



DIDCOT ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

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SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMUNITY

Superintendent Rory Freeman, TVP Commander for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, visited us on 12 September. He is responsible for the largest TVP area (around 500 square miles), and has been busy since day one, which coincided with the Abingdon Poundland Murder in 2015, followed by the boiler house collapse at Didcot A Power Station in 2016.

The Prime Minister's promise of 20,000 extra police officers is a welcome initiative, as the Police Force has been shrinking since 2010 and this is now being felt on the front line. In addition to recruitment difficulties, the nature of crime has changed and the extra resources won't simply take TVP back to where it was.

Violent crime is at the forefront of the government's agenda but is not as great an issue in this area as London and Oxford. Some young people have been found carrying knives, primarily for protection. Violent crime is now recorded differently - all aspects of the crime are recorded separately, leading to an increase in overall figures.

County Lines is a priority area, and is a persistent problem in Didcot, Abingdon and other key areas. These drug operations are very slick and run as major businesses, with management teams, etc. In addition to working with NGOs, schools, Didcot TRAIN, etc., TVP

are using a reformed major drugs business operator to advise them on the new approaches needed.

There is a mismatch between public demands and police priorities, and the current Council Tax Precept only redresses the budget cuts already made. TVP priorities are Violent Crime, County Lines, Burglary and Supporting Vulnerable People, especially domestic abuse victims. Anti-Social Behaviour is dealt with primarily by TVP Neighbourhood Teams, which concentrate on engaging and supporting the community, problem solving and neighbourhood visibility.



ROTARY'S PUBLIC IMAGE

The talk scheduled for 26 September was unfortunately cancelled, due to the speaker being indisposed.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS AGREED

Rotary project in Tanzania - following Rtn Dr John Philip's talk, members have agreed to donate the cost of a wood saving stove.

Annual Poppy Wreath - members agreed to make our usual donation to the Royal British Legion for the Club Wreath used at the Didcot Remembrance Day event.

WELL DONE, BEN!

Great to see that local gymnastics hero Ben Goodall has won Gold in the 17-21 category at the English Tumbling Championships. Ben's sights are now set on the British Championships, and

a possible chance to compete in the World Age Group Championships in Tokyo. Our Club has supported Ben by contributing towards the cost of his competition kit.



Great to see Club member Charlie, one of our founding members, getting his appetite back, after his recent illness, and enjoying one of Sue's delicious home baked scones!

'TOWARDS ZERO'

A party of Club members and guests had an enjoyable evening at The Mill at Sonning on 13 September, with dinner followed by a performance of Agatha Christie's 'Towards Zero'.



SCATTER VISIT

On 18 September, Shelagh, Liz, David, Jenny and Alan did an official 'scatter' to Thatcham Rotary Club, home Club of District Governor Frank Quinn and former Assistant District Governor Gerry Cowan. After lunch, we heard a Thatcham

Club member give an interesting - and scary! - talk on his part, as a Chartered Radiation Protection Professional, in the investigation into the murder of Alexander Litvinenko by polonium 210 poisoning.



MEETING CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Fifteen Club members and guests had a fabulous visit to Beaulieu on 23 September.

We visited the Palace, the secret army museum and the National Motor Museum. Most of us went on the old bus and monorail. We saw dozens of old cars, the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car which is 50 years old, racing cars, motor bikes, vans and a few old buses. Several of them are hired out for films and television programmes. During the war 3000 men and women were trained as special agents for the S.O.E. at Beaulieu.

(report by Sue)







CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2019	
Thurs 3rd	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 10th	SPEAKER: JENNY CANE, HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN
Mon 14th	MAGIC NIGHT - MILL AT SONNING
Thurs 17th	BUSINESS
Thurs 24th	SPEAKER: RTNS TONY & LYNN BARTLEY - `OK OUR KIDS`
Thurs 31st	5TH THURSDAY EVENT - LUNCH AT 'THE HIGHWAYMAN'
	ROTARY SCHOLARS EVENING, FOUR PILLARS HOTEL, OXFORD
NOVEMBER 2019	
Thurs 7th	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 14th	SPEAKER TBA
Thurs 21st	BUSINESS
Thurs 28th	'STUDENTS OF THE TERM' AWARDS PRESENTATION
DECEMBER 2019	
Thurs 5th	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 12th	CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Thurs 19th	BUSINESS
Thurs 26th	NO MEETING (BOXING DAY)

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Rotary Club of Didcot