

Croydon Chronicle

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Croydon (founded 1921)

Issue No.1 – February 2010

Rotary Club of Croydon meet at The Croydon Masonic Halls, 73 Oakfield Road, Croydon, Surrey. CR0 2UX.
We meet on Tuesdays at 13:00. Our web address is www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.asp?ClubID=869



Message from the President. Firstly, I must apologise for the first issue of the Croydon Chronicle being so long in arriving, It's a new challenge among many this year, for me, and I make no secret of the fact that it has taken longer and been harder work than I anticipated, Anyway, here we are at last and I hope you all like the new look. It is my intention to produce at least two further issues before the end of June (and a new President takes over) so please keep producing the copy as without it we cannot keep this publication going. I do hope that you will find the content of this 1st issue both informative and useful. We have had a busy and eventful year so far and I look forward to a few more months being kept very busy by the needs of the Club. We have had a truly miraculous year for membership due to the great efforts of the whole Club spurred on by the hard work and dedication of Graham Harker. I do hope that we can capitalise on our good fortune in the coming years and see a steady increase in membership year on year. Finally, I believe we have a very happy Club, Let's keep it that way!

Roger Davis

Membership News - Rotary year 2009-2010:

During the last two Rotary years the recruitment of new members to the Club has been identified as a priority. During the 2008-9 Rotary year, Membership Secretary Don Good devised a membership questionnaire and circulated it to all members of the Club. Following that activity Don felt that he needed to relinquish the post which was then taken on by ADG Graham Harker. Using the results from the membership questionnaire a Membership Strategy was drawn up for implementation, largely during the 2009-2010 Rotary Year.

The first task was to identify possible future members. This was achieved by creating 4 groups of all the existing membership, who were each tasked to provide a list of names of prospective members. It was encouraging that 50 names were produced using this method.

A "Meet Rotary Evening" was planned for 29th September 2009 to which those on the list were invited to attend. The evening consisted of an introductory drink, a buffet meal followed by a variety of presentations. Through the use of DVD, Powerpoint and Oral presentations those present were informed about the Rotary organisation and Croydon Rotary Club, in particular. The guests were hosted by Rotarians and their partners during the evening.

After the "Meet Rotary" event follow-up activities were planned. Prospective members were invited to lunch at the Masonic Halls to experience a Rotary meeting. Invitations were subsequently given to those guests to join the Club.

The result of the strategy was that by January 2010 the following members have joined the club:

- Kerstin Baxter-Brand
- Melvyn Demmen
- Barbara Harker
- Stephen Kirkman
- Ted Krol
- Julie Robinson
- Wally Ross-Gower.



In addition, **Phebean Whest** transferred from the Rotary Club of Arusha Mt. Meru and **Brian Cousins** returned from the Rotary Club of Felixstowe.

Recruitment needs to continue and thought needs to be given to the retention of new members. By the end of this Rotary Year it is planned to review the Membership Strategy and to revise it in light of experience – as membership is not a one-off activity but a process in which all members of the Club need to be involved.

Graham Harker, Asst District Governor 1140, 020 8657 2081 or aramham_harker@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT – Roger Davis – 140 Bingham Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7EH.....Telephone - 020 8654 4200 Email - rogdavis@btinternet.com

SECRETARY - Edward (Ted) Newman, 35 Whitefield Avenue, Purley, South Croydon, CR8 4SX.....Telephone - 020 8660 8208 Email – tednewman@blueyonder.com



Our club member Ken Clay and his wife Gill have kindly offered members of the club the use of their holiday accommodation in Tuscany next September. Typical pictures of the accommodation are shown above – there are 5 units accommodating in total about 24 people. Ken is proposing a short break from, say, Wednesday 8th September to Saturday 11th September. Ken and Gill would organise/suggest some visits, events, meals out if we would like that.

We would not pay the normal rental rate – Ken and Gill have offered the period above at a rate of £65 per person (plus a little more if you would like a longer break of Monday-Saturday) and they would also make the club a generous donation from within that amount.

The accommodation is in the small village of Celle dei Puccini (pop. 30) near the walled city of Lucca. Nearest airport is Pisa. Easyjet flies direct to Pisa from Gatwick and current (Jan 5th) fares for that period are about £100 return including taxes. We could rent, and share the cost of, hire cars or mini-buses from Pisa airport for the period. Let me know if you are not on the list but interested in joining this visit.

Current list of those interested, at 7th Jan, is:-

NAME	HOW MANY PEOPLE	Mon - Sat	Wed - Sat
Roger Davis	2	2	
Ted Newman	2	2	
Jim Spinks	2	2	
Chuck Blankenship	1	1	
John Dale	2	2	
Stephen Williams	1		1
Wally Ross-Gower	2		2
Brian Trengove	1	1	
Julie Nicholson	Possible, but not yet confirmed		

Jim Spinks, Club International Chairman, 01883 625132 or jimspinks@aol.com

Rotary Eurostar Group - 2010 Meeting in Macon, France May 13th - 15th (with possible extension to 16th)

Details of this year's Rotary Eurostar group reunion has been circulating within the Club for the past month and about 20 people have expressed an interest in attending. As a reminder, the cost of the combined programme and accommodation is either 370Euro or 430Euro depending on the hotel you choose – plus a supplement of 60 or 117Euro (depending on which of the two hotel options) if a single room is needed.

The above cost includes accommodation and all visits, entry charges, meals and drinks when out on the programme elements. In addition of course is the cost of travel to and from Macon. There are flights to Lyon from Gatwick (currently from about £50 return) and then a train service to Macon (currently about £11 single). I expect it is also possible to use the Eurostar train service from St Pancras and change in Lille.

I need to confirm numbers and send a 30% deposit by the end of January – consequently, if you are interested and not yet entered your name on the circulated list, please let me know as soon as possible. I will supply you with a copy of the official registration form.

Jim Spinks,
Club International Committee, 01883 625132 or jimspinks@aol.com

Remembrance Day - Sunday 8th November 2009 :

A Civic Service of Remembrance was held in the Fairfield Halls at 10.55 am. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Croydon, The Reverend Canon Colin J Luke Boswell in the presence of The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Margaret Mead JP. Other clergy in attendance were The Roman Catholic Dean of Croydon, the Reverend Canon Michael O'Dea, The Salvation Army, Major Roger Batt and another Faith Leader in the Community. The Music was led by the Salvation Army Band (Croydon Citadel) conducted by bandmaster Mr Mark Ingram and Croydon Parish Church Men and Girls Choirs conducted by Director of Music, Andrew Cantrill.

Following the service the band, armed service and wreath layers marched to the Cenotaph in Katharine Street for the wreath laying ceremony at 12.30 pm led by the Mayor of Croydon. President Roger laid a wreath on behalf of Croydon Rotary Club and Assistant District Governor Graham laid a wreath on behalf of all 8 Rotary Clubs in the London Borough of Croydon. Wreaths were also laid by the Presidents of Croydon East, Croydon Jubilee, Croydon South and Croydon Whitgift Rotary Clubs.

Coulsdon and Coulsdon Rotary Clubs laid their wreaths in a similar ceremony in Coulsdon and Purley Rotary Club laid their wreath on the war memorial in Woodcote.

Graham Harker, Asst District Governor 1140, 020 8657 2081 or graham_harker@hotmail.com

ROTARY CLUB OF CROYDON



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A
RACE NIGHT**
On **FRIDAY 12th March 2010**
7.00pm for 7.15pm PROMPT START
at
SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Shirley Church Road, Shirley, Croydon

A fund raising event organised to raise money for Rotary Charities and particularly for the President's main charity focus this year which is The Croydon Salvation Army to assist them in their work in this area

Everyone is encouraged to come along, **bring as many friends and family as you can**, and enjoy a little "flutter" on the horses

There will also be a **Fish & Chip Supper** provided by McDermott's Fish Bar, Forestdale.
The cost of the evening will be £12.50 per person (including the Fish and Chips!).

To add to the enjoyment a CASH BAR will be available for beer, wine and soft drinks, but if you prefer, you may of course bring your own drinks.

Roger Davis, Club President 2009/2010, 020 8654 4200 or rogdavis@btinternet.com

Further Fund Raisers this Rotary year :

22nd March 2010 Wimbledon Theatre Visit for "Chitty Chitty Bang-Bang" - Tickets £25 (front stalls)– **see further details >>>>**

3rd May 2010 The Annual May Fayre at Beddington Park – further details nearer the time

1st June 2010 Annual Golf Day – this event is will not occur unless it is well supported by the club – please note!

19th June 2010 B-B-Q at the President's humble abode - the final Fund Raiser of the year!

Roger Davis, 020 8654 4200 or rogdavis@btinternet.com

Theatre Visit :

Another visit to Wimbledon Theatre has been arranged for Monday 22nd March 2010 at 7:30pm.

This is the sixth event at Wimbledon Theatre supported by the Club over the last 3 years and it is pleasing to note that the proceeds have helped to raise money for our Benevolent Fund.

This time the show is the hit musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang"! With a cast, orchestra and crew of 100 (including 10 dogs!), sensational sets and stunning special effects, this action packed adventure is the story of the magical car "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang". Eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts and his 2 children Jeremy and Jemima, alongside Truly Scrumptious and Grandpa Potts, all try and outwit the dastardly Baron and the famously evil Childcatcher!

This ravishing , award winning show is guaranteed to be the most exciting theatrical event of the year, so please support this event and bring as many family and friends as you can!

Bernard Adams, 020 8654 2506

Speakers – Rotary year 2009-1010:

The following speakers have been organised by members of the Club:

JULY 2009:

- **Louis Downs** – Louis was Young Enterprise “Achiever of the Year” when he attended Trinity School. He spoke about his experience of Young Enterprise and urged Rotarians to get involved in the organisation as judges or advisers. He also explained how he had now formed his own company, after attending university.
- **Ron Daniels** – Ron is District 1140 Foundation Chairman. He outlined the work of Rotary Foundation – Rotary’s own charity. He also encouraged the Club to look at the giving to Foundation and for each member to consider becoming a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member.

AUGUST 2009:

- **Peter Dancy** is District 1140 Governor for 2009-2010. On his visit to the club he outlined the “Thanks for Life” initiative which is being implemented across all 29 Districts in RIBI (Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland) this Rotary Year.

SEPTEMBER 2009:

- **Julie Fraser** leads Croydon Resources Centre (CRC). She told the club about the project which involved Croydon Rotary Club linking with CRC to set up a computer training centre for use by the unemployed and disadvantaged people of Croydon.
- **Zoe Williamson** is the Manager of Express by Holiday Inn, Croydon. She explained about her job at Holiday Inn as well as being a member of Croydon Whitgift Rotary Club (breakfast club) which she had recently joined.

OCTOBER 2009:

- **Zoe Hepden** works for the Olympic Delivery Authority. She explained about the work the Authority is doing to prepare for the Olympic Games in 2012 on the Olympic site in East London. It was good to hear so much progress is being made with the project rather than the poor press which usually one hears through the media.
- **Irene Hadley** is chair of ‘Croydon Womens Aid’. She spoke about the work the organisation does to offer refuge and support for women and children escaping domestic violence.

NOVEMBER 2009:

- **Pauline Miller** spoke about the work of the ‘Ross Harding Charitable Trust’. She also gave guidelines to the Club if an application was to be made to a Charitable Trust.
- **Angela Hills** works for the charity ‘Music in Hospitals’. She showed a DVD of the work of the charity which provides musicians to patients in hospitals and to groups in old people’s homes.

DECEMBER 2009:

- **Major Roger Batt** leads the Salvation Army in Croydon. This is the nominated charity for this Rotary Year of President Roger. Major Batt spoke about the work of the Salvation Army as it supports the people of Croydon.

JANUARY 2010:

- **William Bretton Byles** visited us at very short notice to tell us about his Charity – Hope for Children. A very interesting talk with plenty of questions following his presentation. “Hope for Children” is unusual in that 100% of donations go directly to the Charity whilst their small overhead is taken care of from Corporate funding.

In addition there have been talks given by members of the Club:

- **Bernard Adams** spoke of his early life in the 1940’s when as a child he was evacuated from Croydon to Devon.
- **Brian Street** who has an interest in family history told of his research into his own family. He discovered that all his family members who lived in areas of London were unfortunately “poor”.
- **Brian Street** who organises the Christmas collection on behalf of the club spoke about the “Fareshare” charity, which is Macro’s designated charity for this year, as someone from the organisation was not available to visit the club. The charity obtains food, usually from the big supermarket outlets, and produces meals for the needy.
- **Barbara Harker**, as a new member of Croydon Rotary Club gave her “job talk” in which she emphasised her early life in Croydon, her job as a history teacher and Head of Year and her life as wife and mother to the Harker family.
- **Phebean Whest**, who was our first lady member and transferred her membership from the Rotary Club of Arusha Mt. Maru in Tanzania, entertained us by speaking about her early life and schooling in Senegal and her later experiences in Tanzania before she came to England to further her education.

Rotary Illustrated Dictionaries :

On 14 October and 24 November I carried out the last and rather belated functions of my Presidential year. On 14 October I presented Illustrated Dictionaries to 200 year 7 pupils at Shirley High School and on 24 November I presented 34 Dictionaries to Whitehorse Manor Infant School and 34 to Whitehorse Manor Junior School for use in their libraries and classrooms. These were part of my Presidential Year charitable giving, as part of the Rotary Literacy Campaign. I was accompanied on both occasions by President Roger Davis and ADG Graham Harker. The schools and children were very pleased with the gifts and we were able to tell the pupils a little about Rotary and its activities. In return, both Whitehorse Manor Schools had collections at their Christmas productions for the Thanks for Life/Make Polio History campaign and we have received almost £300, with more to come. We will be returning to Whitehorse Manor in February to give a Power Point and Video presentation to the children on Thanks for Life.

*Chuck Blankenship, Immediate Past President 020 8464 2443 or
charles.blankenship@btinternet.com*

THANKS FOR LIFE : End Polio Now

The District Governors in all 29 Districts in RIBI (Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland) decided that this Rotary Year to have a common project called "Thanks for Life". This involves a co-ordinated campaign involving all Rotary clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland timed for February 23rd, 2010, Rotary Day and the period around it (February 20th-28th).

There were 3 main aims of the initiative:

1. To increase membership
2. To raise £1million for Polio Eradication through the Thanks for Life initiative and contribute to meeting the Bill Gates \$200,000,000 Challenge To maximise public awareness of the Rotary Polio campaign, the Gates Challenge and Rotary in general.
3. This requires clubs to work together. In Croydon the following is planned

On **Saturday 20th February** 4 Rotary Clubs (**Croydon**, Croydon East, Croydon Jubilee, Croydon Whitgift) will have a pitch in the Whitgift Centre. Each Rotary Club will man the pitch for 2 hours. There will be a display, leaflets about membership, leaflets about Thanks for Life and collection of funds.

On **Tuesday 23rd February** 5 Rotary Clubs (**Croydon**, Croydon East, Croydon Jubilee, Croydon South, Croydon Whitgift) will have a pitch in the Whitgift Centre. Each Rotary Club will man the pitch for 1.5hours. There will be a display, leaflets about membership, leaflets about Thanks for Life and collection of funds.

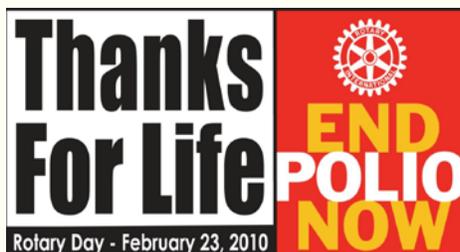
From **20th-27th February** an empty shop in the Whitgift Centre will be used for displays on Thanks for Life and Membership.

From **20th-27th February** Rotary will be projected on a building in Croydon during the evenings.

On **27th February** 3 Rotary Clubs (Coulsdon, Coulsdon Manor, Purley) will have a pitch outside Tesco in Purley. There will be a display, leaflets about membership, leaflets about Thanks for Life and collection of funds.

Most Rotary Club will give a presentation of Thanks for Life to local schools and hopefully raise funds through children. Those Rotary clubs not using schools will collect funds through an alternative outlet.

Graham Harker, Asst District Governor 1140, 020 8657 2081 or graham_harker@hotmail.com



Young Enterprise - Opportunities for Volunteer Advisers and Judges

Young Enterprise in Croydon is part of a national scheme which enables Croydon young people (16-18 years) to work with students from other schools and colleges to start and operate a small business for about 9 months. In that time they will raise starter capital, appoint Directors from their group, and make/sell products and services of their own choice.

The Rotary Club of Croydon sponsors this scheme by awarding a prize to the best "company" each year and by providing assistance with "Advisers" to the companies or providing "Judges" who each visit about three of the Croydon companies to assess progress and help decide the full range of awards at the end of each yearly YE period.

If you would be interested in knowing more, you could:-

1. On Saturday 6th February, 10.00 – 15.00, visit the trade fair at which all of the YE Companies this year will be selling their products or services at the Centrale Shopping Centre (central atrium outside side entrance to Debenhams)
2. Request an invitation to the "Gala Final" where this year's top 4 companies will compete for the top awards. That event takes place on the evening of April 29th – venue to be arranged.
3. Accompany one of our members on a "Judging" visit to one or more of this year's companies.

For more information please contact our Secretary, Ted Newman on 0208 660 8208 or tednewman@blueyonder.co.uk or Vice-President Richard Ford on 020 8289 2432 or richard.ford@ntlworld.com

Rotary Club of Croydon - Programme to 30th June 2010.

- Monday 1st February - Evening - District Council Meeting @ Chertsey
Tuesday 2nd February - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting -Vanessa Hosford CE of Croydon Mencap (Richard Wragg)
Monday 8th February - 18:00 hrs - Club Council Meeting @ Darby & Joan Club
Tuesday 9th February - 11:00 hrs - Thanks 4 Life Presentation @ Whitehorse Manor (Graham Harker/Roger Davis)
Tuesday 9th February - 13:00 - Business meeting
Wed 10th February - 08:45 hrs - Thanks 4 Life Presentation @ Shirley High School (Graham Harker/Roger Davis)
Tuesday 16th February - 13:00 hrs - Regular Meeting -Thanks 4 Life Presentation (Roger Davis)
Tuesday 23rd February- ROTARY DAY
- Tuesday 2nd March - 13:00 hrs - Regular Meeting - Joan Harris Chair of Neighbour Hood Care Assn. (Jim Spinks)
Wednesday 3rd March - 19:30 hrs - Assistant District Governors Forum (GrahamHarker)
Monday 8th March - 18:00 hrs - Club Council Meeting @ Darby & Joan Club
Tuesday 9th March - 13:00 - Business meeting - AGM2 - Richard Ford
Friday 12th March - 19:30 hrs - Race Night @ Shirley High School (Roger Davis)
Saturday 13th March - District DOTS Training
Tuesday 16th March - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Job Talk by new Rotarian Melvyn Demmen
Monday 22nd March - 19:30 hrs - Wimbledon Theatre visit - "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (Bernard Adams)
Tuesday 23rd March - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Job Talk by new Rotarian Stephen Kirkman
Friday 26th March - RIBI Assembly (until Sunday 28th March 2010)
Tuesday 30th March - Evening Meeting @ Shirley Park Golf Club - Croydon Airport Post 1930 (Peter Kennedy)
- Sunday 4th April - EASTER DAY
Tuesday 6th April - 13:00 hrs - NO REGULAR MEETING
Monday 12th April - District Team Meeting @ Shepperton
Monday 12th April - 18:00 hrs - Council meeting @ Darby & Joan Club
Tuesday 13th April - 13:00 hrs - Business meeting
Friday 16th April - RIBI Conference @ Bouremouth (until Sunday 18th April)
Tuesday 20th April - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Speaker to be advised (David Ryland)
Saturday 24th April - District Assembly and PEPS2
Tuesday 27th April - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Speaker to be advised (Derek Scrafton)
Tuesday 27th April - 19:30 hrs - Croydon President's Meeting @ Westfield Ave
- Monday 3rd May - BANK HOLIDAY - Fund Raiser - May Fayre @ Beddington Park
Tuesday 4th May - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Speaker to be advised (Michael Sneary)
Monday 10th May - 18:00 hrs - Council meeting @ Darby & Joan Club
Tuesday 11th May - 13:00 hrs - Business meeting
Wednesday 12th May - Evening - District Council Meeting @ Bourne Hall, Ewell
Tuesday 13th May - Eurostar Visit to Macon (RC of Roanne-Est, France) (Until Sunday 16th May)
Tuesday 18th May - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Job Talk ??? (Stephen Williams)
Friday 21st May - Visit of RIBI President (Until 22nd May)
Tuesday 25th May - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Follow up of Eurostar Visit (Ashwin Sumaria)
- Tuesday 1st June - Fund Raiser - Golf Day (to be confirmed) (Roger Davis/Tony Man)
Monday 7th June - pm Joint team meeting @ Shepperton
Monday 7th June - 18:00 hrs - Council meeting @ Darby & Joan Club
Tuesday 8th June - 13:00 hrs - Business meeting
Tuesday 15th June - 13:00 hrs - Club Assembly 2010
Tuesday 15th June - 19:30 hrs - Croydon President's meeting @ Westfield Ave. (Roger/Graham/Richard Ford)
Saturday 19th June - President's @ Home - B-B-Q (Roger Davis)
Tuesday 22nd June - 13:00hrs - Regular Meeting - Job Talk ??? (Chandra Sumeria)
Saturday 26th June - District Hand-Over B-B-Q
Tuesday 29th June - Evening Meeting - Club Hand-Over - Le Chateau (Roger Davis)