



Presidents Ponderings by President Sue

It's been a busy couple of months for Shepperton Aurora but one tinged by sadness as we said farewell to Rotarian Ivan Hill who lost his battle with cancer and sadly passed away on 21st October 2024. Our condolences go to Jo and his family. The tribute paid to Ivan at his "celebration of Life" is included in this newsletter.

We've been lucky to have a wealth of excellent speakers at our meetings. These included local groups like Charlton Scouts and Cubs, who we are now looking to support; a fascinating insight into the work of the Samaritans by one of its volunteers and a talk from a charity which is growing every year to meet the increased demand of Younger People with Dementia (see page 9).

We were also treated to talk number three from Neville Lyons. We heard how a national chain of Lyons tea rooms might seem an unlikely place for technology that would transform office work and kick-start the British Computer Industry, but when the Lyons Electronic office (LEO) went into operation in 1951 it did just that (see page 11).

Our social calendar was busy. There was a welcome return of the highly competitive but fantastic fun, Beetle Drive. Such was the success of the evening it was unanimously decided that we would hold another one in the spring of 2025 (see page 3).

We made our annual presentation of dictionaries to year 5 pupils in Shepperton's primary schools - a joyous series of events, see page 7. On 24th October, World Polio day, we joined forces with Shepperton Conservation group and planted 100 purple crocuses along the fence surrounding Lords Bridge Pond. We look forward to seeing them in the spring to remind us that we mustn't stop the job of eradicating polio from the world, see page 6.

On the international front we successfully increased our donation for three shelter-boxes (two of which were sponsored by a previous member) to six by being part of the doubling initiative. This will give six families in a disaster torn part of the world, a home, when they have lost everything to war, floods or other disasters.

At our last meeting in November we were pleased to welcome a new member, Daniel Mouawad. The formalities were done by Paul Robigo (previously our newest member) who read the Objects of Rotary followed by myself, as President, followed by Daniel's response. As always, these are moments to celebrate with a very warm welcome to Daniel, see Page 2.

Now we are busy with a very important event in the Rotary year and indeed for Shepperton as a whole as we finalise our preparations for Santa and his sleigh to do his pre-Christmas tour around the village. In the run up to Christmas, we will also be in the village hall with local charities on Big Tree Night (11th December).

As this will be our last newsletter for 2024, I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy 2025.

President Sue

*** See the Shepperton Aurora Newsletter on our Website ***

sheppertonaurora.co.uk

Editor's Agenda

Its with sadness to report that a number of Aurorians attended Ivan Hill's funeral on the 21st November at St. Nicholas Church. One condolence message that resonated with me was from David Catt-Camfield 'Ivan, didn't know you for very long, but you had a good heart, and you marked a stamp on our club.' Very true and his introduction of 'Lend with Care' will leave a legacy.

We held a few events recently, bringing back the Beetle Drive, where the proud winner received the most-coveted Beetle print - see photo. The Reading Force presentation was held at Shepperton Cricket Club, a great initiative where Forces' families are brought together by the shared joy of reading. It was typical I missed the history of the Lyon's Computer, one of the first practical machines running its first application in 1951. It was a topic during my Computer Science degree.

I have not been bored in the evenings with the London Jazz Festival, so much good to listen to. Highlights included a two and half hour solo guitar concert from Pat Metheny, probably the greatest living guitarist. Also attended Fergus McCreadie, a recent Mercury Prize candidate and a few others including Maruja, Doomcannon and Tangerine Dream.

Stay safe, Henry

Oldest Rotarian President? From the Belfast Telegraph



Billy Geary, who turned 101 in August, was elected vice-president of the Belfast East Rotary Club last year. He was "flattered" at the idea he could be the oldest president in the association of rotary's history. This week, Mr Geary, alongside club officials, attended a special lunch at the Stormont Hotel's La Scala Bistro to celebrate their fundraising for the Alzheimer's Society, for which the rotary club raised £11,000.

Another New Member! Daniel Mouawad



Daniel was proposed by Colin Barnard. He has attended three face to face meetings and also helped Aurora at Shepperton fair this year. Daniel has a wife and two daughters and lives in Shepperton.

Daniel has had a very varied career, having held senior executive leadership posts in both the private and public sector. He was appointed senior British commercial diplomat and chair of The UK's Institute of Economic Development 2006-2008 and has had significant international business experience.

Daniel undertook a career sabbatical voluntarily working for an educational charity in India along with his wife and two daughters. Before joining the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership as its Chief Executive in 2013, Daniel worked as Chief Executive of United World Schools, a charity committed to providing education to over 100,000 children in developing countries.

In 2017 he was appointed as CEO of Spelthorne Council which is his current position.

Beetle Drive by Diana Hoad

A very noisy fun evening. The raffle made £147 which was fab as there were 35 guests.



New Environment Group by Dr Peter Newman



A new Group on the Environment is to be established from January 2025. President Sue has kindly asked me to Chair the Group as I have over 40 years of experience of dealing with environmental issues. I would like to form a small committee to establish the Terms of Reference for the Group and then to oversee the output of the Group.

Please let Peter know if you would like to become a member of the Committee.

[Dr Peter Newman Environment Issues From Legislation to Implementation](#)

Recent Charity Donations

- ⇒ SSAFA £500
- ⇒ ShelterBox £590 plus £1,180 personal donation - 3 boxes - doubled via national initiative to provide a total of 6 ShelterBoxes
- ⇒ Action Breaks Silence £700, doubled by Big Give
- ⇒ Lego for Schools Project, £60
- ⇒ Kathy & Clive Hassell for their Port Elizabeth Rotary Club in South Africa
- ⇒ Black Swan for two ovens, £1,000, of which Rushna donated £500 from Samosa collections
- ⇒ Cruse £500 towards their training budget
- ⇒ Spelthorne Gymnastic funding Committee £500
- ⇒ Younger People With Dementia £100
- ⇒ Sandams (via District grant initiative) £500 plus £500 personal donation

Ivan Hill Tribute by President Sue (1)



A photograph taken at last year's Christmas Music Evening, that Ivan asked for from the Editor

Ivan Hill sadly passed away on 21st October 2024. The following tribute was read by Sue Eggleton, President – Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club at the celebration of life for Ivan held on 21st November 2024 at St. Nicholas Church, Shepperton

Ivan was a long serving Rotarian, having joined Tettenhall Rotary club in the West Midlands in 1989. Whilst there, Ivan was very active in researching and arranging various types of Rotary grants to help fund disadvantaged communities overseas. Many of the grants were with Rotary clubs in South Africa with the majority being with the Rotary club of Knysna, including a global grant for early learning development, helping give underprivileged children access to education. Ivan gained the Paul Harris award whilst he was there, one of the highest awards club members can bestow on a fellow member and I guess that says it all.

Following Ivan and Jo's move to Shepperton, Ivan was welcomed into Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club on 1st January

2023. With his experience of overseas grants, he was an obvious candidate to be a member of our International Committee and he was thrilled to be able contact our own former members, now in South Africa, to offer his help and share his experiences in a very similar project Aurora was sponsoring to provide tutors to help provide education to disadvantaged children.

Despite his mobility restrictions and up until his health declined, Ivan would always be at our morning meetings – no mean feat as they start at 07.15! He was also a regular at our Saturday coffee mornings, a more agreeable start time of 09.30. Both he and Jo were great attendees at social events and were always keen to help with our fundraising events. In March this year, Ivan and Jo became bookies at our race night and ran the jackpot 6!

Last Christmas, Ivan was not only taking part in our Christmas collections with Santa, but he also planned a Christmas quiz night. With Ivan on piano and Jo's voice leading the singing, we started the night with carols, followed by Ivan's own amazing quiz. Many a mince pie and mulled wine were shared with fond friends that evening.

But Ivan's lasting legacy to Aurora will be Lend for Care. Having coordinated it for his previous club, he was passionate about the principle of helping people out of poverty by helping them to help themselves.

Ivan Hill Tribute by President Sue (2)

In true Ivan style, he did a detailed presentation to the International Committee and then again to the whole club to explain the scheme and what was required of members. He got agreement to a £500 investment which required 6-8 members to choose from the small businesses all looking for relatively small amounts of investment, which would allow them to grow their business and pay the loan back in agreed instalments.

It's fair to say it was an initial slow take up initially. Not discouraged, Ivan produced an aide memoir to help us all understand how easy it was to use the scheme and wrote copious emails setting out simple instructions and never missed an opportunity to encourage more members to invest.

He began to get the message through and I'm pleased to say that Ivan saw the results of his persistence before he passed, as we now have 6 loans, 2 people have invested their own money and we are beginning to see the loan repayments and things are taking off.

In an email from his hospital bed Ivan wrote

"It's been a pleasure to have joined Aurora, even for too short period of time and especially to have Lend for Care adopted. I knew it would prove successful, and it can only go from strength to strength from now on".

I know that Marlene in Ecuador, Aileen in the Philippines, Tan in Vietnam and the many more that have been helped out of poverty are very grateful to Lend for Care and to Ivan for being such a big supporter. He has our word that we will look to continue to support the scheme.

Rotary has lost a true Rotarian but Jo has been a strong supporter and friend of Rotary and we look forward to maintain that friendship with Jo, as was Ivan's wish

RIP Ivan

Let Me Tell You About My Life, A Talk by Paul Robigo



Paul responds to a challenging question from President Elect Simon, Photo by Rushna Master

World Polio Day by Past-President Jan

World Polio Day, 24th October was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis, the highly infectious disease, mostly affecting young children leading to paralysis and sometimes death. By the mid 20th century polio could be found all over the world killing or paralysing over half a million people every year.

Members of Shepperton Aurora celebrated World Polio day by planting 100 purple crocuses along the fence of Lords bridge Pond. Purple crocuses are the symbol of eradicating Polio, representing the children who receive the polio vaccine having their little finger dipped in purple dye so that they can be easily identified as being vaccinated

- ⇒ 1949 breakthrough, polio virus cultivated in human tissue.
- ⇒ Early 1950s American Jonas Salk created successful vaccine
- ⇒ 1953 tested on himself and family.
- ⇒ 1954 tested on 1.6 million children in Canada, Finland USA
- ⇒ By 1957 annual cases dropped from 58,000 to 5,600.
- ⇒ By 1961 only 161 cases remained in these countries
- ⇒ Since 1978 Rotary has been working with various organisations to eradicate polio
- ⇒ Rotary Polio Plus launched in 1985
- ⇒ 2007 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined Rotary in commitment to end polio
- ⇒ July 2021 only 2 cases of wild polio, Afghanistan & Pakistan.
- ⇒ Since 2013, the Gates foundation has matched (doubled) every dollar raised by Rotary
- ⇒ To date, more than 2.5 billion children have received the oral polio vaccine



Dictionarys for Local Schools by President Sue

As part of Rotary's emphasis on promoting literacy, Shepperton Aurora were busy delivering Rotary Dictionarys 4 Life in October to **three** Shepperton schools. This national initiative is now in its 14th year.

Dictionarys were presented to Year 5 pupils of **St Nicholas CofE, St Ignatius Catholic and Saxon** primary schools and in total **213 dictionarys** were handed out.

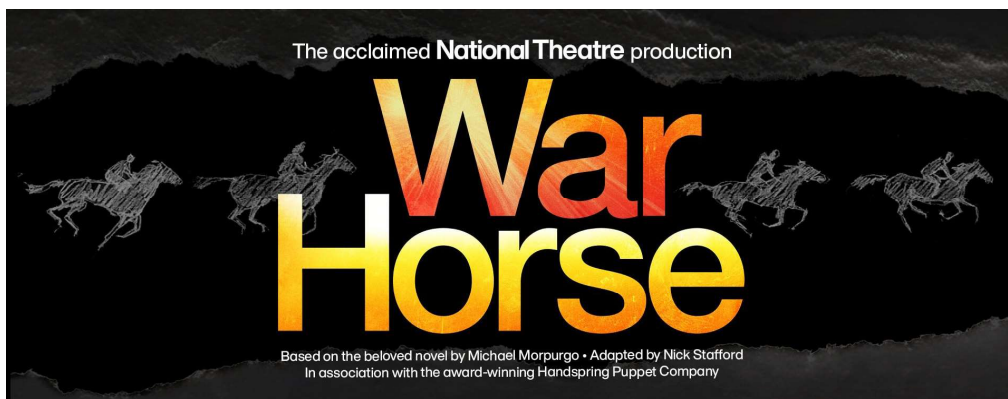
Despite this technological age, there was great excitement from the boys and girls at the receipt of their very own copy of a dictionary which was theirs to take home and keep. Each dictionary had their name in alongside the Rotary emblem, and following the presentation, there was a lot of autographing of each other's books. Sue's President's chain of office caused a bit of a stir so much so that she was also asked to sign individual copies and felt quite celebratory like!!

These pictures were taken with permission at St. Nicholas CofE School.

Big thanks to Sylvia for ordering, storing and organising labels to be inserted inside and along with Lyn, liaising with the schools. Others presenting the dictionarys were **Jan Matthews, Lyn Derrington and Simon Lovett.**



Planned Aurora Visit to War House at Woking Theatre, Wed 22nd Jan, Contact Jenny!



Reading Force by Rev'd Professor Alison Baverstock



At Reading Force, we are passionate about using books to bring Forces children and families closer together. Our shared reading initiative encourages families to read, talk, and scrapbook about a book, improving communication and enriching relationships with books and each other – one page at a time.

As an Army wife for nearly thirty years, and a mother of four children, I know all about the ups and downs of Forces life and the impact it can have on a Forces family. During training, active deployment, or when yet another move beckons – good communication is vital.

Over the years, when my husband was away, we would communicate through books. I would send him things I had read, he'd read them, and then we would talk on the phone about our reactions. And as the children got older we involved them too. Some good conversations resulted. Reading together created common ground and the opportunity to connect, and provided a welcome distraction

from the stresses and strains of so many long separations.

In 2010 I had the idea of encouraging other Forces families to share books and talk about them, and to offer them special scrapbooks to fill up. This became Reading Force. Started in Aldershot in 2011, the scheme has grown in popularity ever since. With the help of our generous funders and supporters we can now offer Reading Force to all British Armed Forces, Reserves, Cadets, Veterans and ex-Forces (from divorce) children and families nationwide. We also welcome Service families who have sadly been bereaved.



Younger People with Dementia by Sue Eggleton

On the 9th October 2024 we held our club meeting via Zoom and had the pleasure of having a really insightful talk from David Fisher, Trustee and founding member of the charity Younger people with Dementia. David used to run his own consultancy business from home, but life changed in 2003 when his wife was diagnosed with early onset dementia at the age of 53. She sadly died in 2007 after a fairly rapid decline.

David pointed out that the traditional support services for dementia are designed to meet the needs of older patients and access to appropriate services and activities for younger patients, are currently few and far between.

David is now committed to helping and improving the services available to younger people with dementia and the charity has grown considerably both in the number of carers it supports and those diagnosed who attend the age-appropriate weekly workshops. The charity operates across Berkshire and Surrey Heath, North Hants and Farnham and are now looking to start up services in Woking. In any case referrals will be accepted regardless of location.

Aurora members thanked David for most interesting talk and will follow developments in Woking with interest.

What outcomes have we seen?

- Retention of skills and learning new skills
- Social interaction/reduced isolation
- Enhanced confidence
- Reduction in behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia
- Reduction in antipsychotic prescribing
- Reduction in number of NHS appointments
- Prevention of admission into care homes
- Respite for carer
- Reduced stress in carer
- Recognition in publications, speaking events and on television (Dementia Choir with Vicky McClure, 2023)

The Journal of DementiaCare

For all who work with people with dementia Vol 24 No 6 November/December 2016

Doing things differently in young onset dementia



Also inside this issue: • The Dementia Strategy: time to change course? • Delirium matters • Minority ethnic communities



Woking

In February this year we started running a pilot project in Woking which is running until the end of this year. We ran a launch event that was attended by some of the community and professionals where our Surrey Sunshine choir performed.

Windrush by Paul Robigo

On our recent travels to Greenwich, this gave me the opportunity to photograph the Empire Windrush monument by Basil Watson and the legend that went alongside it, listing the members of the Windrush Committee who commissioned the sculpture and a poem by Laura Serrant "You Called... and We Came".



Unveiled by Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge as he was then known, in June 2022, the monument commemorates the 1,027 immigrants plus two stowaways, one a 27-year-old dressmaker called Evelyn Wauchope, who was discovered a week after sailing from Kingston, Jamaica. Some of the musicians on-board organized a benefit concert that raised enough money for her fare, and £4 spending money. They travelled from the British colonies in the West Indies including Trinidad and Jamaica and came to the United Kingdom on board the Empire Windrush, arriving on the 21st June 1948 at Tilbury who subsequently became known as the Windrush Generation. What is less well known is that the Empire Windrush was not the first ship of its kind but the third, two having arrived the previous year.

Originally intended to repatriate around 500 West Indians who had served in the Royal Air Force during World War 2, the Empire Windrush left Southampton on 7th May arriving in Trinidad on 20th May, then stopping at Kingston, Jamaica, Tampico, Mexico and Bermuda, before returning to the UK. The ship's manifest, kept in the Kew National Archives, shows that 802 passengers gave their last place of residence as a country in the Caribbean.

A small number of the Caribbean people aboard were Indo-Caribbeans but they were mostly West Indian and included Jamaican-born Sam Beaver King - travelling to the UK to rejoin the RAF - who would later help to found the Notting Hill Carnival and became the first black Mayor of Southwark.

A number of well-known musicians, included the Calypsonians Lord Kitchener, Lord Beginner and Lord Woodbine; the jazz trumpeter Dizzy Reece and the Trinidadian singer Mona Baptiste, one of the few women on the ship, who travelled first class.

"Non-Caribbean people aboard included a serving RAF officer, Sierra Leonean John Henry Clavell Smythe, acting as a welfare-officer. He later became Attorney General of Sierra Leone. Other passengers were Nancy Cunard, English writer and heiress to the Cunard shipping fortune; the travel writer Freya Stark (who shared a cabin with Cunard); Lady Ivy Woolley, the wife of Sir Charles Woolley, the governor of British Guiana; Gertrude Whitelaw, the wealthy widow of the former Member of Parliament William Whitelaw.

Cakes to Computers by Diana Hoad



Neville Lyons, whose father was a cousin of Jo Lyons the Chairman, gave a detailed talk on the early history of British computing. The LEO (Lyons Electronic Office) was a series of early computer systems created by J. Lyons and Co. The first in the series, the LEO I, was the first computer used for commercial business applications.

Although the talk was longer than we normally have it was really interesting and I hung on to every word. I didn't realise that there were three Leo computers eventually. At the end of the talk there was a film which had interviews with key staff who had worked on the new Invention. Eventually Leo computers was sold to English Electric in 1964 and absorbed into ICT (later ICL) in 1968.



CAKES TO COMPUTERS



LEO
THE WORLD'S
FIRST
BUSINESS COMPUTER



SALES OF LEO III
58 LEOs including:
DUNLOP RUBBER
BRITISH OXYGEN
SHELL MEX AND BP
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND
CEREBOS
HJ HEINZ
EVER READY
KAYSER-BONDOR
TOTE INVESTORS
SOUTH-WESTERN GAS BOARD
BOARD OF TRADE
INLAND REVENUE
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE
HM DOCKYARDS (4 LEOs)
GENERAL POST OFFICE (14 LEOs)

SHEPPERTON AURORA ROTARY-Diary 2024-25 No 5

Month	Date	Meeting	Event	Venue- Speakers
Nov			☀️ Rotary Foundation Month ☀️	
	Wed 6th	Breakfast 7.15	My Working Life	Paul Robigo Warren Lodge
	Sun 10th	Morning 11.00	Remembrance Sunday 	Aurora at Shepperton Memorial
	Wed 13th	Zoom 18.30	 LEO The World's First Business Computer	Neville Lyons
	Mon 18th	18.30	Club Council	Venue?
	Wed 20th	Breakfast 7.15	SAMARITANS	Tony Harman Warren Lodge
	Sat 23rd	Morning	Prepare Sleigh- Clean & Service	Joint clubs team
	Sat 30th	From 9.30	Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning	Ferry Coffee Shop
Dec			☀️ Rotary Disease Prevention & Treatment Month ☀️	
	Sun 1st	All Day	Tesco Christmas Collection	
	Wed 4th	Breakfast 7.15	Business Meeting & Christmas Briefing	Warren Lodge
	Thurs 5th	Evening	1st Aurora Street Collection with Buffet after	
	Sun 8th	All Day	Notcutts Christmas Collection	
	Mon 9th	Evening	Aurora Street Collection	
	Wed 11th	Evening	Big Tree Night	Village Hall
	Thurs 12th	Evening	Aurora Street Collection	
	Sat 14th	Morning	Aurora High Street Collection	
	Sun 15th	All Day	Notcutts Christmas Collection	
	Mon 16th	Evening	Aurora Street Collection	
	Wed 18th	Breakfast 7.15	Social Morning	Warren Lodge
	Thurs 19th	Evening	Aurora Street Collection	
	Fri 20 th	Evening	Christmas Collection Pubs & Restaurants	Shepperton Area
	Sun 22nd	All day	Tesco Christmas Collection	
Jan			☀️ Rotary Vocational Service Month ☀️	
	Fri 3rd	Evening	Aurora New Year Dinner	The Three Horseshoes
	Wed 8th	Breakfast 7.15	Christmas Debrief	Warren Lodge
	Wed 15th	Breakfast 7.15	RSPCA.	Mark Hanley
	Wed 15th	Evening	Youth Speaks-intermediate	Council Chamber
	Mon 20th	18.30	Club Council	Venue ?
	Wed 22nd		Woking Theatre War Horse 	Booking with Jenny
	Thurs 23rd	Evening	Youth Speaks-Senior	Council Chamber
	Sat 25th	From 9.3	Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning	Ferry Coffee Shop
	Wed 29th	Evening	Presentation of Charity Cheques	Venue?
Feb			☀️ Peace and Conflict Prevention Month ☀️	
	Wed 5th	Breakfast 7.15	 Visit of Spelthorne Mayor Councillor Med Buck	Venue Warren Liodge
	Tues 11th	Evening	Four Clubs Dinner?	Organizer-Staines Club
	Wed 12th	Zoom 18.30	☀️ Rotary Foundation ☀️	Chales Crane
		Evening	Youth Speaks- District Semi Final	Venue Halliford School
	Wed 19th	Breakfast 7.15	☀️ Official Visit of DG District 1145 ☀️	Tim Vile Warren Lodge
	Sat 1st	From 9.30	Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning	Ferry Coffee Shop

01/11/24 Ken