 30 suffers a bereavement and that every 23 minutes a child loses a parent. The actual work involves training teachers, visiting families, providing "memory boxes" and organising intensive "fun" weekends with groups of bereaved children. The charity has annual costs of £2.4million, all met by fundraising and especially "Children in Need". The idea started in Canada and takes its name from Winston Churchill. Louise showed a 5-minute video as a testimonial to the work Winston's Wish does.

Sallyanne Steatham - 28th April 2014
Sallyanne, from the Inner Wheel of Wokingham (Rotary District 1090), holder of a PHF and ambassador for DEBRA told us about this charity which started 30 years ago in Lancashire. A mother of a baby (Debra) born with Epidermolysis Bullosa (skin missing either partially or totally) had no support and no recommended treatment for her child and started talking to other parents and eventually founded the charity. Her daughter died aged 17. There are about 5000 babies in UK with this condition in varying degrees of seriousness, needing specialist nursing support provided by DEBRA along with holiday homes especially for teenagers who cannot enjoy normal life. The charity has annual costs of £2.2million, spent on care and of which £800K is spent on research such as that at St Thomas's. Louise showed a 4-minute video to illustrate the ravages of EB.

Gabriella Fairley - 2nd June 2014
She showed a video dealing with the founding of the Red Cross by Swiss businessman Henry Dunant who accidentally became involved in the aftermath of the battle of Solferino in 1859. The establishment of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the first international convention followed five years later. The guiding principle of the organisation is that of helping anyone in any part of the world. Three symbols represent the organisation: the Red Cross, which echoes the Swiss flag; the Red Crescent and the Red Crystal. The latter was created to allow the inclusion of Israel and Palestine. Almost every country in the world has a resident organisation, which is able to coordinate activities with others when necessary. Recent events involving the Red Cross are the flooding in the UK, and the Syrian war where 28 volunteers had been killed in action.

Max Beech from the RGS - 16th June 2014
He told us about his work in Cambodia last year, to the cost of which we contributed.

the usual update from the Inner Wheel

Rotarian Sue Lawson has spoken to us about The Round House garden, Park Hatch, Loxhill and during June we will be serving teas there on two open days of the National Gardens Scheme. On 13th May we held our AGM and business meeting, a good occasion to meet members and learn something of how we operate. We are raising further funds for Oakleaf Enterprise, our main charity at present, and several of us took part in the 11th May Rotary and Surrey Advertiser sponsored charity walk. Andy MacAuley from Surrey Search and Rescue spoke to us about their work on Tuesday, 10th June: They were kept very busy during the floods earlier in the year.

Report by Iris Walker

The President of the Inner Wheel, Anna Cartwright, with a 14lb 4oz salmon caught in Loch Stack, nr Scourie, Scotland on 4th June 2014. It is amazing the variety of talents ladies of Inner Wheel possess.
the garden party at the Round House on June 20th

Thanks to Sue Lawson's hospitality, a large gathering of members of the three Guildford clubs enjoyed the longest evening of the year in her beautiful garden.
(photographs provided by Graham Vincent, President Elect of Chantries Club)

OTHER NOT SO LATE NEWS IN BRIEF

County Show Day:
members and friends earned for Rotary by selling programmes very successfully in spite of rain

Young Photographer Competition:
our member and President Elect Mike Ellis is to be congratulated on his work in running this for District 1250. The senior winner went on to win the National award.

DIARY DATES FOR SUMMER, AUTUMN and WINTER 2014

Talk by Mayor of Guildford: Monday July 28th
Visit by Rotary DG: Monday August 18th
Bridge Day: Thursday November 6th
Mayor's Carol Service: Sunday December 14th
High Street collections: Saturday December 20th

Rotary Club Council members 2014-15:-
Mike Ellis as President
Chris Blow as Senior Vice-President
Ken Morris as Treasurer
Chris Blow as Secretary
Grant Connell: Youth service
Oliver McGeachy: Marketing and comms.
Mike Wills; Community service
Sue Lawson, Barrie Hill and Emma Valler: Fundraising and social
Mike Ellis and Peter Walker: Rotary Growth Group
Roger Nicklin: International
Chris Shorter: Webmaster and Social Media
Andrew Jackson: Rotary Foundation
Chris Hodgson + Terence Patrick: without portfolio

Bulletin Editor: Chris Blow.
so blame him for errors and omissions.
Signing off for the last time.