



DIDCOT ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN



'City of Truro'



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Vol. 13 Issue No 5 - May 2019

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST HONORARY MEMBER

We're delighted to welcome Lyn Boltman as an Honorary Member. Lyn has supported our Club for many years, including many Charity Quiz Nights. She's also given us 15 years of selfless

'hard labour' at the Truck Festival - smiling at Festivalgoers while frying dozens of eggs at Silly O'Clock isn't easy!



VIVE ESCOFFIER!

Did you know that the Ritz Hotel was opened without a dining area, and the current restaurant was originally a ballroom? This is just one of the fascinating facts revealed by Club member, and retired chef, John Stone in his talk on the History of Food, on 11th April.

At the time, food wasn't normally eaten away from home – the rich had cooks, and the poor ate at home. When hotels started to provide meals, the Savoy brought in the great French chef Escoffier, who established the standard kitchen protocols. Kitchens were firmly divided into:-

- Sauce;
- Fish (including shallow fried food); Roast (all roasting, deep frying and grilling);
- Vegetables (vegetables, soup, eggs and pasta);
- Larder, which supplied the other sections by putting out all food, ready to cook, as required.

There was also a separate Pastry section, and the Pastry Chef was 'king in his own right'.

There was a strict hierarchy, and Head Chefs never cooked. Orders were shouted out from a hotplate, and the standard kitchen language was French – basically Parisian slang. Young chefs started as commis chefs and worked their way up the ladder.

The basic protocols remained unchanged until frozen ingredients found their way into professional kitchens.

The post-war period saw the market flooded with qualified cooks from the Army's catering School in Aldershot. By the 1960s, the gentry still had domestic staff, but the middle classes could now afford to eat out.

Nowadays, people want 'quick and cheap'. Escoffier's recipes were all tested out thoroughly beforehand, so worked every time. Chefs now copy each other's recipes, with miniscule changes (sometimes just one ingredient) and rebrand them as original.



John with his treasured Escoffier 'bible'.

SPRINGING TO ROTARY'S DEFENCE

The full text of Shelagh's letter to the Guardian newspaper on 27 March is shown below (see Club Council Minutes). The Letters editor obviously had a couple of inches left to fill and the first two sentences were designed with that possibility in mind.

John Crace's incisive Sketch feature is normally mandatory reading, but his description of the Eurosceptic Bruges Group as the 'paramilitary wing of the Rotary Club' (Sketch 26 March 2019 - Rotary Club's paramilitary wing counts the cost) made me hit the keyboard in protest. Perhaps John is unaware that Rotary Clubs have no political, religious or sectarian allegiance?

We welcome men and women with deep knowledge of their local communities' needs, including development of young people's skills. Members use their experience and expertise to raise millions for charity, often in uncomfortable conditions - cooking burgers and chips while knee deep in mud at a music festival, anyone?

Internationally, Rotary contributes to disaster relief, through money raised by Clubs to fund Shelterboxes, and is a major player in the campaign to eradicate polio. Many Rotary Clubs support colleagues in developing countries by volunteering and contributing to education, health and sanitation projects.

I don't know what Rotary has done to upset John, but he's very welcome to visit my Club and see for himself the work that we do - we might even find a job for him at our next music festival catering gig!

Shelagh A M Garvey
Didcot Rotary Club

CORRECTION

Lily, the winner of our Verse Speaking Competition in March, is a pupil at Northbourne School, not Willowcroft School, as notified in the April Bulletin



TORMENTING OUR BRAIN CELLS

A fun evening was had by all at our Charity Quiz Night in Steventon Village Hall on 12 April. The hall was packed, and we enjoyed some real brain twisters, courtesy of Demon Quizmaster Richard and assistant Anne, with Tony recording the scores.

When our brains started to hurt, we took a break and enjoyed John's delicious cheese platter, and a scrumptious fruit basket from Alan and Caroline, followed by an excellent raffle. David and Jane presided over the bar, and Kim and

Christine were on bouncer duty at the door.

We were delighted that District Governor Gillian Pearce and District Governor Elect Frank Quinn were able to be with us. The winning team was 'Potato', who had only booked for the Quiz earlier that day!

Many congratulations to Sue and the Admin. and Social team for organising a great evening – the key beneficiaries of the evening will be the Headway charity and other local good causes.



Frank Quinn's party



Gillian Pearce's table







Liz, Sue and Caroline guard the cash



President Kevin motivates the quizzers



"I'll push, you pull" "No, you push, I'll pull" - Charlie and Shelagh working collaboratively



Tony chalks up the scores



Richard and Anne



Alan and Caroline prepare the fruit platters



Jane and David at the bar



The winning team 'Potato'

LIGHT BYTE

Worried about password security? New packages (such as two factor authentication) are being developed to make passwords obsolete and eliminate password theft, as there'll be nothing to steal - the information passing between devices and the logging in process will be unique each time.

In the meantime, just go to www.haveibeenpwned.com and enter your password(s), to see if they're on the database of passwords (over 500 million) exposed in data breaches. If your favourite password is on the list, don't panic - just change it. It doesn't mean you've been hacked, just that it's on a list that hackers use.

PETE READ

Pete Read, former Mayor of Didcot, died on 20th April, after a long illness. Pete had worked at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, and previously at the Royal Greenwich Observatory and Sutherland Observatory in South Africa. He was also a supporter and campaigner for Alzheimer's Society work in Didcot, and the Oxfordshire based RESTORE mental health charity

Pete was an Honorary Member of the Club during his mayoral year, and was one of our volunteers at the Truck Festival that year.



NEWS OF OUR ROTARY SCHOLARS

In 2019/20, we will be hosting two Rotary Scholars.

Rotary Foundation have approved the grant application for **Ms Aurora Fonseca**, who is sponsored by District 6910 (USA). Aurora graduated summa cum laude from Yale University, with a B.A. in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration. Her Rotary Area of Focus is Economic and Community Development, and she plans to study at Oxford University for an MSc in Nature, Society and Environmental Governance. Her career aim is to work with an organisation dedicated to environmental study and

conservation, and she is particularly keen to work for the United States National Parks Service.

The grant application is in the final stage for **Ms Priscilla Otero**, who is sponsored by District 6930 (USA). She graduated magna cum laude in Political Science/Philosophy from Gustavus Adolfus College, and has not previously received a Rotary grant. She will be a second year M.Phil. student at Oxford University, reading in The Latin American Centre. Her Rotary Area of Focus is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution.

'THIS IS ME' – TONY SEMMENS

Tony is no stranger to adventure; during his early life, in Bournemouth, he went in for hair raising escapades, and had to be rescued on more than one occasion. His family moved to Plymouth when he was aged three, and he later attended St Boniface School, run by the Christian Brothers.

His big career ambition was to be in a rock band, but post-GCE he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, and was sent to Woolwich to train as a radiographer. This didn't suit him, and he switched to Combat Medical Technician, equivalent to a civilian paramedic but trained to a higher level, including specialised procedures.

After a spell in Mönchengladbach, Tony had deployments in Singapore and Malaysia, including Jungle Warfare training and an attachment with the Gurkhas in Brunei. On his return to the UK, Tony had various postings, including the Joint Services Rehabilitation Centre in Chessington (now Headley Court).

Along the way, Tony got married, but was immediately posted to Northern Ireland for two and a half years. He was later relocated to Preston, and lived in Blackpool.

After leaving the Army, Tony found the local employment situation very poor; he got a job in customer services at Studio Cars, but he didn't like it, and he found a better job, as Bursar at Deanfield School, Tilehurst, where he worked for twenty years.

Sadly, Tony's wife died four months before he was due to retire. Seeking an active retirement, he volunteered in the British Heart Foundation shop in Didcot, and with the Didcot Volunteers; he also joined U3A, where he is a member of a ukulele group. He also goes to the gym, where he met Club member Richard Swainston, who introduced him to Rotary.

Tony has four children and eleven grandchildren.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2019	
Thurs 2nd	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 9th	SPEAKER: RTN PHIL GODFREY, APS UK (ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID SYNDROME)
Thurs 16th	SPEAKER: JANE WOODLEY, OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Thurs 23rd	BUSINESS
Thurs 30th	5th THURSDAY EVENT - VISIT TO TOAD DISTILLERY
JUNE 2019	
Thurs 6th	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 13th	SPEAKERS: ROTARY SCHOLARS - CAMILA VOGT & JESSICA SIMMS
Thurs 20th	BUSINESS
Thurs 27th	SPEAKER TBA
Friday 28th	PRESIDENT'S NIGHT AT LA FONTANA RESTAURANT, EAST HANNEY.
JULY 2019	
Thurs 4th	STUDENT OF THE TERM
Thurs 11th	FELLOWSHIP
Thurs 18th	BUSINESS
Thurs 25th	SPEAKER TBA
Fri 26th - Sun 28th	TRUCK FESTIVAL

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Rotary Club of Didcot