

December 2020



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In Memory of

This is what I had hoped I would not need to report on this year but as you will know by now, Chris Weston passed away earlier this month. Chris had been in Winchester hospital where he had been taken early in the morning of

November 22nd, after becoming seriously ill at Westholme. He recovered from that but then his condition sadly deteriorated. Reg has kindly let me have his memories of Chris:

'I have known Chris and Barbara since 1980. We were in Winchester Round Table together and then Winchester 41 Club. When I was the IV President Chris was the International Service Chairman and together we launched the twinning with the Rotary Club of Valognes. He was a past Club Secretary and in 1990-1991 he was Club President.

Chris was in building services as a contract developer when he joined Rotary. He was involved with the building of Gunwharf Quay in Portsmouth. Later his work took him to Plymouth. Chris came back to Winchester but, after a period with various other contracts, they moved to Wiveliscombe and he was Club President there too. Chris and Barbara returned to Winchester to be nearer their family in 2015.'

Our sincere condolences are sent to Barbara and their children, grandchildren and great grand-children and our thoughts are with them at this sad and difficult time.

Well, the second Lockdown is over and I hope you are all feeling better? Yes? No? As we are now in Tier 4 we won't notice much difference I'm afraid. We are still meeting remotely so if you haven't joined at one of our Zoom meetings, give it a try, we would love to see you.

Meanwhile I am very pleased to let you know that along with Inner Wheel, we have been delivering

groceries to the Eastleigh Basics Bank, one of my charities this year, who are desperate for products at Christmas, especially this year. Did you know that the Basics Bank are losing their warehouse and although the Borough Council has found an alternative site, it is a room above a cafe on the first floor. The access is therefore very difficult to use and so if anyone reading this is aware of a better site please get in touch.

I am very pleased to say that Father Christmas went Zooming around Chandler's Ford and so became our Christmas fundraiser. I hope you were able to share the details with friends and family before all the slots were sold out.

Finally, our Christmas Meeting on December 21st was a splendid fun night organised by Ed Burt and Pauline Marocco.

/cont'd

Dates for Your Diary

January

- 4th Social Evening Pub Quiz
- 18th Speaker Meeting

February

- 1st Club Meeting
- 8th Council Meeting
- 15th Business Meeting

March

- 1st Club Meeting
- 15th Club Meeting
- 29th Snooker Evening *

April

- 4th Easter Sunday
- 10th District Council
- 12th AGM
- 26th Club Meeting

May

- 7th-9th Valognes Exchange *
- 10th Club Meeting
- 17th Council Meeting
- 24th Business Meeting

June

- 7th Club Meeting
- 21st Club Assembly

* to be confirmed

Mainly centred around the International Toilet Roll Challenge, we were delighted to be joined by a few old friends from Valognes who entered some splendid examples of the art (see photo gallery on page 4).

My Elf Family looked quite modest up against the others and, quite rightly, fared poorly in the scoring.

The winners, as judged by us all were:

Rob, Jen & Huxley Vanhoucke
for their great entry in the
Best Effort category.

Bertrand Joly
from Valognes in the
Most Creative category

Stuart & Jenny Wineburg
for their Punk entry in the
Most Christmassy category.

Well done to all!

With 2021 in mind, I hope that we can soon get back to some sort of normal. Clearly until we have all had the vaccine, meetings won't be possible but there seems to be hope on the horizon.

Despite all the sadness and losses that we have seen this year, we may continue to work with some features that have become the norm, Zoom for instance. So out of adversity comes ... innovation? And maybe a return to thinking about how to combat the biggest threat to us all - Climate Change.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and trust that 2021 will be a little less eventful for everyone's sake.

My very best wishes.

Bob

**KEEP
CALM**
it's
**ONLY A
PUB QUIZ**

SPECIALS NOT TO BE MISSED

Monday 4th January @ 6.30pm

**A fun social evening in lieu of our
traditional New Year's Lunch.**

History – Film - Picture Round – Sport - Music

Up to four people in a team

Send your team name to edwardburt@btinternet.com

Entry is free and it would be nice if you were to make a donation to the club via the donate button on our new and super club website.

<https://www.chandlersfordrotary.org/donate>

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISITS BY ZOOM

**33 FAMILY
BOOKINGS**

**2 LOCAL PRE-
SCHOOL GROUPS**

80+ CHILDREN

**£400+ RAISED FOR
THE WESSEX
CANCER TRUST**

A big 'Thank You' to:

Father Christmas
aka Theo Sackers

His Little Helpers

Ed Burt
Bob Dalton
Gillian Gardiner
Graham Johns
Pauline Marocco
Bob Merrett
Graham Payne
Rob Vanhouke



My grandchildren really enjoyed speaking to Father Christmas this afternoon. I thought he was very good talking to them and the zoom link up went very well. Hope you raise lots of money for your charity this year. It is a good idea as there are not many opportunities for the children to see Santa this year.

Ann K

Just wanted to say a big thank you for such a lovely Father Christmas experience yesterday. It was magical. I think Zoom is the way forward - so much more believable!

Sarah G

Thomas and Lucy want to thank you very much for talking to them and are thrilled to receive the certificates, which they hope mean that they are nice enough for you to leave them lots of presents. As their grandparents, we hope that your brilliant efforts also raised a decent sum of money for your worthwhile charity.

Margaret and Patrick W

Well done Father Christmas! My granddaughter and grandson both thought it amazing and you answered her very difficult questions convincingly,

Linda F

Thank you so much for organising this. It's the first year Alma understood Christmas (she is 2). Have a wonderful Christmas and hope to see Him in person next year!

Sarah S

Thank you so much! It was absolutely magical for my three boys. They've gone to bed talking all about it and they couldn't believe Santa knew so much about them!

Emily T

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT TOILET ROLL CHALLENGE



OUR CLUB DONATIONS

Read below some of the lovely comments we have received from recipients of our Donations over the last month. It is great that we are still able to raise and donate to worthy causes, even in this crazy world at present.



Kids Out Christmas Appeal - £200 donated

On behalf of us all at KidsOut, I would like to say a huge thank you to you and your Rotary Club for the £200 donation, to go towards the Rotary Christmas Toy Box Initiative 'Every Refuge, Every Child'.

This is a wonderful contribution and I would ask you to pass on our sincere thanks to all involved for their generosity and support. The refuge staff have been asked to give the Toy Boxes to the mothers nearer to Christmas Day. As you can imagine, Christmas is always tough for families in refuge, with this year set to be harder than usual. Most children arrive at refuge with **only the clothes on their back**, restricted to a single room with their mother and siblings. Mothers struggle to provide basic essentials, let alone toys for their children at Christmas. With 78% of families in refuge with no access to a TV, you can only imagine the difference these toys will make.

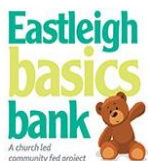
The Rotary Christmas Toy Boxes will provide children in refuge with brand-new toys to support mental health and make the world a little kinder. The toys are given to the mother so that she can provide the toys from Santa and not from charity. This is so important for the mother's self-esteem at such a distressing time.



Asthma UK - £50 donated speaker charity for Mike Storr

I'd just like to say on behalf of everyone here at Asthma UK a huge thank you for your fantastic donation of £50 following Mike Storr's presentation to the Rotary Club of Chandlers Ford & Itchen Valley. £50 would more than cover the cost to pay for our specialist asthma Nurses to support two people on our Helpline via phone or WhatsApp,

offering potentially lifesaving advice to the people who need it. The COVID-19 pandemic saw an unprecedented number of scared, vulnerable people need Asthma UK's free support and advice services. During this time we have had over 24,000 people call our Helpline. It's amazing how much of a difference your donation can make which is why, on behalf of Asthma UK, we'd like to thank you again for helping us stop asthma attacks and cure asthma. Thanks to you we are one step closer to a cure.



Eastleigh Basics Bank – donated £562.43.

We really appreciate this support from your members. We have experienced a meteoric rise in the need for our service since the beginning of the pandemic, and this very generous gift will be used to support *[our]* work with those experiencing food crisis in the Eastleigh area.



Chandlers Ford GirlGuiding – donated £73.75.

Thank you so much for thinking of us again. We have a project in process at the moment at Ramalley which we are still fundraising for, to build and equip a second small building which will house a meeting room for our Rangers section, as we want them to have their own space as our teenage section. Additionally, we are doing some further work in the grounds to create a campfire circle for all our units to use. Thanks again for your continued support to Girlguiding in Chandlers Ford.

2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!