

Meon Tidings No. 45 – Christmas December 2014



Future Meetings and Events

December.

3rd. Pate with toast and chutney, Salmon in white wine & tarragon sauce, Lemon tart

Speaker:- Roderick Rhys- Jones “The memorial to those who died in Antarctic Surveys”

10th. Ham Hock terrine, Roast turkey with trimmings, Christmas pudding

Fellowship meeting.

17th. Club Christmas Dinner at Meon Valley Golf Club 7.30pm. Meon choices with cheques to Geoff Smith.

Next meeting 7th January

Previous meetings and events.

12th November. Speaker District Foundation Chairman P.D.G. Alan Hollands- “The Rotary Foundation update.”

Alan gave a comprehensive illustrated talk covering the major recent changes in the Foundation programme. These changes cover the main areas of focus which will

concentrate funding into humanitarian projects, peace and conflict resolution, education and economic development.

The grant structure has also been completely simplified into District Grants which are designed to fund smaller, short- term activities that address needs in local communities and communities worldwide provided they address the main areas of focus. Each Rotary District is able to choose which projects it will fund with this type of grant.

Global Grants support large international activities that have sustainable, measurable outcomes in one or more of our areas of focus. Rotarians are able to create their own projects and carry them out, again provided they address the main areas of focus.

The old much loved G.S.E. programme is now called Vocational Training Team Visits and again will concentrate on team members who are able to take with them professional expertise with skills which will educate or train in the areas of focus outlined above. Similer parameters will apply to the T.R.F. scholarship programme.

A District's donations are split 50% to the World Fund and 50% to the District Designated Funds. Half of the latter is available for local District grants between £800 (min.) and £4,000 (max.) Foundation Chairman P.P. Derrick Oswald hosted.

19th. Speaker Brian Ray P.D.G .& P.P. and bar, P.H.F. and bar!- “The Polio Eradication Story”

I attempted to give a potted history of Rotary's involvement with the Worldwide eradication campaign and the history of the disease. And when the movement freed the children of the Philippines from the threat of paralysis from Polio in the nineteen eighties to the present day. Early estimates of the cost were grossly underestimated when 125 countries were endemic. However the Rotary target originally of \$120m.was doubled as \$247m.was donated. The total cost to the end of 2013 in an astonishing \$12billion. Rotary's contribution to this figure is \$1.2 billion. Also Rotary has helped with publicity, advocacy to National Governments, the transport of the vital vaccine and by taking part in National Immunisation days.

I outlined the effects of the disease and areas of the body that can be affected. Also I told of the development of the two main types of vaccines and the latest improvements.

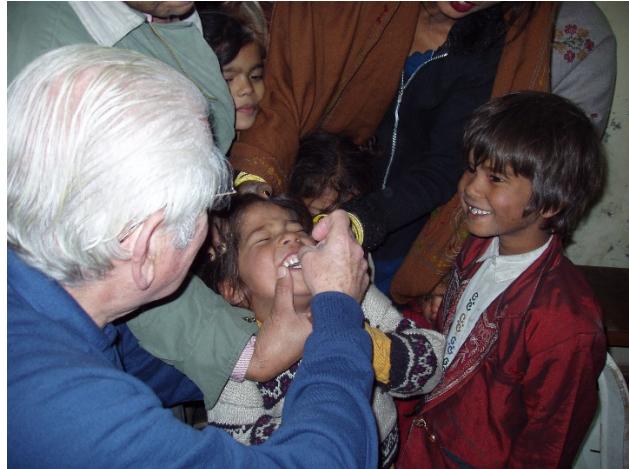
The important Rotary partnership that was formed with the W.H.O., U.N.I.C.E.F. and The U.S. C.D.C. and later The Gates Foundation was praised.

The encouraging news that 99.9% of the world is now free from polio is clearly great but Pakistan still is a great problem country. However the latest news from the Prime Minister is that he promises that in six months his country will be free of the disease is

excellent news but must be taken with caution. Some pictures of my visit to India in 2004 and participation in a National Immunisation week were shown.

What can you do? Donate and ask your relatives and friends to do so also. Take part in or organise a fund raising event- see John Lovell's report below.

P.P. Derek Young gave the vote of thanks. He was chosen as he instigated our first club Polio fund raising.



B.D.R. Gives two drops of vaccine in Chandigarh, India, to the amusement of the little girl's brother.

BUPA Great South Run - Sunday 26 October 2014 was the 25th Anniversary of The Great South Run, and I wanted to take part, having ran it last year as well as some 10k road races throughout the year, it seemed a good reason to run it. This also became a great opportunity to raise some funds for The Rotary Foundation Polio Eradication Campaign, through sponsorship.

So the training was upped to running around 20 miles a week for the few weeks before the race.

On the day of the Run, the elite women and television coverage started at 10:15, with the elite men and orange wave of runners starting at 10:35. Orange number 3939 was off.

The first few miles of the route are interesting, running through the Historic Dockyard, passing by HMS Victory, through the usually closed off Royal Navy Dockyard, with the Royal Navy Band playing us through. During the race there were brass bands, samba bands and many houses and flats playing music to help us along, which was all appreciated.

Once I got into my stride, my split times were showing a consistent pace. The first 5km was completed in 26 minutes, the 10k split came up 28 minutes later at 54 minutes, with the final split time being taken at the 15km point which came up 30 minutes later

at 1 hour 24 minutes, with the 10 mile finishing line coming up 6 minutes later, showing a race time of 1 hour 30.39 minutes.

Raising money for the worldwide eradication of Polio was an added incentive, helping at those times when you feel that your legs have had enough, which came somewhere around 7 miles. It kept me going and helped me through that barrier. I didn't stop at any point during the race.

The students at the University opened up their windows to play music for us, along with the charity cheering points, and many youngsters putting out their hand for a 'high 5', which broke the monotony. All their support helped pass the time and make running the event a very pleasurable experience, and a day to remember.

The 5 mile point came up just before the Queens Hotel in Southsea, with the long trek down to Eastney to come, before the final 2 miles home along the seafront from Eastney.

Oh, and yes I did receive shouts of encouragement from Wolverhampton Wanderers football fans who recognised that I was running in a Wolves shirt.

Race number 3939, crossed the line in 1hour 30.39minutes, 8 minutes faster than last year, raising around £555 in sponsorship, with an overall finishing position of 6013th out of around 25,000 runners. In my age and gender positioning I finished 394th.

The photos are courtesy of Gill, who did well to spot me within all those runners.

I was looking to do the best I could and am happy that I felt I'd achieved that. On meeting up with Gill after the finishing line, I said "That's it, I'm very happy with that, but never again". Maybe, though there is always next year.....

Thank you all for your support and sponsorship. John Lovell.



The happy smiling runner John after his terrific run.

Ed. Well done John we look forward to next year!

Shelter Box News.

At long last we have received a letter of confirmation that the five boxes we donated to the relief programme in the Philippines following the Typhoon Haiyan have been delivered. One was occupied by a family of eight who were found existing in a tiny bus shelter in the municipality of Legaspi. The Alarin family simply had nowhere else to go as their house and all their possessions had been destroyed. The tent will enable them to live in warm and dry shelter whilst they rebuild their home.

Rotary Clothing and accessories.

I think it is a shame that more of our club members do not wear their name badges or even Rotary pins at club meetings and events. Name badges and pins should always be worn especially when visitors are present. The District Rotary shop is run by Salisbury club and our club secretary should have a copy of their catalogue. See this for badges and shirts etc. or phone Alan Corkill 01722 333666 - Web site: salisburyrotary.org.uk

SHOE BOXES 2014

As before I contacted schools that have not participated and got 4 of them on board but this was partly offset by losing two schools. Pam & I visited two schools where Pam gave a talk to their assemblies. Of the 18 schools that have previously participated 9 were up, 7 were down on last year's contributions and 2 were the same. It was disappointing that Portchester Community School was 102 down on last year but our 4 new schools gave 143 boxes which more than made up for it. I gave a total of 595 leaflets to 4 schools but we only got 13 boxes between them!! Next year I will have to give some thought on speaking to someone at those schools to see if we can improve on that. I had a request from the District Organiser that our boxes should be sent to the Philippines and I emailed members for their agreement to this which was forthcoming.

Once again I had good support from members and the collecting, checking and packing of boxes. All went quite smoothly so that by early Thursday afternoon all were checked and in packing cases. So we only had a little to do on the Friday morning so it was all done and dusted by noon. Total number collected 1309. However that afternoon we had a phone call from a school that they had another box which we collected. Total now 1310. But there's more!! On Saturday I contacted my son to see if he could help loading the lorry on the Sunday as someone dropped out at the last minute and he told me that a friend had given him another 2 boxes. **Final, final total now 1312.** (Last year 1304). On the Monday morning Pam and I went to the unit to clear up and to leave everything tidy and to take the key back. On the way home we breathed a sigh of relief and remarked that we were finally done. NO CHANCE. When we got home there was a message from a lady to the effect that she usually did boxes and took them to someone in Hedge End (for Samaritans Purse) but unfortunately they were in New Zealand. She had 8 boxes and could we take them!! Of course I agreed but I will hang on to them until next year.

There were one or two hiccups in that one member had put his name down to help every day and we didn't see hide or hair of him & another agreed to help load up on Sunday morning at 9 am but

overslept and when he eventually rolled up at about 9.20 am the lorry had been loaded and was already on its way – he was most surprised!!!! However I had already roped in my son to help so no harm done.

My thanks to all the members who helped especially Peter Briscoe who obtained the lorry for us & was helped by a friend to deliver the boxes. Also once again my thanks to Ian Power who organised the unit for us. But I must particularly thank Pam who is totally committed to the scheme and as usual threw herself wholeheartedly into it. She was at the unit every morning helping in the checking and packing apart from dealing with many phone calls and giving talks to school assemblies and doing 26 boxes herself. Last year she personally was responsible for 220 of the 1242 boxes we sent and this year she set herself a target of 300 not expecting to achieve it. However she collected 316!! (We couldn't get into our dining room!) She was helped by one of her lady friends who did 25 boxes last year and got hooked. This year despite having a serious operation for cancer she did 51 this year & gave me the £51!!! Altogether it must have cost her a fortune. Members did better this year and in all 17 members contributed a total of 177 (last year 168) of this Pauline Kidd did 40 personally and collected a further 50!!

The breakdown is as follows:-

	2013	2014
SCHOOLS(22)	884	811
PAM	254	316
CLUB MEMBERS	62	85
MOTHER CLUB	60	27
OTHERS	44	85
TOTAL	1304	1324

The eagle eyed of you will notice that the number collected and the number sent to PCF does not agree. That is because some of the boxes had to be combined as some were fairly empty. Last year we lost 62 but this year the boxes were much better and we lost only 14.

John Tonkin Shoe Box Supremo!!

I completed this report at the weekend (8th-9th November) as I thought that it was all over but on the Thursday received a telephone call from Crofton School that they had another box. Collected it on Friday and just as I came home received another phone call from a lady saying that she had a further 2 boxes from her Brownie group which she brought round together with a £5 donation.

Ed. Well done the Tonkins and those club members, friends and schools who participated! (See below)

Donations to Foundation or Polio eradication in lieu of sending Christmas cards to members.

The price of a second class stamp is now £0.53p, a card can cost just as much if not more. Why not give a donation via the club treasurer using gift aid and send brief greetings in the Christmas edition of “Meon Tidings” due out on 17th December instead?

Entries by 15th please.



Pupils at Porchester Community School



President Paul at our club depot

Christmas message from President Paul.

To each and every Rotarian I would like to pass onto you, greetings for a Beautiful. Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a super New Year. We especially remember those who are ill and I wish them a speedy and full recovery, particularly we wish Elizabeth well as she continues with her treatment.



The Solicitors- our new business partner



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