

May 2026

Issue 146



MagnaLink



Charles R



Charles the Third,

*By the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and of Our other Realms and Territories King, Defender of the Faith, to*

Testwood Lakes Sailability

*Providing dinghy sailing in a fun, secure and safe environment
for people with any disability.*

Greeting!

*We being cognisant of the said group's outstanding voluntary work in the community,
and being desirous of showing Our Royal Favour do hereby confer upon it:*

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
for voluntary service by groups in the community 2025

*for such period as the group continues to provide its current service and do
hereby give permission for the authorised emblem of the said Award to be
displayed on the group's letterhead and other public material.*

*Given at Our Court of Saint James's under Our Royal Sign Manual this
fourteenth day of November 2025 in the third year of Our said Majesty's*



The King's Award
for Voluntary Service

**Sailability
& Kings Award**



Click on a Business Partner to enter their Web Site



With an increase in commitments and expenditure for our Youth Projects with seven local schools, it would be helpful to have another 3 to 4 sponsors. If you know of a potential Business Partner, please inform [James Lapage](#).

Business partners have their Logo featured on our website and in our MagnaLink monthly newsletter.

Each of these have a link to the Business Partners own website.

For those in a hurry...

Regular Features...

[School Report](#)

[The Future Beckons](#)

Special Features...



[Yet Another New Member For Magna](#)

[Visitors From Around The World](#)



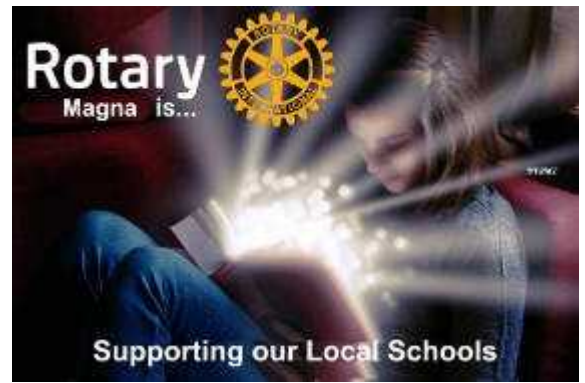
Rotary Club of Southampton Magna Meets: Novotel Hotel, West Quay Road Southampton SO15 1RA

Rotary Club of Southampton Magna Charitable Fund, Registered Charity 1031588

president@rotarymagna.uk
membership@rotarymagna.uk
 Business Partners

www.rotarymagna.uk
 Facebook Page

**Southampton Magna
Youth Report
May 2026**
Chris Nixon
youth@rotarymagna.uk



1. Youth Chef.

The National Final winner was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Troon.

The judging was very close, due to the very high standard.

2. Young Photographer.

The Intermediate District winner is Ariya Vance from Oasis Academy, Sholing.

They go through to the National Final.

3. Young Writer.

The Senior District winner is Melanie Ramos from Woodlands.

They go through to the National Final.



This month we have continued to invest in 8 entrepreneurs.

These have included the following countries; Paraguay, Zambia and The Philippines, all of which are projects involving food or farming.

One of these is Zoon B from Zambia an interesting group of Ladies.

Here's their story:



Zoon B 0504 is a women's collective based in the Eastern Province. The group came together to achieve financial freedom while also supporting the 43 children in their care.

The members are all married, with an average age of 37. To sustain their households, they operate a range of small businesses, including poultry farming, grocery shops, and fish trading.

Mary (49) is a true pillar of both her family and her local community. Following her divorce, she found herself solely responsible for raising her four children.

With no secondary income, she recognised the need to build something sustainable.

Using her strong business sense and modest savings, Mary established a small grocery shop.

It began as a humble market stall, stocked with everyday essentials such as mealie meal, cooking oil, sugar, and fresh vegetables.

While this provided basic support for her household, Mary aspired to more.

She wanted to secure her children's education and transform her stall into a thriving wholesale business.

Recognising the need for additional capital to move beyond subsistence trading, Mary plans to use her share of the group loan to purchase stock in bulk.

Other members of the group are also

seeking to increase their own inventory to strengthen their respective businesses.

Magna's Impact to-date

Your organisation's impact



533
Number of loans
My loans

2322
Entrepreneurs helped

653
Jobs created

0
Friends joined
Recommend a friend

£16,943.98
Loans

10579
Family members helped

13554
People helped

Magna's Newest Member Zoë Shannon Grey

It was a special occasion as we celebrated the introduction of our latest member.

Zoë was inducted by our President Elect Tim.



Guest Speaker Debbie Walker



Debbie came to bring us up to date with Polio+. She also gave us her story of visiting India with Rotary to inoculate the children against polio.

A really fascinating story and Debbie wants to encourage those able to also visit India to help.

Magna's Visitor

We had the pleasure of Kavita Abhyanhar and her daughter Aditi pay us a visit from the Rotary Club of Pune Heritage which is in Maharashtra in India.

Kavita spoke about, and showed a video of their clubs' activities, which was very impressive.

Aditi is studying at Southampton University.



President Jo swapped Club Emblems with Kavita



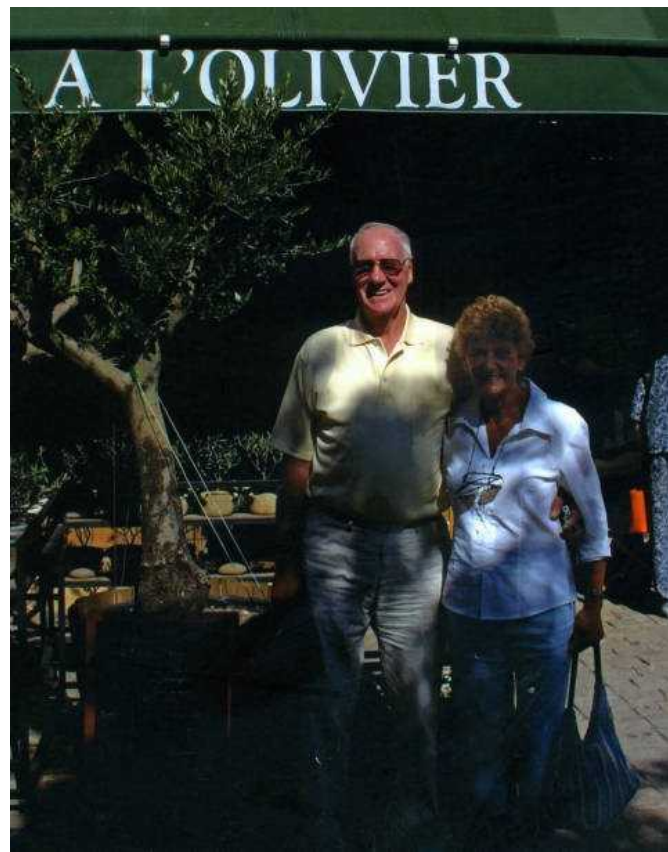
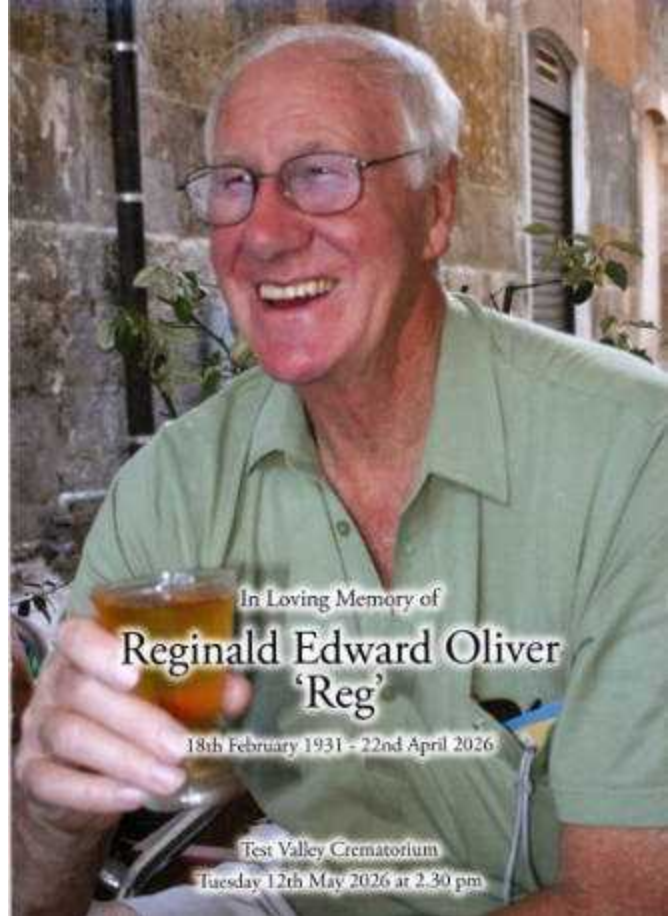
Reg & Audrey Oliver

James Lapage

It is with great sadness that I share the sad news that Reg Oliver passed away peacefully last Wednesday.

For newer members Reg was a founder member of Magna and he was a keen golfer and snooker player. He was always great company at all events. I'm sure older members will have lots of happy memories of times with Reg and his wife Audrey.

Audrey passed away a few days later.



Abby's Heroes

Pam Broads



Thank you again for the support of Abby's Heroes from Southampton Magna Rotary Easter Egg Raffle.

As I mentioned, this will cover three Kindness Projects for families who are facing the unimaginable.

Our Care & Comfort Bags contain the essentials required in the first few days after being admitted on the ward, including toiletries, games, colouring books and pens, water bottle, coffee cup, universal phone charger, a bed sheet for the parent bed, a fluffy blanket and cuddly toy for the child and more;

The Early Days Gift of £200 is transferred directly to a bank account to cover immediate expenses; a Welfare Pack includes a voucher for M&S, a Costa voucher and a parking ticket for two weeks with the opportunity to renew this.

The Kindness Project also includes an End of Treatment Gift for the child to mark the missed birthdays and Christmases while they have been receiving treatment. I include a group of photos below, including Drew who bought himself an enormous Lego collection after he had 'rung the bell'! I will try to get one photo of all the Kindness Project elements and share this next week but meanwhile thank you again for three Kindness Projects. The support these give to families in the first few days is vital. Thank you so very much.



I have submitted the donation of foreign currency to our Alice who will forward to the exchanging company. I look forward to confirming the total exchange donation as soon as possible and will write a thank you to Haskins via Shaun.

Every donation helps and it was very kind of Debbie to add her Euros to the bag too! Again, I will let you know how this will contribute to the support of the children and families on the Piam Brown and Teenage & Young Adult wards.

Last night I mentioned the fascinating tour of the vaults of Southampton, arranged by Experience Hampshire with a donation from tickets to Abby's Heroes. Further information and tickets are available via the link: <https://experiencehampshire.uk/experience/hidden-southampton-guided-walking-tour-in-support-of-abbys-heroes-909?categories=cultural>. It is a beautiful summer evening walk and I hope the weather will be warmer and dry! It will be lovely to see some familiar faces.

Thank you again for everything. Together, we will make a difference to the children and their families.

Looking forward to seeing you again soon

Pam



Sailability

Jon Brazier

Myself and Jo Shannon were luckily enough to be invited to the presentation of The King's Award for Voluntary Services at Testwood lakes Sailability.

The Kings award is awarded each year on the anniversary of the King Birthday every November.

They were 800 application in the Uk in 2025 and there were only 231 awards awarded.

The King award is the Highest honour for voluntary groups and is equivalent to the MBE.

Sailability are one of only four voluntary Services in Hampshire to be given the award in 2025, another group we have been involved with is Wetwheels who were also award The Kings Award.

The award was presented to Eric Blyth wife and family by Nigel Atkinson the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire the personal representative of HM King (Eric was founder and Chairman of Sailability but sadly passed away over two year ago).

The event was attended by many volunteers and supporter of Sailability.

Southampton Magna have supported Sailability every year for the last seven years.

Jon Brazier



A Walk On The Wild Side

Jon Brazier

Do you fancy a 'Walk On The Wild Side'.

A walk in our wild and untamed New Forest is not for the faint-hearted, but with the expert guidance from our own explorer Jon you will be well looked after.

A word from our guide...

I have been asked to bring back our Bar (Walk) evening.

I have arranged our first Walk for Thursday 2nd of July.

I suggest we meet for a 6.00pm start, which will take us around an hour and then we can eat at a local Pub.

The walk I suggest is at Churchplace and Deerleap Inclosure Ashurst.

The start of the walk is located along side "The Happy Cheese" Public house in Ashurst there is ample parking around the Happy Cheese

The Address of The Happy Cheese is 189 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7AR.

I have walked the walk its about a 2.5mile walk which will take about one hour.

The walk is along a gravel path thought the tree lined inclosure.

I can also arrange for us to eat at The Happy Cheese after the walk around 7.30pm.

If you don't want to join us for the walk and would like to join us to eat that would nice.

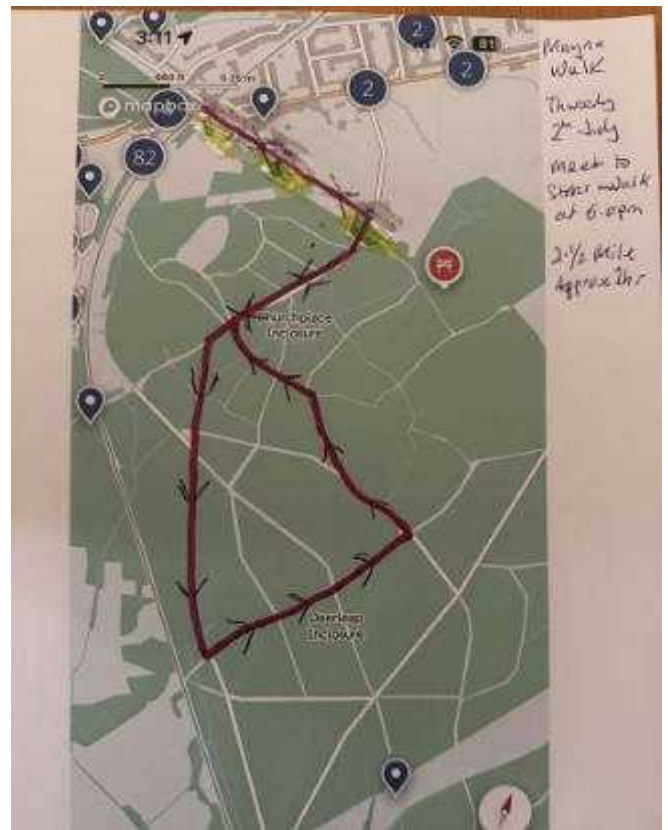
Please find a few photos of the walk, and car park and a copy of the simple menu.

Please let me [know](#) if you would like to join the walk and meal or just the meal or just the walk.

This is open to Club member family and friend.

Weather dependant.

Jon jonbrazier@rotarymagna.uk



Environment

Hazel Gibbs

Boots Recycling



Boots Recycling – Simple Steps

Following my recent article in MagnaLink, when I attempted to make sense of the Recycle at Boots app, I persevered and I hope the following will help.

1. Download the **Boots Advantage Card app** and the **Recycle at Boots app**.
 2. Finish your beauty products and check they're eligible to recycle.
 3. Scan items in the recycling app until you have **5 approved items**.
 4. Go to a Boots store (connect to store WiFi if needed).
 5. Choose at least **£10 worth of shopping**.
 6. At the recycling bin, scan the QR code and deposit your 5 items.
 7. You'll get a **voucher in your app/ email**.
 8. Go straight to the till, open the voucher, and use it within **5 minutes**.
 9. Pay as normal – your **£5 in loyalty points** will be added.
- Note:** Use the voucher the same day before closing.

Blister Packs:

- You can recycle blister packs too.
- Every 5 packs = **100 points (£1)** when you spend £5.
- It's a bit more effort, so you can just drop them off at Boots or Superdrug without worrying about points.



You can find what you can recycle here <https://www.boots.com/shopping/boots-recycling-scheme>

For more information on recycling see this link <https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator?rlw-initial-path=local-authority/search>

Beach Guardian

Emily Stevenson



Emily from Beach Guardian here. On behalf of our dedicated team, I am thrilled to announce that this week we have officially launched our 'The Tales of Cetus' documentary on Youtube, making it free to view for anyone with access to internet around the world.

This film is a story of hope, community, and a whale called Cetus. It captures several years of Beach Guardian's history and impact, and explores how community action is a vital ally in our quest against a global threat, plastic pollution.

We want to shout about this from the rooftops, and we want your help.

As part of the launch, we have developed lesson plans and learning materials for young people aged 7-16. Upon request, we endeavour to translate these into all languages possible, ensuring that this information is accessible to as many people as possible. These can be viewed here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14vWEB9x2CSmC9ed2zOOPKxEVkyfY0O4-?usp=drive_link

Beyond young people, though, we want to connect with our communities. This is where we need you.

Many of you will have engaged with us in the past - you may have met me, or Rob, or Andrew, Alex and Grace. As part of our legacy, it would mean the world to us if you can host an independent screening of our documentary with your community group. All you need is a projector and screen for an in person meeting, or share your screen on an online meeting, and follow this link: <https://youtu.be/r7jkt9TVFJU>

If you want to take it to the next level, we'd love to hear your questions. It is difficult for us to come and visit all of you, as we are a small, part-time team. But if you write in your questions following the movie, we will record our answers in a video and send this to you to play at your following meeting. Or, if you meet online, Emily can join you virtually to discuss the film in real time.

Please, share this widely with your networks.

At a time when positivity and hope feels sparse, please help us turn this ripple into a wave of change.

Thank you,

Dr Emily Stevenson,
and the Beach Guardian team :)

Gratitude on behalf of Millie Vardy

Debbie Walker

I wanted to take a moment to thank you, on behalf of Millie, for your generosity. As you so kindly joined forces to make her life easier, it seems appropriate to send a joint email of thanks.

When we realised that Millie was going to be unable to wheel independently and that she would need some sort of powered assist device, I had no idea how big the range of devices were. I also had no idea how costly they were. A friend suggested that I ask for charity funding and in all honesty, I didn't have high expectations. I imagined that a charity of some sort might give us a small contribution of one or two hundred pounds.

I could not have imagined that the charities I approached would not only team up, but that they would approach other charities to assist them, especially as I hadn't even heard of some of the charities. I am humbled by the enthusiasm that you have shown in helping Millie and the generosity of your donations.

As she gets older, Millie's needs are becoming more complex. She gets so fatigued by every day life, and trying to use her wheelchair contributed to that. Now, she will have the ability to move freely.

Thank you once again for all you have done. Millie really doesn't understand how much money £6077 is or how staggering it is that she has been granted this amount by a group of charities, but I do and I am absolutely thrilled.

Kind regards

Louise Vardy



Attached is a photo of Millie with her new wheelchair which has transformed Her life, words from her mum:

This is completely life-changing for her. With the combination of the Benoit Light Drive and the Track Wheel, Millie can independently travel at speeds of up to 6 miles per Hour (a fast trot in walking terms). Previously we had to lift Millie over every dropped kerb on the way to the village because the front castors would snag, now, she can effortlessly navigate over dropped kerbs and speed bumps. She can also take the wheelchair off road onto gravel paths, grass and woodland paths.

Thank you to all the charities who so generously combined efforts to make Millie's life easier and more fulfilled.

Best wishes

Debbie

BW Rotary

Vintage Garden Party

Southampton Solent RC

Please see the attached flyers and information for our next Vintage Garden Party to be held at The Concorde on Sunday 28th June from 12noon

It promises to be another great afternoon of fun and entertainment and early bird tickets are only £20 until 20th June.

Tickets available from theconcordeclub.com or phone 02380 613989

There will also be a Big 40 prize Raffle supporting the Hampshire Air Ambulance and other local causes

We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you!

Southampton Solent Rotary

"Vintage Garden Party"

Big Band Music from the 'Golden Era'
Plus 'Music from the movies'



Swing Unlimited Big Band

The Alcock Sisters

Jive Dancing Instruction from 'Richer Moves'

Sunday 28th June

Concorde - Stoneham Lane 12 noon - 5.30pm

Tickets Available from;

theconcordeclub.com 02380 613989

Early-bird Tickets £20 each

Tickets revert to £25 after 20th June.

Reserved tables of 8 or more are available by calling 075880 40177

£20

An Outdoor event Food / BBQ / Ice Cream /Bar



The Swing Unlimited Big Band

Huge Raffle (40 prizes)... Plus!



Music from the movies



Jive Dance Instruction



Garden Party

All for a great cause!



Event organized by
Southampton Solent
Rotary Club.

Supporting the Air Ambulance and other local causes

Beaulieu Oak Run 2026

This year's charity is
Friends of the New Forest Airfields



About [FONFA](#)

Friends of the New Forest Airfields (FONFA) is committed to preserving and sharing the aviation heritage of the New Forest and as part of our outreach programme we welcome small group visits to our aviation Heritage Centre which is located on the outskirts of Bransgore.

We welcome group visits from clubs and societies, retirement living accommodation and care homes and schools and other education establishments.

Our Heritage Centre is housed in the last remaining building of the former RAF Sopley Camp.

It contains many models and dioramas, artefacts, uniforms, pilot stories and interactive displays with maps, photographs and video clips.

The mezzanine balcony contains a display of aviation prints, many of which have been signed by the pilots and crew.



Beaulieu Oak Run 2026 will be held on
6th September 2026

The invites have sent out this month as there are only 26 vehicles allowed in this scenic drive through the beautiful New Forest.

With a visit to the FONFA Heritage Centre near to Bransgore followed by a light lunch with Lord and Lady Montagu.

Finally watch the Oak Sapling planting.

This is a very prestigious day out for those lucky enough to book early enough.

For more info and the Entry Form visit our web site [HERE](#).



Sunday 14 June 2026
Wide Lane Sports Ground



We need Volunteer Colour Marshals along the route to cover our participants in a rainbow of colours.

Take on a fabulously fun 5k route with friends, colleagues and family, and run, walk, wheel or dance through fantastic colour stations getting covered in colour on your way round!

Your gift of time will help the event run smoothly and make the day joyfully colourful for all!

It's a fully accessible, family-friendly day out. Join us for our first ever Colour Dash and help create brighter futures for disabled children and young people.

[Volunteer here](#)



Participants get:

Colour Dash Fundraising pack

Exclusive Rose Road Colour Dash t-shirt

Finisher's medal

Coloured powder packet to throw over friends

Adults £20

Children (7-16yrs) £10

Children 6 and under FREE

Sign up today!

Can't run but still want to get splattered with colour?

Run for Rose Road in the Southampton Marathon

We have charity places in the Southampton Marathon, Half or 10.k happening on Sunday 3rd May!

[Sign up](#) today to run and raise £250 which could help fund urgent overnight respite nights for families needing crisis support.

Help families build resilience with every step.

Rose Road

Sunday 14 June 2026 | Wide Lane Sports Ground

Take on a fabulously fun 5k route with friends, colleagues and family, and run, walk, wheel or dance through fantastic colour stations getting covered in colour on your way round!

It's a fully accessible, family-friendly day out. Join us for our first ever Colour Dash and help create brighter futures for disabled children and young people.



We're absolutely delighted to announce that
Heart and Stroll is BACK for 2026,
and it's set to be even bigger and better than last year!



Heart & Stroll™
2026

POWERED BY **GBHQ**

**Fun for all the family
including the dog!**

Sunday 28th June 2026
Southampton Common - 9am to 2pm

Under 5s
and dogs go
FREE!

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

£12.50 per adult • £5 per child over 5 years
General admission £5 per person (not including walk)
with under 5 years going free.

Funds going to the Renovation of the Heart Failure Unit

savills **MORGAN SINDALL** **BARRATT** **leepeckmedia** **SOS** **SCENERY**
CONSTRUCTION storage on site Solutions

heartbeat.co.uk Registered charity no: 1116510

After an incredible inaugural event, we're coming together again for a day of fun, community spirit, and support for a cause close to all our hearts.

Date: Sunday 28th June 2026

Location: Southampton Common

Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Remember, this is not just any old walk in the park!



Southampton Council of Faiths

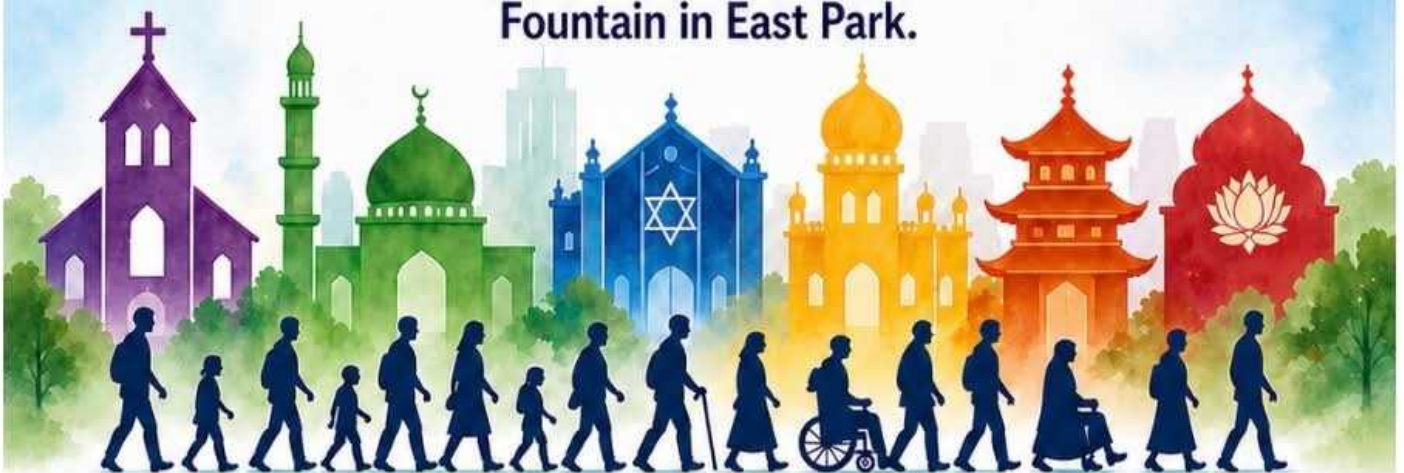
Annual Peace Walk 2026

🌿 Sunday 28th June at 12:30pm 🌿

Walk, listen, meet & eat!



Celebrate Southampton's diverse faith communities
on a guided walk around some of the city's places
of worship, starting at the Queen's Peace
Fountain in East Park.



For a full itinerary
please visit ...



<https://www.southampton-faiths.org/events>



[More Info](#)
[Post Code Checker](#)



According to the Mankind Initiative, 40% of domestic abuse victims in 2023/24 were men, and one in fifteen men report experiencing domestic abuse at some point in their lives.

Domestic abuse can be physical, emotional, financial, sexual and coercive control.

Men who experience domestic abuse can often feel isolated and ashamed and unable to speak out. Stigma, fear or a lack of awareness about support services often means they suffer in silence.

Info - [ManKind](#)

Remember these ten golden rules to help you prevent fraud and beat the scammers.

Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.

Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.

Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.

Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.

Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.

Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links in an email.

Don't just rely on glowing testimonials. Find solid, independent evidence of a company's success.

Always get independent or legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.

If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help.

Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there's no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

Hampshire Police Advice [web site](#)

Foreign Coins

We collect foreign coins.

If you have any unwanted coins/notes, we donate them to Abby's Heroes. Bring them along to one of our meetings, or give them to a Magna member.

Many thanks in anticipation.



Back Issues of the MagnaLink are available from [HERE](#)



Don't forget to check your drivers licence expiry date, some come up for renewal quicker than you age!

Why not join us?

Not enough time?...

You don't have to 'join' Magna to help others.

You can just help out as and when you have time.



Contact one of our team and they will give you more info on what, when & where you can get involved.

Our web site is:

www.rotarymagna.uk



You can see the kind of things we get up to.



Jo

joshannon@rotarymagna.uk



Jon

jonbrazier@rotarymagna.uk



James

jameslapage@rotarymagna.uk



The Future Beckons...

Guest Speaker Ray Drake

9th July

Ray is here to tell us about Sand Dams



Guest Speaker Nicky & Jim Pascoe

8th October

Nicky & Jim will introduce us to the winning photos of the Young Photographers Competition.

Guest Speaker Alison Joyce

10th September

David's Dash



Guest Speaker Phil Godfrey

12th November



Guest Speaker Derrick Boulby

24th September

Falklands

Dear Reader,

If you are reading someone else's copy of this MagnaLink, you can email editor@rotarymagna.uk and request your very own copy by being added to our mailing list..