

Winning £2,300 on the Gee-Gees, by Jan Matthews

Over one hundred members, family and friends enjoyed all that our Race Night has to offer. It had been a long wait! Rotary 'fun & fellowship' was there in abundance, but there was also the strong feeling that although the Race Night profits traditionally go to an International cause, the suffering in Ukraine touched every heart and everyone wanted to reach deep into their pockets.

Thus every money raising aspect of the evening – the tote, the bar, the raffle, the purchase of horses, the auction race, sponsorship and donations was a success and we raised just over £2,300.

**The Winners Enclosure!
Team Arnott did well!**



We intend sending this sum to the International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals, IRFHP. Doreen Pipe is in contact with Dr John Phillips and we understand that since the catastrophe is in Europe where there's no shortage of medical supplies, it is apparently more cost effective to donate funds.

'The Fellowship has established safe channels to transfer funds to Rotary in Ukraine and Poland. Every penny we raise will go to frontline Rotarians. Our Rotary family in Ukraine and surrounding families say thank you and assure you of feedback'

Photos from Diana Hoad, Sylvia Courtney and Doreen Pipe on Page 1 and 7



Bob, Rosie and Doreen auctioneers extraordinaire Lyn and Sue, happy at their work behind the bar!

***** Remember, The Shepperton Aurora Newsletter features on our Website! *****

Editor's Agenda

I did not expect a common-place puzzle to get me thinking. Pauline Hedge's sister created a word-search based on Mariupol, probably the most devastated city and humanitarian disaster of the Ukraine War. Few things can be more horrific than the captivity of civilians in the steel works while negotiations progress to secure their journey to safety. The word-search includes businesses and attractions, and from looking at pictures in the news you begin to wonder if any of these are left standing. Behind each of these business will be stories of hard-working people trying to make their way in the world, now cruelly taken away from them.



Human resilience is a wonderful thing. In a small way, after my father's business was firebombed, we were able to find ways to continue immediately. But, its incomprehensible to think how you could cope with complete cities being eradicated, and you are fighting to stay alive. We should be proud of Rotary's efforts to try and help.

Normality in the UK has continued. We had a great day at Tate Modern's Infinity Mirrors exhibition, you can see Henry and Diane in the middle of it! Best concert this month was solo saxophonist Colin Stetson at the Union Chapel, a fully functioning church in Islington, a spiritual place for spiritual jazz. Hania Rana next, can't wait!

Keep collecting and praying for Ukraine, Henry

2022/2023 Aurora Presidential Announcement

I am delighted to confirm that following our online vote for our 2022/2023 President and President Elect.

- ⇒ Lyn Derrington, has been elected as President
- ⇒ Jan Matthews, has been elected President Elect

Our thanks to Lyn and Jan as they start planning their new roles, we look forward to supporting them both in the new Rotary Year.

Doreen Pipe Hon Sec

Gale Flynn, Our Third Inductee This Year

We welcome Gale into Aurora's ranks and she has already been active at our recent Race Night. Gale's classification is one of Events Co-ordinator, plenty of useful experience we can call upon!

Welcome to Aurora, Gale!



Update on Last Years Sand Dams Donation

Sarah Joseph, Programmes and Fundraising Officer | Sand Dams Worldwide

I just wanted to update you on our 2021 Green Match Fund project, following your generous donation last year on behalf of the Rotary Club of Shepperton Aurora. As a reminder the club donated £500 which, together with match funds and Gift Aid, brought the total value of your club's donation to £1,125.

I am delighted to report that thanks to you all and other generous supporters, the Muthini Upendo Self-Help Group in southeast Kenya have been able to construct a sand dam, as well as learn about climate-smart farming techniques. These activities are enabling this community to work their way towards being food and water secure, whilst helping to transform the local environment.



I hope you enjoy reading the attached report (*please ask the editor if you would like a copy*). This project really will make a lasting difference to the lives of this community for years to come so we really are incredibly grateful for your support!

I am also pleased to let you know that we will be taking part in the Green Match Fund once again this year. This year's appeal will be running from 22nd April – 29th April, where again, for seven days only, anyone who donates to our appeal will be able to have their donation doubled. This year we are aiming to raise a total of £20,000 towards another sand dam and climate-smart farming project in southeast Kenya. If this is of interest I'd be very happy to share with you more details about this year's appeal?

In the meantime please do pass on our profound thanks once again to everyone at the club for supporting our 2021 appeal.

The world of the Armed Protection Officer by Chris Arnot



At a recent breakfast, Ian Arthur regaled us with more anecdotes and stories of his time with the Met as an Armed Protection Officer, with SO16 and the Diplomatic Protection Force. After a bit of background, it was down to the nitty gritty - not just haring around town in the distinctive red BMWs of a Close Protection Officer, but also long periods of static work in various towers and on roofs protecting important VIPs, politicians and royals. Lucky Gerry Adams wasn't around otherwise Ian's boot prints would be all over his work, as he used his desk to climb out of his office window in the Houses of Parliament! Ceremonial work, sniper protection, rural camouflage and extensive training were all there, together with some of his tools of the trade including pistols, rifles and tazers. We also had vid of some examples of the squad in action nicking some armed hoods before they could commit a crime. All this goes on behind the scenes and is rarely reported unless, of course, something goes wrong and the police end up getting more blame than the criminals.

A huge thanks again to Ian for another interesting and informative talk on how he and his squad go some way to keeping our streets safe and if they're dealt with as swiftly as his 'full English', we can all sleep safely!

Stephen Kettle Amazes Aurora by Jan Matthews

Question; what do Manygate Lane and Highgrove have in common? Answer; the amazing Stephen Kettle.....



Stephen, our guess speaker at the first Aurora '5th Wednesday' of 2022 was so inspirational and engaging that those leaving the evening were asking when we could invite him again. He is one of Shepperton's hidden secrets, most of us having no idea that there is such talent living in Manygate Lane . ExNavy and a plasterer by trade, Stephen is self-taught, sourcing slate from Wales to create wonderful models in this unusual, surprising medium. He demonstrated the process from a clay mould to a finished sculpture, from his first apple to commissions such as one of the Barclay twins (owner of the Ritz Hotel) and Prince Charles and Camilla in Highgrove Gardens. Stephen's work demonstrated enormous skill and patience, it was not only true to life but the sitters' personalities shone through. Charles and Camilla look so happy !

The evening ticked all the Rotary boxes: Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising, Members were joined by family and friends to enjoy a delicious buffet supper provided by Surplus to Supper whilst the Aurora bucket collection took £246 for the Ukraine Disaster Fund.

"Cost of living pressures are at boiling point" - Clare Moriarty , CEO Citizens Advice



Our President Colin Barnard with Becky Whale chief officer of Runnymede & Spelthorne Citizens Advice

This is a nationwide issue but our recent breakfast speaker from Citizens Advice, Becky Whale, explained that of the *4,693 people seeking advice concerning 16,000 multiple issues in Runnymede and Spelthorne, a very large number do need help with debt management. Citizens Advice is a registered charity

As well as dealing with referrals from other agencies - social services, GPs, and the police for example, the staff and volunteers manage telephone and face- to- face drop in meetings on a day to day basis. The Trussell Trust and the local authorities give annual grants but funds are also needed to finance projects over and above the 'core service'. There is a strong emphasis on prevention partic-

ularly relating to mental health problems, a current focus for the local Citizens Advice, support those with, for example, serious debt problems becoming depressed and sometimes suicidal. Donations are welcomed to establish smaller local accessible venues such as the food banks where those in need can find advice.

Early intervention over housing, debts, benefits, disability etc. is practised empowering people to help themselves. Other services include guiding people through the intricacies of the court system and giving specialist legal advice.

* 2021-22 numbers during the Covid

MARIUPOL REMEMBERED



ALYASKA

ARK

AZOV

BANK

BOBSYOURUNCLE

BVC

CHAIKA

CITYWOMAN

CRAFTKAVA

DAMYATI

DYU

FONTAN

FURNITURE

GUSIPRODZHEKT

HARANT

KHLIB

KHOBI

KIROV

KNAYPA

KUM

LAKY

LAVRA

MAYAK

MEDUZA

MIY

MORYAK

NARODNOHOPOBUTU

NATALI

NIKE

OKULYST

OLD

OPTIKA

PARMEZAN

POST

RITRIT

SAVONA

SHKOLA

SOYUZ

TANK

TASTE

TEREMOK

TESLA

TSUM

UKRPOSHTA

VESELKA

YANA

YULA

ZABAVA

Mariupol is a port city which used to be like many others. These words, with some translations, are the names of some of the shops, cafes, businesses and attractions that the people went to, like billions the world over. I apologise for any mistakes. The remaining letters make another Ukrainian word:

--- which means 'child'.....

Protecting Our Environment, By Peter Newman



Peter giving his talk (with the head of Christine, Peter's wife, in the foreground)

We welcomed Peter Newman as a new Member of the Club at the beginning of 2022 and on 16 March he gave a talk on 'His life in developing measures to protect the environment' at the Club's Breakfast meeting. Peter said that although he didn't actually believe in luck, he had been most lucky from opportunities that he could benefit from that occurred at unexpected times, so that he had enjoyed a most fulfilling and interesting career.

Such unexpected opportunities that occurred included:

The Government in the 1960s creating 10 new Universities which increased Peter's chance of studying for a Degree (He gained a Chemistry Honours Degree at Brunel London University, one of the 10 new Universities);

The Science Research Council offering enhanced Grants to Graduates with 3 years industrial experience to study for a PhD. (This led to Peter gaining a PhD in Physical Chemistry at Uni-

versity of Surrey, another of the 10 new Universities);

Head of Unilever Research was a Visiting Professor at University of Surrey and he 'invited' appropriate students there, once they had completed their PhD, to work at Unilever Research. This opportunity led Peter to work at Unilever Research at Isleworth....and to meet Christine, his wife, now for 40 years – but that is another story!

Peter's interest in environmental matters started when he was working as a Research Chemist at Thames Board Mills (TBM) in Purfleet, Essex (a Unilever Company). TBM was discharging its effluent of largely untreated fibre board waste into the River Thames which was depleting the oxygen levels in the River. An agreement had been made with the Authority for the River Thames that TBM would put back as much oxygen into the River that the effluent took out.

So a Team, including Peter, mounted a large fan on a pontoon and pumped air into the River.... Unfortunately the exercise was a failure because the faster the fan was run, the more the pontoon lifted out of the water which reduced the residence time of the air with the River water – they had effectively created a hovercraft! In the end the effluent was used to prepare the raw materials for a neighbouring Portland Cement plant, and it went up their chimney stack, after being burnt at 1450°C. Today that would have been seen as an additional release of CO2!

Regarding this work, Peter told an amusing Water Industry tale. It was always said that when a salmon (which requires good quality of water to live healthily) was found in the Thames, the head of the Authority for the River Thames would get a Knighthood. That man was Hugh Fish - really! Three salmon had already been found in the Thames but each of them were dead and the joke was that Hugh Fish had bought them at Mac Fisheries (remember them?) and put them in the Thames to get his Knighthood. The joke was widely known throughout the Water Industry and when Peter had the great honour to meet the King of Belgium at a large Conference in Brussels, even he asked how the salmon got into the Thames (aided and abetted by 'Friends' from Antwerp Water Works, who also knew the joke!)

Hugh never got a Knighthood for his work on cleaning up the Thames – he got a CBE. However, when he cut the Natural Environment Research Council in half, he got a Knighthood for that. Clearly saving the Government money is more important than improving the Environment!

Developing measures to protect the environment became central to Peter's career when he left Unilever and joined the Water Research Centre (WRC), an organisation mainly funded by the UK Water Industry, to carry out research for the Industry to ensure that the treated water and wastewater produced met the required standards. His first position at WRC was as a Research Coordinator to ensure that the Centre's research programme met the requirements of the funding Members.

Initially though he coordinated the Drought Emergency Action Programme during the prolonged drought which ended in the Autumn of 1976. This involved dealing with issues such as rivers and canals drying up, water intakes failing, submerged settlements in reservoirs becoming visible again after many years, and a threat to babies' health because of the increased nitrate levels in drinking water. It then rained and that was the end of that task!

My Working Life, By Peter Newman (continued)

It was an exciting time with the formation of 10 Regional Water Authorities from about 2,000 Water Companies in the UK and also the UK having to meet the requirements of EU Environment Directives and Regulations. From this, Peter later became Head of European/International Office and travelled widely throughout Europe and elsewhere to coordinate research activities between the other research organisations via a network of Collaborating Centres he established, with the European Commission and Parliament (Peter jointly managed the WRC's Office in Brussels) and with the World Health Organisation (for which WRC became a Collaboration Centre).

However, after he had been at WRC 20 years, it 'ran' out of money and Peter was to be made redundant. However, an unexpected opportunity came to his rescue in that a secondment to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (later it became part of the Environment Agency) was turned down by the named recipient and Peter asked for it and got it. From this he spent 14 years at the Environment Agency (EA) dealing with the regulation of large industry and particularly oil refineries, cement works and electricity generation plants.

The time came, however, for Peter to 'retire' from EA and in the final weeks of his time there he gave a series of lectures on environmental controls to a party of senior Balkan officials. The organiser of the Study Tour (an Irish Consultancy) liked Peter's approach and within a month of leaving the EA, Peter was in Croatia reviewing the environmental situation there for the Irish Consultancy, but now working as a consultant – how's that for an unexpected opportunity?

So over the last 14 years, Peter has carried out over 12 consultancies, each involving about 100 days in the Beneficiary Country, and particularly in the Balkan Countries, Turkey (6 projects), Lebanon and Pakistan. The work was normally funded by the European Commission, World Health Organisation or the World Bank. The usual objective was to

- ⇒ Review the in-country situation,
- ⇒ Outline relevant international standards required,
- ⇒ Identify any gaps, and to
- ⇒ Recommend means of closing those gaps.

Parallel to this, Peter has been heavily involved with Brunel London and Surrey Universities (from which he received an Honorary Degree) and Imperial College. He is a Fellow on the Royal Society of Chemistry, Chartered Institute for Water and Environmental Management and the International Water Association.

Who says unexpected consequences do not come along, when needed?

Two Winners at Race Night and Bob Really Enjoying His Chips!



SHEPPERTON AURORA ROTARY-Diary 2021-22 No 10

Month	Date	Meeting	Event/Meeting	Speakers Etc.
	WSat 30th	From 09.30	Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning	Ferry Coffee Shop
May Youth Month				
	Wed 4th	Breakfast 07.15	Citizens Advice	Becky Whale
	Sun 8th	Day Event	Waterway of Shepperton 10km Sponsored Walk	Run by S&S
	Wed 11th	Zoom 18.30	ShelterBox Disaster relief	Steve Small
	Mon 16th	Evening	Club Council	P
	Wed 18th	Breakfast 07.15	Business Meeting	R
	Sat 28th	From 09.30	Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning	Ferry Coffee Shop
	Tues 31st	Morning	Tour of Twickenham Rugby Ground & Museum Followed by Lunch	
June Fellowship Month				
	Wed 1st	Breakfast 07.15	Club Assembly	R
	Sun 5th	All Day	Rotary is one of hundreds of organisations joining together to declare Sunday 5th June as Thank You Day.	
	Wed 8th	Evening	President Night	
	Sat 11th	All Day	Shepperton Village Fair Rotary Village	All hand On-deck Please
	Wed 15th	Breakfast 07.15	TBA	
	Sat 25th	From 09.30	Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning	Ferry Coffee Shop
	Mon 24th		Club Council-Joint <i>Members of 2021/22 & 2022/23</i>	
	Wed 29th	Evening 18.30	<i>With special speaker - TBA</i>	
July New Rotary Year				
	Sun 3rd	Afternoon	President Handover	
	Wed 6th	Breakfast 07.15	Welcome New President	
	Wed 13th	No Meeting	No Meeting as Prestige Lecture	
	Thurs 14th	Evening	Prestige Lecture Pinewood Studio Group/Netflix	Andrew Smith OBE DL
	Wed 20th	Breakfast 07.15	Debrief Prestige Lecture	
	Thu 28th	Evening	Inter-Club Boules Evening	
	Sat 30th	From 09.30	Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning	Ferry Coffee Shop
August Membership Month				
	Wed 3rd	Breakfast 07.15	Business Meeting TBA	
	Wed 10th	Zoom 18.30	TBA	
	Wed 17th	Breakfast 07.15	TBA	
	Sat 27th	From 09.30	Social Meeting with Guests	Ferry Coffee Shop
	Wed 31st	Evening 18.30	<i>With special speaker - TBA</i>	
Advance Notice: - Sept 4 th Ashford Classic Car Show Oct 24 th World Polio Day Feb 21 st 2023- 4 Clubs Dinner				
Meeting Guide- C Charity. G General interest. R Rotary. P Private. S Social. TBA To be announced. PS Projector & Screen Required				

Ken Updated 25/04/22