



Rotary club of Farnham

Newsheet September 2023

Events through September

Young Photographers Exhibition

The first Young Photographers Exhibition organised by the Rotary Club of Farnham was held on Tuesday, 5th September in The Long Kiln Gallery at Farnham Maltings. There were two age groups, 13 and under (animal antics) and 14-18 (People in Places). There were a good number of entries received - from Alton, Bordon, Farnham, Odiham and surrounding areas - and there were some excellent images. Some had taken GCSE Photography, others were currently studying for it so that there was a wide range of styles and interpretations. One entrant is already, at 14, the photographer for two football clubs and entered a great action shot.

All competitors were awarded a prize, certificate and rosette, presented by our Rotary President Ann Foster and the judge, Mr. Michael Bacon from Aldershot, Farnham and Fleet Camera Club. He praised all the entries and gave some helpful advice to the exhibitors. As Michael pointed out, it is the ability to be able to compose a good image, rather than the need to have an expensive camera!

Judith Stephens, who organised the competition said 'photography is a fascinating hobby for all ages (and can become a career for some). It was so good to meet all these young photographers and their families and we hope to see them again at future competitions.'



Street Collections for North Africa

On the weekend of 23rd/24th September, members of both the Rotary Clubs of Weyside and Farnham were in the Lion and Lamb Yard collecting to help those in Libya struggling to survive following the devastating floods and the bursting of two dams and collapse of four bridges in Derna, and those in Morocco struggling with the aftermath of the very strong earthquake which destroyed whole villages in the sparsely-populated areas of the High Atlas Mountains and shook Marrakech.

As a result of all those who helped in the collections, £1,400 was raised and will be used as advised by District as soon as a decision has been made.



Ian Nicoll and Gary Meyjes

Talks Through September

The Good, Bad and the Ugly by Tim Kyle, introduced by Richard Drummond



Tim began his talk with the iconic music from East Clintwood's film 'The Good, the Bad and The Ugly' representing the personalities he had spent much of his very interesting and exciting career flying them from 'a to b' as a private helicopter pilot.

He told us he was born in Egypt to a Navy Helicopter Officer and a mother who was a WAAF. It was in Malaya at the age of 5 years that he had his first experience of helicopters when his father, who was fortunate enough to have his own aircraft, invited him to fly with him. He refused to get in, but at the age of 17 years he got a flying scholarship with the RAF and that was when his flying career began. During this time he flew 10,000 miles, had 8,000 take-offs and 1,500 miles at sea. It was the Vulcans he remembers most – they were very impressive.

At 18 years of age he went to Australia to do sheep farming and was there long enough to get his conscription papers for Vietnam. Fortunately, he was able to escape this on educational grounds and returned to the UK and 'took the Queen's shilling' joining the armed forces, where he trained as a helicopter pilot from 1971. As a 26 year old he operated from HMS Bulwark, HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid. He also flew Wasp helicopters on HMS Zulu, on which there was a tiny landing pad – certainly a challenge.

He experienced a number of non-serious crashes but the craft was cheap enough to just dump – today machines cost £50m and, as he explained, the instrument panels have gone from very simple to very 'busy' and to now with just 3 screens. There was one time he came down in the jungle, but all was well.

He had to leave flying in 1979, but instead of taking a desk job he started his own company with Roger Daltry, flying a Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter (below) from Blackbushe airport.



Their first charter was with Freddie Star – definitely in the 'bad camp'. Flew many celebrities, film stars, businessmen, politicians, sportsmen and Royals. Mentioned Joan Collins, the 'Thatcher boys – Lord Hanson and Gordon White. He described Elton John and Paul McCartney as 'chalk and cheese' as Elton said not a word while Paul was as charming as charming. They flew Queen to Knebworth '86. In addition to flying celebrities he also gave them instruction – eg Fergie with a helicopter named DORY. He said in all the time he was flying there were only 2 occasions when he flew arab women. He had a long relationship with Al Fayed – from 1989-2014. He taught Jodi to fly and flew his coffin back from Paris after his death there. Prior to this tragic event in 1998 he was flying Diana with her boys and Dodi to the Al Fayed estate in Oxted, where they were free of the paparazzi. During this time he bought a number of new helicopters – all Sikorsky's

(about £14m, each) which he loved, describing them as 'queen of the skies' comfortably flying 4, 6 and up to 8 in the back in comfort and able to take you from London to Paris in 1 hour 10 min. A landing pad was built on the roof of Harrods but unfortunately they were not allowed to use it.



Sikorsky helicopter

Post 204 he flew the Barclay Brothers – at times flying from one channel island to the other just to pick up a newspaper. He had contact with Trump who wanted to fly his golfers by helicopter from one Scottish golf course to another. He could not accept the answer was 'no' – another that definitely fell into the 'bad camp' - the relationship did not last long. He worked with the Saudis – a very interesting experience – a beautiful country but hot. There were also flights with Russian oligarchs.

He had an opportunity to return to Egypt - the place of his birth – and chose to go again along the Canal though he had to admit he didn't see as much as he would have liked because of the direction in which they were travelling.

He finished his flying career with JCB who had two helicopters. He said they made good use of them and used them only for business purposes in contrast to many of the others with whom he had worked.

It was Covid that finished his career and playing Edith Piaf's 'Non, je ne regrette rien', he said this said everything about what was a good fun career.

Phyllis Tuckwell and its Development Plans by Peter Foxton, Head of Fundraising, Phyllis Tuckwell, introduced by Peter Duffy.



Present operational costs are about £12m per annum of which about 2-3m is from NHS

Their services comprise:

- In-patient unit – about 20% of all helped;
- Community team supporting about 80% of patients made up of clinical nurse specialists, healthcare assistants overseen by consultants and doctors;
- Living well team providing physical support eg breathlessness, mobility issues and also helping with loneliness and isolation, supported by volunteers.

In addition, they educate others in the healthcare sector – paramedics, doctors, nurses, care workers, and more, on how to provide best care.

In order to do all this effectively in a changing landscape challenges had to be faced. We have a growing and aging population – it is estimated that by 2040 there will be a 40% increase in numbers needing care, meaning for them an increase from 2,000 to 3,000. People are living longer resulting in them having more complex conditions – frailty, dementia, heart conditions – all leading to the need for more

specialist care. And they want to support an overstretched NHS. In addition, much of the building dates from 1930s with the result much of it is not laid out for the type of work they do now – there are lots of long corridors, lots of small rooms, in which it is difficult to manoeuvre. In addition, during the pandemic they had to close down 4 beds, which they haven't been able to reopen because they could no longer have more than one bed in a room, with the result that they now only have 14 and not 18 beds.

The trustees have in fact been looking at the issues raised by the inadequate infrastructure within the building since 2013-14, and even back then they realised it was necessary to do something major. In 2019 they agreed on a plan but then the pandemic hit. In 2020-21 they revisited the issue and submitted plans (a result of consultation with patients, NHS commissioners and QCC) towards the end of last year. As a result, two weeks ago contractors started on enabling works.

Whilst many will be sad to say goodbye to the old building the new one will provide a much better environment in which to work. It will not be an architectural folly, with say glass atriums as need to spend the money raised to best meet the needs of patients.

The In-patient unit will increase from 14 to 18 units – all single rooms and much bigger – large enough for families to stay over as they will have sofa beds. All the rooms will have a patio garden so patients and families can get into the fresh air and all rooms will have privacy. In addition, there will be a sanctuary and a family room with screens and TV – a hideaway for younger ones - away from intensity of the bedroom. There will also be a kitchen so visitors can have say toast and tea without having to call on healthcare assistants or others to help. Also, the layout will be as user-friendly as possible with no equipment in the corridors, as has been the case, so people can feel at home. There will also be a large community garden for all to enjoy.

Out-patients' services - for those being cared for at home - will be on ground floor. It will

include an exercise suite with help on how to use say a shower chair and how to deal with mobility issues. The wellbeing and living suite will be bigger than the existing one and there will be many more therapy and consulting rooms.

The new reception and café area will be more of a communal area with a direct link to the ward, which is not the case at the moment as you have to go down a corridor. Upstairs there will be open plan administrative offices for support staff and a new education suite with will include a facility to teach remotely.

The new building will take 2½ years to complete and the building process will start in Feb/march, ending in 2025 with an official opening in January 2026. During this period all services will continue as before:

- Out-patient service will be at the Beacon Centre in Guildford;
- in-patient service will be in Camberley;
- Office staff and clinical staff (physios, occupational therapists etc) will be at Headway House, Crosby Way in Farnham.

The total cost of the new build will be 16m. They have a building fund of £10m and so are off to a good start. So far they have raised just over £1m (in bank), with a further £1.5m pledged, so they have £3.5m still to raise. They are now in the process of writing to foundations and grant-making trusts and involving some local people. The public campaign will be launched in the Spring of 2024, by when they want to have raised a good deal of the £3.5m so the public can see they will be making a difference.

Support for the Environment

By Yasar Atacik, PhD, ESRAG Chair

‘For the first time, Rotary will have a pavilion and programing in the Blue Zone at this year’s UN Climate Conference – COP 28 - which will take place in Dubai from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12. Rotary’s senior leaders will attend with a significantly expanded delegation including four ESRAG members. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is convened by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Blue Zone is the official plenary and negotiation space for the COP. Rotary’s goals in attending COP 28, according to delegation chair Judith Diment, are to promote Rotary senior leaders’ engagement with high level government people and to strengthen relations with the UN. This also gives us a chance to tell what Rotary does. Rotary’s COP 28 Planning Committee, led by Judith Diment and Dr. Chris Puttock, have been working on planning since the beginning of the year. Rotarians from the UAE are providing critical support for the organisation.’

Outcome of Meeting with Farnham Town’s Council Environmental Group

We were invited to attend a recent meeting of the above. John Lewis, member of Rotary club of Weyside, went on our behalf. The Council are very keen to work with us on our plastics initiative and are committing to the actions identified below:

- Raising public awareness in the town and more widely - Single Use Plastic reduction messages to be posted on bus shelters and notice boards across town, supported by our pledge communications;
- Focus on reducing plastic at every town event (here they are looking for us to help with suggested alternatives);
- As part of the Castle Street Development Plan, place a drinking fountain/refill point in the cobbled area outside Lloyds Bank;
- Communicate to public what is being undertaken regarding sorting plastic waste by FTC in association with SCC (SCC and FTC also to work more closely on such initiatives, involving ourselves wherever possible)

Support for Environment (cont'd)

Excerpt from Jeremy Hunt's MP's Bulletin 28th September, following reference two weeks' previously to Rotary's efforts in supporting the environment.

GREEN SPACES Reducing single-use plastics is one of the main priorities of my [Green Spaces campaign](#). As I wrote two weeks ago there are other excellent efforts going on with the [Farnham Rotary Club](#), and in [Wonersh](#), [Cranleigh](#), and [Godalming](#), who are campaigning to achieve plastic-free status from Surfers Against Sewage – which includes a pledge for organisations and an award businesses can work towards. However, as I also wrote in last week's [Herald](#), I believe we can go further across all of Surrey. So do remember to sign up to my [local Plastic Free Pledge](#), in which both individuals and businesses can commit to using less disposable plastic. There is so much that is being done and I really want to understand more about what is going on in the constituency, as well as visit local businesses and schools to hear about how they are getting on. You can take part here: <https://www.jeremyhunt.org/plastic-free-pledge-2023>.

Events in October

Thursday 12th October Evening with Guests at Farnham House Hotel

Lunchtime Talks Through October

Thursday 19th October Beeky Cox, Disability Challenges introduced by President Ann Foster

Thursday 26th October Please look at the website

If, as a Friend, you are interested in coming along to any of the talks and for lunch (£20) please email lunches@rotaryfarnham.co.uk on the Monday before, saying whether you'd like, fish, meat or vegetarian, pudding or fresh fruit. We start gathering at The Bush, Farnham from 12.30 for lunch at 1.00 and the talk at 2.00, finishing at 2.30 pm.