



## ***Presidential Ponderings – President Steve Putman***

Welcome to the March edition of Titsey Topics.

It appears that I am not infallible and can make mistakes. Who knew!?

It had been a long day. The alarm went off at 3:30am and, from then on, it was all systems go to catch a plane from Birmingham to Grenoble and then onwards by coach to *Les Arc 2000* for a week skiing in the French Alps, staying in a very agreeable catered chalet.

I was distracted leaving the coach and managed to leave my mobile phone in the pocket of the seat in front. And that was it. I never saw it again until the coach came to collect us all a week later, when I was reunited with its discharged self.

One whole week with no phone calls, no emails, no texts, no WhatsApps, no news-feeds, no Facebook, no social media and, after the France v England rugby match when the TV went off, no TV either. It was very odd but, as the week went by, it was strangely therapeutic.

It took a little while and, to be fair, the phone would have been very useful, if for no other reason than the piste map is now on-line via an app that tracks one's progress on the slopes. So, resorting to old fashioned paper maps, I survived without it.

Amazingly, without any help from me the world continued to turn and lurch from one crisis to another, but I knew nothing of this. Did you miss me? Not much, apparently, as Titsey Rotary continued to flourish without any input from me, although sadly I missed a brewery trip that sounded like fun. When I charged my phone it downloaded 455 WhatsApp messages and over 150 emails, none of which was very important.

Have a go – turn off your phone. I recommend it... and don't listen to the news. It is surely bad for your health. I suspect that fabulous scenery and good company with lovely food and the occasional glass of *vin chaud* helped me, but my week '*sans mobile*' was great. Until next time

*Steve*



## ***Visit to Westerham Brewery, Thursday 21 March***

Another good turnout at the Westerham Brewery on a Thursday lunchtime – only ten people had signed up to come, but it was great to see 19 members and better halves turn up in the end.

Well done, Sam, for organising the event..... even though you went on holiday and missed it!!! (We set the tab up for you – it was well used and they are now awaiting your payment. Cheers Sam 🥰)



*What's up in a brewery?*

The food on offer – Kashmiri Street Food – was very tasty and great value. The Club created a fun atmosphere a great social afternoon was had by all.

Last man standing was .... Dot, who we had to tear away from bar!

Cheers – here's to next time. 🍺 🍷

*Ian*

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## ***Walking with the Beavers on Thursday 21 March (Disability Awareness Week)***

My fellow Rotarian Sam asked me if I would help out by attending a walk with his grandson, Joey, who is a Beaver, as part of “Disability Awareness Week”. I was happy to help, as I have supported the Beavers before, educating them on what it is like to live with severe sight loss.



This time they wanted me to attend a walk as they knew I walked with East Surrey Walkers. In order that I can walk, I need a guide, so I asked my lovely friend Kate, who has been a guide for many years, to help me and she jumped at the opportunity.

We all assembled at 5.30pm on a sunny evening to walk a couple of miles around Titsey Place. I introduced Kate and myself, and showed all the Beavers the gadget I use when walking with a guide.

The gadget has a cuff which I put round my wrist, and then the other end hooks on to Kate's rucksack and we are about an arm's length away from one another. I also put on a hi-viz yellow cover which fits over Kate's rucksack, which I can focus on when I walk.

I advised the Beavers what I could see that evening, which was just pure white, and told them a little bit about my eye condition. We split into small groups and each group walked alongside and asked me questions. These varied from "do I have a guide dog?" (to which I said no, as I use a white cane) and "how old was I when I started losing my vision?". The girl who asked me this question was seven years old, and I told her I was her age.

They were a pleasure to walk with and keen to ask questions and I hope they learnt something about sight loss. I want to say a huge thank you to Kate for being my guide on the day, so I was able to take part with the Beavers.

*Amanda*

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### ***Going, going, gone – sign up and pay up!***

Our grand **Charity Auction on Saturday 11 May** is coming soon. Be sure to **sign up and pay up** ASAP, before all the available places have gone.

At the time of writing we have 38 amazing auction lots, including many things that you would normally spend money on like vouchers for meals out at local restaurants, vouchers to use at places like Morrisons, Cook, Oxted Cinema, Pipers Florists. For your health and well-being we have vouchers for fitness, therapy, massages, tennis lessons and golf. For amazing experiences there are vouchers for a Heritage Hangar Tour at Biggin Hill Airport, a barbecue in a Rotarian's beautiful garden, a cream tea in the home of a Rotarian or a Chilli and Beer night. To view the catalogue, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3TI7U1X> or go to [www.titsey.org.uk](http://www.titsey.org.uk) and select *Meetings & Events - Future Meetings & Events*.

Generous donors allow us to divert your money from commercial establishments into Titsey Rotary's charity account and then back out again to local and international charities.

Thanks to the generosity of Woldingham Village Club, we will not be using any of your money to pay for room hire, so the cost to you is only £13 for a buffet meal in comfortable, licenced surroundings.



Titsey  
**Rotary**  
Club 

# **CHARITY AUCTION**

**Saturday 11 May 2024**  
**18.30hrs**

**Woldingham Village Club**

**Tickets £13.00 per person to include cold buffet**

**For further information please contact**  
**[auction@titsey.org.uk](mailto:auction@titsey.org.uk)**

**[www.titsey.org.uk](http://www.titsey.org.uk)**

All profits to The Rotary Club of Titsey & District Charitable Incorporated Organisation (charity no. 1205558)



Neil at Woldingham Village Club will be happy to reserve a table for your party so that you and your guests will be sitting together for an evening of fun and friendship. Just let me know how large a group you want seated together. Further, if you want to leave your car in Woldingham, Neil will arrange a cab to take you home.

So, my main message is, do your bit to make the Auction on 11 May a success by booking places for yourself and your friends. Send an email to [auction@titsey.org.uk](mailto:auction@titsey.org.uk) to book now.

*Carolle*

PS Thanks to all who have donated auction lots, collected auction lots and already booked places.

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### ***Speaker Report: Abi Chapman – The Accessibility Project, 27 March***

“She can’t do that” – Abi Chapman’s childhood was full of medical warnings but luckily for her, and for us, her mother’s attitude was ‘Okay, so what can you do?’ and the Abi who spoke to us at a recent Club meeting was clearly someone who **can do!**

She has used her own experiences to look around her and work to make life better for others, by focusing on improving community health and community life. She graduated in 2022, just when the Ukrainian refugees started to arrive in the area. Immediately her idea of focusing on disability was put on hold, as she got involved in making Tandridge a welcoming place for the refugees.



She set up **The Accessibility Project** and works with a very small team to collaborate with others such as Surrey County Council, NHS and St John’s Church in Hurst Green. She recognised that the Accessibility Project can’t do everything but they have worked with their partners to set up a Warm Hub that is now the Hurst Green Community Hub at St John’s, and is not just for the winter months – as Abi points out, a Warm Hub is also a social space for people who are very likely to be lonely, so why abandon those people when the weather improves? The Project is involved with community fridges, bringing health checks into the community and many other initiatives. Recently asked to set up a Hub elsewhere in the district and accepting that no-one can do everything, she is preparing a ‘how to’ guide based on their experience for other groups in other parts of Surrey.

Last Christmas Titsey Rotary Club provided some cash to support the Project’s second Christmas event in Hurst Green – addressing the needs of nearly 100 residents from young children, who saw Father Christmas for free, to those who would otherwise have spent Christmas completely alone. Like so much that Abi touches, this activity is also set to grow this year.

Looking ahead Abi shared the plan to re-launch the Accessibility Project as **Accessify** in July 2024. Accessify will be a ‘think tank’ but a ‘think tank’ that does things – they will write policies but also implement those policies into society, Accessify will be run by people who work in the community and there will be more people involved.

Definitely someone with a ‘can do’ approach to life!

*Sue*

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# THE WHISKEY SOURS

**LIVE VINTAGE MUSIC**  
Rockabilly | Blues | Pop | Jazz

**Saturday 20th April**  
**Hurst Green Community Centre**  
7:30pm doors 8pm start

Tickets: **£10** advance **£15** on the door  
Bookings: [events@hgcc-surrey.org.uk](mailto:events@hgcc-surrey.org.uk)

\*Bring your own booze  
Soft drinks available\*

Scan here for event website →



  
Hurst Green  
Community Centre

*A proportion of the proceeds will go to Hurst Green Community Centre to carry out essential maintenance work on the much loved but aging building.*





# **& AUCTION AFTERNOON TEA**

12:00 - 3:00  
**FRIDAY**  
7TH JUNE

Every penny raised from this event will support individuals affected by the horrors of modern slavery and human trafficking, providing them with essential assistance and pathways to a brighter future.

- Afternoon Tea
- Auction
- Guest Speaker



Titsey Place Tea Rooms,  
Water Ln, Titsey, Oxted  
RH8 0SA



Tickets available from our website:  
[www.theirvoicemodernslavery.org.uk](http://www.theirvoicemodernslavery.org.uk)



## ***A Sand Dam we helped to build.....***

*“Sand dams empower dryland communities to transform their own lives and land. When people have access to clean water, they can take their future into their own hands, live sustainably, and work their way out of poverty with dignity.” (Sand Dams Worldwide)*

Last May, under the guidance of Brian Le Masurier, we joined with several other Rotary Clubs in this area to support the construction of this Sand Dam in Kenya through a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation (Rotary's own charity) that provides funds on top of those raised by the clubs. The Sand Dam was built under the guidance of *Sand Dams Worldwide* but the work was done by the local community of Kyanzonzo Unit Self Help Group in Mutamnda Village in South East Kenya.



*The finished sand dam*

*Photo courtesy of Sand Dams Worldwide*

The community instigated the project, as they wanted a source of clean water all year round. This water will provide water for households close to the shambas (small cultivated plots), fields, animals, trees, subsistence and cash crops and create a micro ecosystem which will be able to utilise the water and preserve and restore a natural environment which would support a large area in proximity to the sand dam.

Over 1500 people in the immediate area will benefit and eventually, when the water table becomes higher, other local communities may also benefit.



*A community project*

*Photo courtesy of Sand Dams Worldwide*





Figure 1 The dam ready for action

Photo courtesy of Sand Dams Worldwide

The local population will be trained and supported in building terraces along the banks to improve water retention and prevent soil erosion; drought resistant varieties of trees and vegetables will be grown in nurseries to create a sustainable supply of these plants in the future; Increased quantities and varieties of foodstuffs would be grown to improve the health of the population especially the children; less time would be wasted in traditional water

collection methods so children will spend more time in education and adults could have more time to invest in community development. The benefits are far reaching.

Rotarian Geraint from RC Caterham is planning to visit Kenya this summer and he will attempt to travel to the Kyanzonzo community to see the results for himself – so watch this space for his report!

### Guess who?

This month's **GUESS WHO** is a bit different. It features a Titsey Rotarian, not as a small child but as a young adult. One of the seven trendies from the seventies is a Rotarian. Can you guess which one it is? (Clue: He could be a male or she could be a female.)



Last month's little darling (left) was a difficult one – partly because his hairstyle has changed rather a lot! Balanced on those spindly little legs is none other than Mr Bonus Ball himself – John Healy. Who'd have guessed?



## Future Programme Dates (Click [HERE](#) for full programme)

<b>Mon 8 April</b>	7.30-9.30pm	Club Council
<b>Wed 10 April</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Annual General Meeting
<b>Wed 17 April</b>	8.00-9.30pm	Club meeting - Teams & Business
<b>Thurs 18 April</b>	1.00-3.00pm	Social lunch at ThaiPad (Roy Pope)
<b>Sat 20 April</b>	9.00am-1.00pm	District Assembly (Bramley, nr Guildford)
<b>Wed 24 April</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club Meeting - St George's Night Dinner and Quiz
<b>Wed 1 May</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club meeting - Teams & Business
<b>Wed 8 May</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club Assembly
<b>Sat 11 May</b>	6.30-10.00pm	Charity Auction at Woldingham Village Club
<b>Wed 15 May</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club meeting - Teams & Business
<b>Wed 22 May</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club meeting
<b>Wed 29 May</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club Guest Night - Guests welcome!
<b>Wed 5 June</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club meeting - Teams & Business
<b>Sun 9 June</b>	8.00am-3.00pm	<b>Oxted Boot Fair (Pitch booking opens last week of April)</b>
<b>Wed 12 June</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club meeting
<b>Wed 19 June</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club meeting - Teams & Business
<b>Wed 26 June</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Handover Meeting
<b>Wed 3 July</b>	8.00-10.00pm	Club meeting - Teams & Business
<b>Sun 18 August</b>	8.00am-3.00pm	<b>Oxted Boot Fair</b>