

Sam's Scribblings - AKA President (Elect)'s Piece

By the time you read this, 2020 will be over and we'll be halfway through the Rotary Year – and what a year 2020 has been! The Covid pandemic has caused many things in our society to be changed. Who can remember what the inside of an aeroplane looks like? And when was the last time you hugged somebody who's not in your "bubble"?

Much of what was planned for our Rotary year had to be dropped or changed – no boot fairs, no beer festival, no President's Night, and no Santa's Sleigh. But we're a resilient lot in Titsey! Despite the pandemic, we have managed to meet regularly on Zoom and, on the occasions when it was allowed (or even encouraged), we ate out to help out in small groups and kept the Titsey banter going. We have managed to raise a little bit of money and some members have carried on volunteering and helping in whatever way we can.

December brought an interesting speaker, Mike Collins, who told us all about the local U3A group (see Brian's report below) and we have been delighted to welcome some visitors as potential new members. We look forward to seeing them again!

The highlight of the month, however, was the annual Christmas party, another Zoom event, ably organised by the Admin team and featuring star turns by celebrity performers Anne, Jane, Lesley, Jacqueline and Steve. Particular thanks to Chris and the other Admin members for organising the party, to John Healy for running the bingo, to MC Colin for entertaining us throughout and a special THANK YOU to Sue, for managing the Zoom meeting so cleverly, while keeping Howard's glass topped up!

As we turn the corner into 2021 and look forward to getting our vaccinations and returning to some sort of "normal" life again, let's be thankful for our good fortune and resolve to share it as much as we can with others who have not been so lucky. And it's not just about money – although who can deny that money's important! – it's about practical help, sharing our skills, sharing our time, listening, and being kind.

Good wishes for a better 2021!

President Elect Sam



Editor's Note: various images scattered through this issue taken from the Christmas party Zoom screen!

Make a Scene: Covid-19 project funding

A couple of years ago, Andree Trotter, Artistic Director at Make a Scene (previously Oxted Young People's Theatre) visited our Club to give a talk about the exceptional work the group does with learning disabled young people across Surrey, Kent and Sussex.



This presentation led to an ongoing relationship with Andree's theatre group, for example with club members helping out at the Group's productions enabling parents to fully enjoy the show rather than having to act as parking marshals and so on.

I caught up with Andree back in October to find out what the impact of the pandemic and resultant restrictions had been for them. She told me that, recognising the important role which the drama group has for many of the members (for some with the most profound disabilities, it is the only activity available for them), Make a Scene had continued to run sessions both in person where possible in accordance with regulations, as well as on Zoom. However, because of the restricted numbers allowed to meet, twice as many in person sessions were being held which increased costs significantly, including for hall rental and for the specially qualified assistants who attend the sessions. All of this was causing significant financial difficulty for the Group.

The Community Relationships team discussed the matter and proposed that the Club offer to fund the four students who attend for free due to limited means for two terms, a total of £600, which was approved by the Club.

As this donation fell within the auspices of the newly-available District Grant scheme for Covid-related projects, we submitted an application and were very pleased to be able to successfully claim £300.00 of the donation back.

Make a Scene were very grateful for the assistance we gave and posted on Facebook:
"We are delighted to announce that our amazing local Rotary club (Titsey Rotary Club) have supported Make A Scene once again. Enabling us to keep offering free and assisted places to local young disabled students. Thank you ever so much, your donation will make such a difference in these hard times, especially with many families experiencing financial difficulties."

Sharon

Think before you send an email

In November, 2019 I read an article in the Telegraph that made me aware of the carbon footprint of emails. Prior to reading it I had viewed emails as something free and there for my unlimited use. I was so impressed by the article that I cut it out and filed it away for future use. According to the article the UK's carbon footprint could be reduced by 16,000 tons per year if everyone sent just one less unnecessary email per day. A study described in the article found that 64 million unnecessary emails are sent every day. I don't believe everything I read, and I

am sure nobody counted them, but I am happy to believe that a very large number of emails could quite easily be avoided.

The carbon footprint of your email starts when you use power as you tap out your message. You then use power in the transmission of the message as it is passed between email servers, networks and systems such as the cloud until it reaches the recipient. The recipient then uses power to read the message.

Don't get me wrong. I love emails and have no intention of ceasing to use them. However, there are ways that I avoid their unnecessary use. I am particularly careful if I am the recipient of a group email. The person sending the group email is usually using a group as it is far quicker than asking each recipient the same question in individual emails. I therefore only send my response to the sender. I can't remember the last time I found the need to send emails to the whole group by using 'reply all'. The article tells me that research found that UK adults sent around 11 million unnecessary emails each day with simple replies such as "thanks" or "you too".

The article that I read didn't touch on the carbon trail left by social media.....

As I write this I am reflecting on the huge value of being connected digitally during the last 10 months. I would have had a horribly isolated life without the ability to use email, Whats App, text and Zoom. Nothing really replaces normal interaction with other people but at least we have a pale substitute. I will now save countless emails by wishing you good health and a happier year in 2021.

Best wishes
Carolle Stent

The University of the Third Age (U3A)

The U3A is a countrywide movement which allows people who have finished their careers, or otherwise have time, to develop new interests or expand old ones by meeting others and sharing hobbies and knowledge in an informal / friendly setting.

It is all voluntary of course whether teaching or learning. The Edenbridge branch has about sixty groups covering a range of subjects run in a manner that suits all. Mike Collins, who gave the last talk to the Club, is Chairman of a voluntary Committee organising the monthly meetings, speakers and the monthly newsletter among many other things.



Linda and I joined about three years ago, Linda joined the London Studies Group (LSG), The Science Group (SG) and we both joined the Wine Appreciation Group (WAG). As mentioned earlier there are sixty groups covering many subjects which can be found by typing 'Edenbridge U3A' on your browser, if anyone wishes to scroll through the lists.

The LSG visit various places of interest, sometimes with a London Guide, on a monthly basis, the other two groups meet on a monthly basis on various days arranged to suit all concerned.

All the other groups have similar arrangements but, of course, all differ as one might expect. The monthly assembly, which is held at the Crockham Hill Church Hall, provides an opportunity to meet many very friendly and helpful people, prior to the meeting, which is followed by a speaker. Subsequently the meeting is closed and tea and biscuits are served.

Obviously this year has stopped meetings as such, but our Wine Appreciation Group meet, via zoom, to compare various wines with the slight advantage that we need not worry about driving home.

Brian

Fancy name dropping that you are a member of the same club as these people are/were. If you could only choose one person to be affiliated with who would it be?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ★ Neil Armstrong | ★ Franklin D Roosevelt |
| ★ Sir Edmund Hillary | ★ Ronald Reagan |
| ★ Charles Lindberg | ★ George W Bush |
| ★ Thomas A Edison | ★ Richard Nixon |
| ★ Guglielmo Marconi | ★ Walt Disney |
| ★ Orville Wright | ★ Pope Francis |
| ★ Prince Charles | ★ Luciano Pavarotti |
| ★ Prince Phillip | ★ Angela Merkel |
| ★ Prince Rainier 111 | ★ Nicolas Sarkozy |
| ★ Sir Winston Churchill | ★ Lance Armstrong |
| ★ Margaret Thatcher | ★ Bill Gates |
| ★ Gerald R Ford | ★ 'Colonel' Harland Sanders |
| ★ John F Kennedy | |

(source wikipedia)

Chris



'Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl'.

The priest asks, *'Is that you, little Joey Pagano?'*

'Yes, Father, it is.'

'And who was the girl you were with?'

'I can't tell you, Father. I don't want to ruin her reputation'.

'Well, Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now. Was it Tina Minetti?'

'I cannot say.'

'Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?'

'I'll never tell.'

'Was it Nina Capelli?'

'I'm sorry, but I cannot name her.'

'Was it Cathy Piriano?'

'My lips are sealed.'

'Was it Rosa DiAngelo, then?'

'Please, Father, I cannot tell you.'

The priest sighs in frustration.

'You're very tight lipped, and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for 4 months. Now you go and behave yourself.'

Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, 'What'd you get?'

'Four months vacation and five good leads.'



Park Road Christmas Parade and Collection



Our road has always had a good “community spirit”, with people looking out for each other and always happy to lend tools or offer a lift to the station if it’s raining.....but during the current Covid crisis, the community spirit has been quite remarkable.

We have set up a Neighbourhood Watch, we held a VE Day celebration and parade, we’ve had a “Covid London Marathon” (with charity collection), a charity table-tennis competition, an Alzheimers cupcake sale and regular collections for the Caterham Foodbank. More recently we had a communal Christmas light switch-on, followed by a Christmas fancy dress parade on 13 December, which included a collection in support of Titsey Rotary Club. This was arranged by our neighbour Katie Digby, as she wanted to help make up for the lost Santa’s Sleigh collection this year.



As with all the other Park Road events, everything was carried out in a Covid-secure manner, with appropriate distancing, sanitisation etc and, just to be on the safe side, with a four-page Covid-compliant risk assessment (prepared by our very own Steve Putman).

The collection was carried out by Elf Geoff and a suitably rotund Santa, both equipped with Covid-distancing collection buckets.



The parade collection raised £254.28 (plus one Thai Baht) in cash plus £146.00 using the Club’s contactless iZettle card reader, as well as a further £110.00 in online donations, making a grand total of £510.28 (plus the Thai Baht). A further £100-odd will be added in gift-aid in due course.



Many thanks to our great neighbours for their generous donations and a particular THANK YOU to Katie for organising the event!

Sam



Our Christmas Party 2020

The booking was made a full year ago - Bletchingley Golf Club was the chosen venue for our Christmas party.

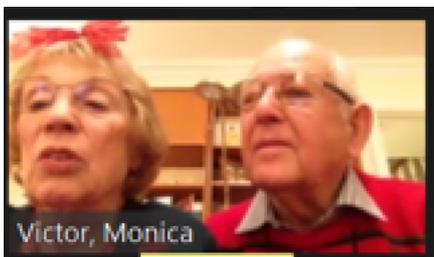


You know what happened next!

The minutes of the Admin team meeting on 16 September 2020 read "A fancy dress event was suggested for the meeting on 23 December. This could be themed around holidays/Christmas and could be worked up into a fun evening. Suggestions invited for how to manage this." All through October the same words appeared, with additional notes to the effect 'planning needed'; thankfully on 4 November the minutes noted that Chris Todd had volunteered to lead a sub-team to organise the event.

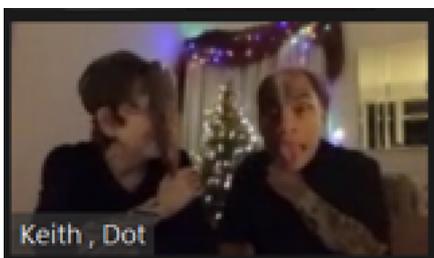
You know what happened next!

Actually you might not, as under the radar Chris lead his sub-team through weekly meetings to put together the programme. It was so rewarding for the team to see how everyone got into the spirit of the evening - Zoom screens full of cheerful faces, Christmas jumpers, Santa hats, elf hats, a chef and his front of house waitress and our very own Marcel Marceau (Pam confirms that Steve didn't say a word all evening!) - 93% attendance by Rotarians plus wives and partners making a total of 50 people.



You know what happened next!

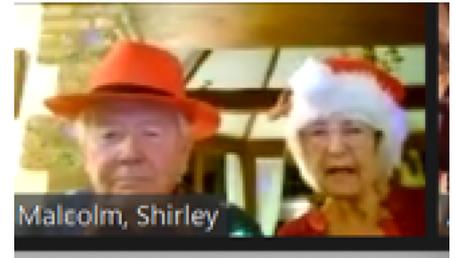
..... the entertainment started - Lesley Todd followed tradition for a Christmas event by singing the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* and then the musical theme continued with contributions from Anne Jakeman playing sax and from Steve Marsden on the guitar and Jacqueline singing. MC Colin kept us laughing, as did those old favourite video clips "Banknote under the car" and "Lie Detector". We spent some time chatting



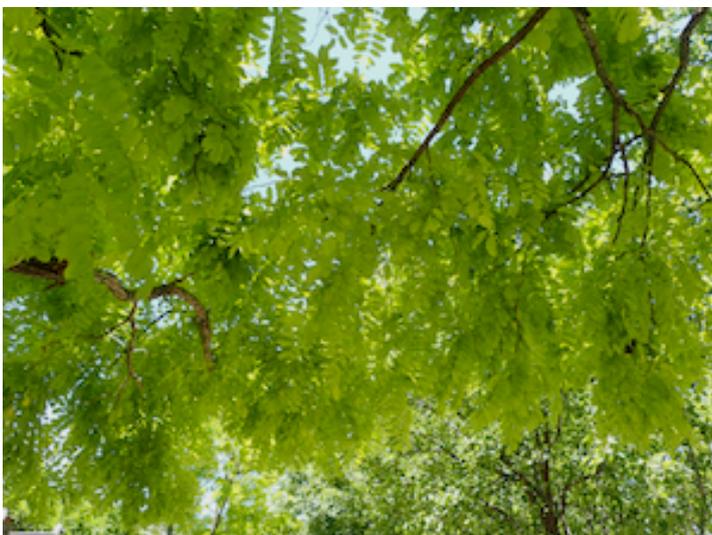
in smaller groups (courtesy of Zoom break out rooms with names such as Santa's Grotto, Mistletoe Hotel, etc), played bingo under the instruction of John Healy, tried to answer some crazy Christmas quiz questions posed by Sue. Jane Tozer put us through our paces with her Covid version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* ably (??) assisted by Geoff who juggled the prompt cards!



It's fair to say that one or two people needed encouragement to attend - Chris can be very persuasive - but the feedback after the event suggests that those people were grateful to Chris for his persistence and it seems that a good time was had by most, despite Covid and Zoom!



Supporting the Environment – Rotary's new Area of Focus



In June 2020, the Board of Rotary International approved the launch of 'Supporting the Environment' as RI's seventh Area of Focus. In July, District 1145 Executive agreed to my proposal to set up a group to promote this Area within Rotary South. The Environmental Action Team (EAT), which is part of the District Community Committee, was set up in late September with the following objectives:

- Encourage and Support Clubs around the Seventh Area of Focus
- Help Clubs apply for funding environmental projects
- Manage the Sustainable Community Grant Scheme
- Provide advice and ideas on projects, partnerships and promotion
- Develop potential District Initiatives (e.g. around single-use plastics)

A guidance note has been issued by the EAT to all Rotarians explaining what makes for a good environmental project and how Clubs can gain support, but just to repeat, here are the key points:

What could be an Environmental Project?

- reducing carbon emissions
- recycling, clean air and water
- strengthening the sustainability, resilience and bio-diversity of the natural environment
- reducing pollution and waste
- educating and promoting support for the foregoing

How could success be judged?

- The project raises our Profile
- Rotary works in partnership – with other Clubs or other organisations
- The project is attractive to potential members
- It is scalable i.e. not just a once-off, but can be repeated

How could a project be funded?

- Sustainable Community Grants – up to £500
- Direct District Grants – up to £2000
- Global Grants – minimum of \$35000
- External sources (e.g. National Lottery Community Fund) – unlimited

Working on Environmental Projects gives us a great opportunity to give something lasting back to our community, and a great story to tell when someone asks you ‘What is Rotary’? Titsey have already done many such projects (e.g. the raised-bed gardens at Downs Way School), but now we can capitalise on funding and PR support. The latest, as suggested by Howard Belcham, is to undertake tree planting in community areas – more on that later this year!

Roger Stent

ADO 15

It's 25th August 1959 and the project AD0 15 has been launched to the general public. No longer under the moniker of Austin Drawing Office project 15, it is now called the Austin Mini. Powered by an 848cc engine and capable of reaching 0-60mph in 26.5 seconds, this new pocket rocket can be yours for just £497.



Realising the Suez fuel crisis, which began in 1956, would reduce appetite for larger, un-economical cars, Leonard Lord, head of BMC, instructed the design department to build a small, economical car that could fit in a box of 10x4x4 feet. Considering most cars in production at the time were 50% bigger, this directive presented a massive challenge.

With his (fittingly small) team of two designers, two engineering students and four draughtsman, lead designer Alex Issigonis ignored convention and began by placing the engine sideways across the front axle and installing the gearbox in the sump.

Storage was always likely to be a problem for such a small car, so Issigonis designed sliding windows which allowed for single-skinned doors and deep door

pockets. Legend has it the door pockets were specifically designed to hold six bottles of his favourite drink, Dry Martini.

The body seams and door hinges were cleverly placed outside the bodyshell, to create more internal space. This allowed 80% of the interior to be used for passengers and luggage.

Production lines ran at Cowley, Oxford and Longbridge. A truly British car.

Each Mini took 30 hours to construct and was deemed to be a "classless car." Although clearly aimed at the lower end of the market it was enjoyed by pop stars, royalty, film stars and politicians alike.

Over time the small 848cc BMC A Series engine grew to 970cc, 997cc, 998cc, 1071cc, 1098cc, 1275cc.



Much success was achieved on race tracks too, including five British Saloon Car Championships (now known as BTCC) and two European Touring Car Championships. Victories were achieved in the Monte Carlo Rally in 1964 and 1965. In 1966 the first four finishers were driving Austin Mini Cooper S, but they were disqualified for using illegal headlight bulbs.

The French had changed the regulations and forgotten to inform the British teams. A French Citroen was declared the winner. Prince Rainier was so disgusted he refused to

attend the prize giving. BMC returned in 1967 and won the the rally outright once again. Rule Britannia!

The car also starred in many film and TV shows. *The Italian Job* featured a spectacular car chase through the Italian sewers (which was actually filmed in Coventry) and gained the Mini global notoriety, while *Mr Bean* – driving SLW 287R, complete with driver door padlock – added further to the car's fame.

An article in *Car and Car Conversions Magazine* in the late 1960s explained how you could take the Mini's windscreen wiper motor, mount it in the boot and have a rear wiper to optimise your rear view in rain. This was subsequently adopted by most motor manufactures across the world, and still prevails today.



Between 1959 and 2000, in excess of five million Minis were produced – although the model was never truly profitable. But it was the best selling single model in the British car industry.

Sir Alex also failed to achieve the target of getting the car to fit in a 10x4x4 feet box. It was actually a quarter of an inch too long...

Chris

Sunley Holdings Donation

Every year, the staff of SUNLEY HOLDINGS, where my daughter Laura works, receive a case of champagne for Christmas, but this year the CEO James Sunley invited people to nominate a charity to receive a £250 donation instead. Laura chose Titsey Rotary Club as her nominated charity.

Thank you Laura and thank you James!

Sam



Mr James Sunley
Mrs Laura Stradling
Sunley Holdings
7-8 Stratford Place
London
W1C 1AY



Please reply to:

Fairfields
61 Park Road
Oxted
Surrey RH8 0AN

23 December 2020

DONATION RECEIVED FROM SUNLEY HOLDINGS

Dear Mr Sunley, Dear Mrs Stradling,

On behalf of The Rotary Club of Titsey & District, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the very kind donation of £250 which we have received in our charity account.

This year has been a difficult one for our fundraising – in normal years we raise between £20000 and £25000 for good causes and to support people in need, both locally and internationally. This year, however, we will be lucky to raise £10000. Next year might be even worse.

At the same time, the demands on our funds are increasing, as the effects of the pandemic work their way through the system.

We were, therefore, delighted to receive your donation and we can assure you that it will be put to good use.

Thank you again for your kindness. The members of The Rotary Club of Titsey & District wish you and your staff a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SB".

Sam Baird
President Elect
The Rotary Club of Titsey & District

HOLSBA AGM and Lunch 2020

HOLSBA – the Hurst Green, Oxted and Limpsfield Small Business Association – was set up in 2004, with the sole purpose of allowing those members of Titsey Rotary Club who ran small businesses to take advantage of the HMRC Christmas lunch tax allowance. The first event was attended by five people: the staff of Fox Heatex, StarLearning and Whitehill Media. Word soon spread and subsequent meetings were attended by the Chesters, Evans, Farrells, Hoyles, Humphreys, Leavers, LeMasuriers, Popes, Putmans, Richardsons, Simmonds, Todds, Tozers, Bob and Jillie King, John and Ashleigh, Patrick and Debbie, Peter Budge and Meg, Steve and Jacqueline, as well as sundry Rotary helpers including Ian Booth and Tim Barber.



A few years ago it was agreed that an official AGM should be held – just before Christmas – and this is now always followed by lunch.

The membership rules have obviously been relaxed so that members who retired and were no longer “small businesses” could still attend and, as the organisation grew, it was felt necessary to adopt a more formal structure, including having officers. Unsurprisingly, since the elected officers ALWAYS carry out their duties so efficiently from year to year, they are ALWAYS re-elected: Chairman (Roger Stent), Treasurer (Carolle Stent), Secretary (Carolle Stent), Events Manager (Carolle Stent), Programme Secretary (Carolle Stent), Membership Secretary (Carolle Stent), Publications Manager (Carolle Stent), Catering and Banqueting Manager (Carolle Stent) and VERY importantly, Head of Knitwear (Ann Chester). This year, we elected two additional board members: Steve Putman (H&S Officer) and Steve Marsden (Director of Music).

Over the years the HOLSBA event has been held at The Oxted Inn, The Diamond (until it closed), The Old Bell, The Royal Oak, The Haycutter (the old one) and, for the last several years, The Diamond again. Due to Covid restrictions, this year’s HOLSBA AGM and lunch were held via Zoom, with members dining on takeaways from The Diamond. As usual, the AGM was over in about five minutes and the serious business of lunch and banter began. By 3.30, most of the members (including the undersigned) had left but a few hardened souls held on until about 6.00pm, discussing business and reminiscing. (Of course, most of what was discussed

in the latter part of the meeting will have been forgotten, won't it, Chris, Keith, Roger and Roger?)

Many thanks to Events Manager Carolle Stent for her (as ever) efficient organisation, including arranging delivery of the takeaways. Let's hope the 2021 HOLSBA AGM and Lunch will not be on Zoom, but back in The Diamond, where it belongs. To join HOLSBA please send your application to Membership Secretary Carolle Stent. The annual Membership fee is £0.00.

Sam

Future Programme Dates

Meeting IDs/Invitations will be emailed to those involved in the various Zoom meetings - any non-Rotarians who would like to join the Club meetings or District e-club meetings please contact Roy on president@titsey.org.uk .

Wednesday 6 January	8.00pm	Teams & Business meeting
Wednesday 13 January	8.00pm	Auction of Surplus Christmas Presents
Thursday 14 January	7.30pm	Council
Thursday 14 January	7.00pm	(for 7.30pm) District E-Meeting 'Rotary and Carers UK' with Pamela Nelson and Philip Holt
Wednesday 20 January	8.00pm	Teams & Business meeting
Wednesday 27 January	8.00pm	"Everest Base Camp' with Scott Jarred

Wordsearch

What will be our lasting memories, as we look back at 2020? Well – they might include Covid-19 and, with that in mind, here's a Covid-themed Wordsearch, but with a couple of extra "2020 words" thrown in for good measure. And there's a secret hidden message right at the end.

There's a prize of a bottle of something for the first fully completed Wordsearch to be sent to The Editor by email or WhatsApp. Enjoy!

Sam

C	O	R	O	N	A	V	I	R	U	S	D	T	R	U	M	P
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ASTRA ZENICA

BLM

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BORIS

BUBBLE

CASTLE BARNARD

CONTACT TRACING

CORONAVIRUS

COVID

DISTANCING

ESSENTIAL

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IMMUNITY

ISOLATE

KEY

LOCKDOWN

MASK

PANDEMIC

PFIZER

PPE

RAAB

REMOTE

RNUMBER

SCREEN

SUPERSPREADER

TEST

TRUMP

UNMUTE

VACCINE

VIRUS

WASH

ZOOM