



Rotary club of Farnham Newsheet August 2023

Events through August

Wine Tasting Thursday 3rd August

Up to 70 of us – Rotarians and friends - were fortunate enough to be able to enjoy the above in a member's beautiful house and gardens. And more, we were treated to little known Greek wines introduced by a charming and delightful sommelier and enjoyed a supper of lasagne and salads. She explained that Greece is now beginning to produce wines of good quality and in sufficient quantity to export, with the result that some are now available in the UK. Many of us associate only the familiar retsina with Greek wines, but that night we were introduced to many more from dry to sweet.

So many thanks to our hosts for such an enjoyable and informative evening.



The Carrington Family

Those who enjoyed the musical talents of the Carrington family at one or two of our musical events over the last few years will remember with fondness all of them, but in particular Matti who was due to have a kidney transplant. He is now doing so well he recently won 3 gold medals and a bronze at the recent annual British Transplant Games in Coventry. His mother also shone as she won a gold in the 100m sprint.



Talks Through August

**Talk on 'What's beneath your feet?'
by Dan Bosence, Emeritus Professor,
Royal Holloway, University of London**

- Evolution of the landscape – how have rivers shaped the land and how they have changed



Dan gave a fascinating talk on our local geology (the crust of the earth as he described it). He took us through:

- Geological Strata – how and when did they form
- Geological maps: how to read them and what do they tell us
- Geological evolution of the region – going back to 150m years ago

He explained that our local geology is made up of sand (greensand so called because when it is wet it is green), gault clay and chalk. We can see where the strata are and how they have been deformed in geological maps. A cross-section – a 2km deep trench from Woking to Godalming – showed the strata clearly and a number of geological faults. Rivers play their part by sculpting the land leaving behind river terraces and alluvium. As he explained they can also sometimes change their courses and direction of flow.

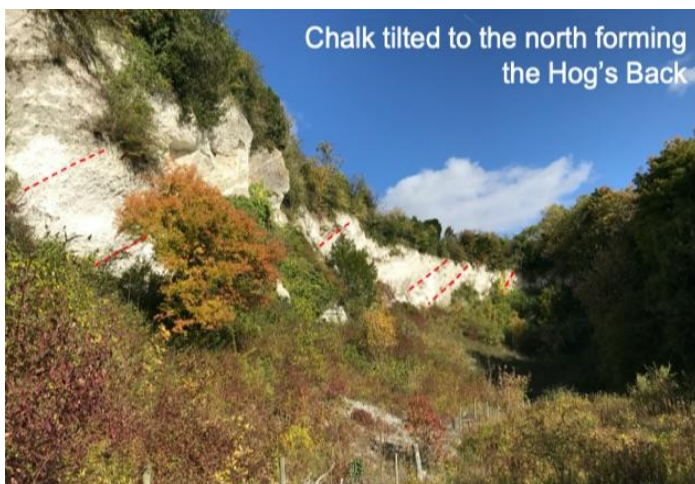
Many of us will be aware of the different geology. As we walk through Frensham Common and around the pond, sand is very evident on the paths and in the vegetation - scots pines, birches, gorse and heather. Sand is also evident in Runfold and Wrecclesham. Going west we come across a different landscape. In Bentley we see oak trees, rich pastures and this is because the strata beneath our feet is clay. So landscape

and vegetation illustrates the differences in geology, again evident In Farnham Park and the Hogs Back, where chalk is predominant and grassland and butterflies plentiful.



At this time Farnham was beneath a shallow sea, but further south it was not eg at Hastings dinosaur footprints can be found.

Dan showed us an image of a vertical drill through Farnham which illustrated gault clay underneath of which is sand - some cemented into rock – bargate sand which is good building material. In Wrecclesham you can see a sand pit with clay clearly laid on top of it. He referred to Farnham as ‘town of clay’ and with its junction between sand and clay it has perfect building materials for bricks and tiles. Chalk is a poor building material but was used to build St Andrews tower with result it does not weather well. There are chalk pits in Farnham park but they are now difficult to see.



During the Crustacean Period (about 150m years ago), the movement of land masses which formed the alps across Europe and beyond also affected our own geology and formed what Dan referred to us Surrey’s answer to the Alps – the Hogs Back. Whilst the chalk was laid down horizontally the movement of the land masses created a fold and tipped it up to the north. Looking at a cross section it can be seen that the chalk in the North Downs is reflected in the South Downs, illustrating that at one time they were connected. He pointed out that you can see the topography clearly if you are in right place in Farnham looking towards the Downs.

In order to understand where it all is within geological time he made reference to David Attenborough’s way of understanding it by the use of the 24-hour clock. From midnight all the way through to 9.10 takes you to base of the Cambrian. From there to 10.40 we get to the Palaeozoic 250m years ago. Then we pass into the Mesozoic – age of the dinosaurs when the rocks of Farnham were laid down (250-66m years ago). After termination of most of life on earth at this time, new life appeared which can easily be related to life forms we have today. He said he would concentrate on the crustacean period – 66-145m years ago. This world was very different then with the oceans covering different parts of the planet to now and with higher sea levels because, for one thing, there were no polar ice caps.

Returning to the geological clock a few minutes before midnight, the rivers deposited alluvian. Dan described how the rivers changed course and direction through the capture of Blackwater River by the River Wey, which is confirmed by examination of sediments in the river beds and is obvious through the visibility of right angles in the river flow. He also described how you can see how the rivers have worked their way through the landscape over a long period of time through the process of forming river terraces, with the highest at the top of the hill(s).

Postscript: the film of this talk is available on our website for members who are interested.

Talk by Annemarie van Bochove Allen, District Governor



Annemarie explained to us the organisational changes to Rotary GB&I introduced in order to ensure more continuity of leadership, more rapid decision making and with the key objective of ensuring that Rotary is fit for today's world.

Rotary GB&I sits between Rotary International and the 24 Districts within GB&I. It is the only organisation of its kind within RI – all other Districts around the world report directly to RI. The Rotary GB&I Board sets the long-term strategy for the organisation and provides support for Clubs and Districts. One of the things that Annemarie values most is the insurance package that GB&I provides for all Clubs.

Changes introduced are:

- RGB&I has become a Board with a Chair and Deputy Chair. There is no longer a President.

- General Board Members have been appointed on terms of different lengths. This allows all positions to be filled for the first year of the board, but also ensures continuity for future years.

There are 13 members in total.

All 24 Districts are supported by Rotary GB&I and the districts have been organised into clusters.

The District is there to support Clubs and a survey of members' views identified 'getting and retaining members' as a major priority. The District has a strategic action plan as a result of the survey.

She left us with some challenges:

- Support for Rotary GB&I's focus on Bipolar and its partnership with Bipolar UK by use of up to 5 notice boards in the town;
- Strengthen use of social media with emphasis on the impact and differences we make;
- Ensure one new Rotary plaque in the community this Rotary year;
- We all make more use of My Rotary, which has on it a lot of very useful information.

Events in September

Exhibition of photos by local schoolchildren – Tuesday 5th September 6-8 pm at Farnham Maltings

The photos are taken by children aged 10-18 years of age on Animal Antics or People in Places. Prizes will be awarded to the best three winners in each group and all competitors will receive a certificate.

Lunchtime Talks Through September

Thursday 7th September Member Michael Conoley, Architect, on local planning

Thursday 14th September Business Meeting

Thursday 21st September The Good, Bad and the Ugly by Tim Kyle, introduced by Richard Drummond

Thursday 28th September Phyllis Tuckwell and its Development Plans by Peter Foxton, Head of Fundraising, Phyllis Tuckwell, introduced by Peter Duffy.

If, as a Friend, you are interested in coming along to any of the talks and for lunch (£20) please email lunches@rotaryfarnham.co.uk on the Monday before, saying whether you'd like, fish, meat or vegetarian, pudding or fresh fruit. We start gathering at The Bush, Farnham from 12.30 for lunch at 1.00 and the talk at 2.00, finishing at 2.30 pm.