



E- Newsletter Number 11 October 2015

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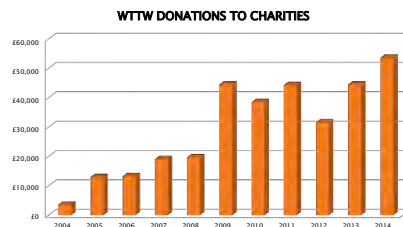
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The aim of these quarterly Newsletters is to keep people and organisations informed about our club. It tells them what we have done recently, alerts them to what we are planning and, where appropriate, highlights opportunities to become involved in our activities. We would welcome **feedback** from readers. John Gould - Editor

Rotary in Romsey and further afield

October 11th 2015 was a memorable day for the Club and for me personally. It marked the completion of a year of hard work for the **Walk the Test Way** planning team led by Greg Hall. The basic design of the Walk has stood the test of time but has benefitted from innovation. The article on page 2 tells you about what was new this year and this graph shows you how, from small beginnings and an idea by John Jones, the event has grown. What has not changed is the dedication and enthusiasm of walkers, old and young, and it was a pleasure for Margaret and me to present the well-deserved medals. The proceeds of the Walk will benefit around 150 charities and will also provide the Club with funding (supplemented by support from our local Business Partners) for its charitable work.



Approximately 70% of our charitable work is local but the remainder is overseas and provides valuable support to worthwhile causes and improves and changes lives for relatively little cost.

Our partnership with local charity, **DentaId**, is a fine example of this. In 2012 Margaret and I went to Kenya to work for **Wings of Mercy**. My role was to help to set up an IT centre using refurbished laptop computers. We have continued to send laptops and the picture to the left shows them being received in Kenya.



Finally it is sad for me to note the deaths in the past months of Leo King and of Jimmy Dunning. Both were long-standing Rotarians and Jimmy was an Honorary Life Member of the Club. We will miss them both.

Neil Duncan

President

A wish fulfilled

Through the early summer we ran "Romsey Tell us your Wish" and invited ideas for ways in which we could help local residents and organisations.

We were told by Oliver Marshall's mum that he needed a special wheelchair to allow him to undertake his BTEC level 3 sports course at Eastleigh College.

We were pleased to be able to help.



October 20th was World Polio Day and the 28th was the birthday of Jonas Salk who developed the first polio vaccine.

During October we have been handing out crocus corms in Romsey and to local schools. These are to highlight the remarkable progress that has been made by the World Health Organisation, Rotary and the Gates Foundation towards **eradicating this disease**. Why crocuses? When the flowers appear in spring their purple colour will be a link to the purple dye that marks the fingers of children who have received their vaccination.

London to Auckland in 12 hours! *

Record breaking and innovative “Walk the Test Way” 2015

- 709 walkers - a record
- 246 marathon walkers started at Wherwell - a record
- Stiles removed to avoid bottlenecks
- Walk routed through the grounds Mottisfont Abbey
- The Walk now has its own [Facebook page](#)

This was the twelfth year of this major fundraising event and was blessed with the most perfect weather - dry and cool.

It was an early start in the Crosfield Hall with marathon walkers registering from 6am so as to leave on the first five of [Wheeler's](#) buses at 7am - each walker armed with a Twix bar and a bottle of water.

Hours later the first walker arrived in Romsey's Memorial Park to a rousing welcome - and a medal presented by Club President Neil Duncan and his wife Margaret Keithley, President of Inner Wheel. The park was busy with well-wishers, gazebos of some of the charities and a run-



The finish - presenting the medal to the first marathon walker

ning commentary by [Radio Lollipop](#).

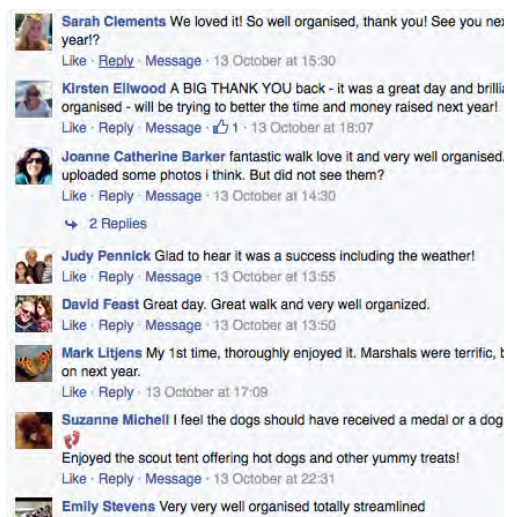
Many walkers commented on how well the event was organised and how cheerful, helpful and encouraging the marshals (and there were 90 of them all in their dayglo Rotary tabards). The St John Ambulance staff were in constant attendance but had only to deal with a few blistered feet. The walkers also appreciated the clarity of the signposting by HCC's permanent way-marking and Rotary's temporary additional signing and mileage markers.

Notable among the teams were 66 walkers, encouraged by serial charity fund raiser Bruce Elkins raising money for [Wessex Cancer Trust](#). Whilst the majority of walkers were relatively local, some had come from over 100 miles away to join the event.

There were lots of colourful 'T-shirts' amidst the walkers winding through the countryside and a few dresses. As she did last year Heather Parsons, raised money for the Southampton Charity 'Where there's a Will' of which she is a Director. She walked the entire distance in a 'Strictly Come Dancing' long dress.

81 year-old Thelma Dowling who walked for Wherwell in support of [Marie Curie](#) was one of 4 walkers over 75 years of age. She said she was in training for the Great South Run.

Over 150 charities will benefit from the sponsorship raised on their behalf by this year's walkers and the next talk for the Walk organisers is to collect this money (and where appropriate claim the Gift Aid) and to distribute it. By the time of the next Newsletter we should know the total funds raised.



Facebook comments

2015 STATISTICS

St Mary Bourne	25.5 miles	(246 walkers)
Wherwell	16 miles	(137)
Stockbridge	11 miles	(175)
Horsebridge	8 miles	(60)
Mottisfont	5 miles	(91)
Total distance walked	11,325 miles	

* The distance from London to Auckland in New Zealand
The ten biggest Charity teams;

[Wessex Cancer Trust](#) (66)
[Rotary Club of Romsey Test](#) (49)
[Salisbury Hospice Care](#) (33)
[Cancer Research](#) (28)
[Oracle](#) (27)
[Asante -C4C](#) (25)
[Macmillan](#) (25)
[Naomi House](#) (23)
[Charlie's Beach Hut](#) (18)
[Alzheimers Research](#) (18)

Dictionaries - for Romsey...

In the two weeks leading up to half-term a team of 9 Club members led by John Gould visited the 8 primary schools around Romsey to give Dictionaries to each of the 270 year 4 children. The copies of the Usborne Illustrated English Dictionary are available at low cost thanks to Rotary **Dictionary4Life** project.



The Romsey presentations started 4 years ago and have proved a great hit with both children and teachers. This year we were very fortunate to have the project funded by two of our Business Partners, Bath Travel and Waitrose, who also sent representatives to hand out the books.



...and for Kenya

In our last newsletter we reported on how we had paid for desks to be built for the New Life schools in Kisumu, Kenya that are supported by the Asante Coffee shop in Romsey through the charity C4C. In September we had hoped to have visit from James Samo who runs the schools and was to tell us about their work with severely disadvantaged children. Sadly his visit was delayed.



However we presented 16 Dictionaries for the schools to Paul and Shirley Barter the founders of C4C and later John Gould was able to meet James in Asante and show him the books.

Home and away

Over the past three months we have had a wide variety of interesting speakers at our Wednesday evening meetings and we've also had a couple of outings including a Hog Roast. We had a tour of **Romsey Abbey** and learned much about its history and architecture from Chris Harpham, the vergier.

Further afield we visited the **RNLI college in Poole** where lifeboat volunteers receive their training. Though we didn't undergo the sea survival training we did have a chance to go in the lifeboat simulator and emerged from it feeling distinctly queasy.



Our speakers have included Amanda Tincknell, the CEO of the **Cranfield Trust** that, to our surprise, we found is based in Romsey Town Hall. The Trust puts charities in touch with volunteers who can provide the expertise they need (for example in HR or accountancy) so that they can operate effectively. She opened our eyes to many aspects of charity work.

Graham Martin told us about the rapid response medical transport organisation **SERV (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers)**.



It operates regionally across the country delivering blood, platelets, vaccines, X-rays, scans, donor breast milk and other medical essentials free to NHS hospitals, out-of-hours. They receive no Government funding nor compensation for the volunteers' costs. SERV relies on public donations.



Neil Sharman gave us an update on the work of **Romsey Young Carers** of which there are about 130 aged from 5 – 20. Because of their caring responsibilities many have educational and health issues themselves. We are pleased to be able to provide support to this worthwhile cause.

We provide practical and financial support for the the Eastleigh Women's Refuge and were told about its work and the way in which it helps to rebuild the lives of victims of domestic violence. It works closely the locally-based **You Trust** providing a wide range of practical support.



Rotary Dentaïd boxes in Burkino Faso

Our Club has a longstanding close link with the **Dentaïd** charity. We first helped them develop a low cost portable dental chair and later this expanded to provide a complete but simple dental surgery in a wheelie bin. Through links with other Rotary Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland we have managed to fund many of these boxes and to ship them overseas. Notably we gained a grant from the **Rotary Foundation** to establish a training programme for dentists in Timor Leste.

About our Club and about Rotary

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test was started in 1990 and presently has 58 members (3 honorary). The Club was an offshoot of the **Rotary Club of Romsey** (the lunchtime club) that meets on Tuesday lunchtimes at the White Horse hotel. We are part of **Rotary International** and **Rotary International of Britain and Ireland**.

Rotary's objectives and principles are :-

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions;
- Service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

Our club is overseen by its Council made up of the Chairs of the Club's committees, Secretary and Treasurers.

The Club's committees are

- Club Service - responsible for running the club.
- Community Service – dealing with service to the local community
- Fund-raising – primarily focussed on our major fundraising event, Walk the Test Way.
- Youth Opportunities - focussed on our work with young people around Romsey
- International – dealing with our international giving and including our partnership with Dentaïd to produce the Rotary Dentaïd Box.
- Foundation - **Rotary Foundation** is Rotary's own charity and deals with such global projects as the eradication of polio
- Membership - covering recruitment and retention.
- Sports and Social



We have just received some pictures and an account of Dentaïd boxes in use in Burkino Faso in sub-Saharan Africa. These boxes were funded by the Exeter branch of the British Dental Association and by our Club. To quote from the report

"The clinic yesterday went really well but today we are all exhausted. We treated 44 people, working from 8am until 7.30pm. The sun went down at 6pm, but thanks to the chair lamps we were able to continue working, we just didn't want to send anyone away, especially as some people had waited more than 8 hours for treatment. I was able to set up 2 chairs, our 3 trainees examining, anaesthetising and doing straight forward extractions. The mouths were terrible...most cases needed multiple extractions, due to very poor oral hygiene and high consumption of refined sugar.

And a big 'thank you' from all the people who will receive dental care because of this donation".

Who's Who (July 2015 to June 2016)

President	Neil Duncan
Senior Vice President	Tony Trowsdale
Junior Vice President	Jon Livingstone
Community Service	Stuart Wineberg
Membership	Colin Staples
Youth Opportunities	Steve Irish
Fundraising	Greg Hall
International	Philip Kirkland
Rotary Foundation	Tony Trowsdale
Sports and Social	Tony Abbott
Publicity	Neill Beasley
Business Partners	John Gould
Hon Secretary	Roger Shepherd
Trust Fund Treasurer	John Jones
Club Treasurer	Paul Grainger

Diary

Meetings are normally in Romsey Town Hall 19.00 for 1930 First Wednesday each month is a Business Meeting. Other events are highlighted in Yellow . Major events in bold			
Date	Speaker topic or event	Speaker/organiser	Venue
Wed 4 Nov	Business Meeting		
Wed 11 Nov	"Getting into deep water"	Fred Stanley	
Wed 18 Nov	The rise of IS and Sunni/Shia tensions	David Holley	
Wed 25 Nov	Solent Sky Aviation Museum	Andy Jones	
Wed 2 Dec	Business Meeting		
Wed 9 Dec	Bill Huntley Memorial Peace Seminar	Tony Trowsdale	
Wed 16 Dec	Christmas Dinner		Ampfield GC
Wed 23 Dec	No meeting		
Wed 30 Dec	No meeting		
Wed 6 Jan	Business Meeting		
Wed 13 Jan	WTTW – Where do we go from here?	Greg Hall	
Wed 20 Jan	"In the beginning....."	Gordon Rogers	
Wed 27 Jan	Rotary Youth Speaks Romsey Area	Fred Stanley	Town Hall Council Chamber
Sat 13 Feb TBC	Young Musician Festival	Bill Gidley	Lantern Theatre Mountbatten Sch
Wed 2 Mar	Rotary Young Technologist	Martin Harman	Crosfield Hall
Sat 12 Mar	Reminiscences of Romsey		Crosfield Hall
Sun 19 June	Rotary Bike Ride for Prostate Cancer	Details TBC	
Sun 9 Oct	Walk the Test Way	The Walk Team	