

The Mayor visits Aurora and Charity Cheque Presentations

Matthew's Meanderings, by President Jan

Although the Environment Agency's Red Boards are still displayed on the Locks, and I had a flood warning a few days ago, I'm sure that the appearance of spring flowers means that very soon we will be enjoying all that warm, sunny days can bring, including holding Aurora meetings in the Warren Lodge overlooking the river or in the environs of the Ferry Coffee shop. This brings me to tell of an unforeseen consequence; with more and more members, families and friends old and new gathering to chat over coffee, we are taking too much space and many chairs in the said Coffee Shop. Apparently, other customers are turning away. The manager, Aiden, who really appreciates our patronage will now put a table against the long side wall and small groups may sit in the courtyard for the next Saturday morning meeting.

As I write, I reflect, with huge pleasure, three items of good news from just this last week. Firstly, our Youth Speaks intermediate team won the District Final. Lyn and Sylvia, who has written an account of the event in this Newsletter, have worked tirelessly behind the scenes, as ever, and we all hope for success in the next, possibly National Final.

Secondly, supporting Ashford Rotary Club's Quiz Night the Aurora team joined by two ex Walton Club members achieved the winning score. Although there was a tie break which we lost and I can take little credit, congratulations are due.



Finally, I'm pleased to share with you the news that Aurora has been given a most generous donation by a local resident whose only stipulation is that it goes to local charities. Certainly no problem there!

So much of interest in this Newsletter.

Enjoy, President Jan



Cheque for Shepperton Pre-School

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

sheppertonaurora.co.uk

Editor's Agenda

A trip to Edinburgh on business meant that I missed one of our biggest nights of the year - The Presentation of the Cheques to our local charities. This is where our endeavours bear fruit by helping those in need in our community. At least I was able to gain a few photos of the event.

Our calendar is busy, I had one member mention they were helping with Aurora 7 days in a week. I do enjoy being a questioner at our Youth Speaks event, the students chose some amazing subjects, even Halliford School challenging the need for private schools - turkeys voting for Christmas?

I friend of mine mentioned the passing of Dennis Hurt. I mentioned this to Ken, and while not a Rotarian, he drove the Christmas Sleigh for many years. He moved to Chard in Somerset to be near his family and he passed away in February, aged 98.

My cultural events are picking up this year. Tate Lates at Tate Modern was excellent at the end of January with a big focus on the history of feminism. I attended a passionate Burns Supper at Staines Rowing Club, run by Edward Harte, a Rotarian from Staines. Diane was in the choir for the People's Prom held at St. Marks in Staines. The best concert I attended recently was James Holden and Michael Rother at the Barbican. James' LP last year was my favourite of 2023 and Michael Rother is a legend in the German rock movement from the 1970's.

Stay safe, Henry

Nigel Wilson



Our Past-President, Nigel Wilson, is sadly suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. The Wilson children including the internationally film and theatre actress Ruth, are competing in the next London Marathon to raise money for research into this devastating condition. His wife Mary has forwarded the Just Giving Link to you. Do read about this endeavour (I had no idea that Nigel had competed in the very first London Marathon!). Our club has made £500 donation.

<https://justgiving.com/page/wilsonsrnlondon>

Purple Angels Dementia Choir

We have Crossroads Care Surrey representative David Annand coming to our Carers Coffee Morning at The Greeno Day Centre, on Monday March 25th, between 10.30 to 12.midday.

Join our Dementia Choir

The Purple Angels of Spelthorne Dementia Support are joining with Kelly Stewart of The Stewart Academy of Performing Arts to form a very special Dementia Choir as part of celebrations to mark 10 years of our charity.

- OPEN TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS
- EVERY FRIDAY from 8th MARCH, 2.00pm
- THE GREENO CENTRE, SHEPPERTON
- WEEKLY WITH NO CHARGE--JUST BRING YOUR VOICE AND YOUR SMILE. No need to be a great singer! Lets have FUN!
- FAMILIAR AND WELL-LOVED SONGS
- CALL 07895787579 TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR TALK TO A PURPLE ANGEL!



Talk by Ivan Hill about the **lendwithcare** Scheme

'A loan from you can change someone's life.'

Aurora member, Ivan Hill, gave us a most thought provoking talk about the Lend with Care Scheme. This was set up in September 2010 as the finance division of Care International (itself a Charity set up in 1945) and organises the raising of money and then lending small loans to (very) small and emerging businesses, situated in the most deprived areas, all around the world where there is widespread poverty and deprivation.

Ivan's talk was particularly interesting as it was based on his own experience of being Club Coordinator for the Scheme for 4 years when he was a Member of the Tettenhall Rotary Club before recently transferring to Aurora.

Lend with Care operates through a system of local micro-financiers, who act like local banks ('micro' because, in the case of Lend with Care, they only deal in relatively small amounts) and who very carefully evaluate the wide variety of requests for finance, making recommendations to Lend with Care for suitable candidates and their projects. They then take a great deal of care in monitoring the progress of every agreed loan and reporting regularly to Lend with Care as to progress.

A typical request for a loan under the Scheme is shown below left. In this case, Analyn from the Philippines, requests a loan of £1,545.70 to purchase new livestock and poultry feed for her



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface for a loan request. At the top, there is a photo of a woman in a red shirt standing in front of a small shop. Below the photo, the name 'Analyn' is displayed. To the right of the name is a circular progress indicator showing '14%'. Below the name, there are three icons: a location pin for 'Philippines', a leaf for 'Tradesperson', and a document for 'Requested: £1,545.70'. A text block below these icons reads: 'Analyn requested a loan to purchase new livestock and poultry feed for her agrivet store in the community.' Below this is a link 'View loan details >'. At the bottom, a text block asks: 'Analyn needs £1,325.70, will you help her reach her target?'

Agrivet store in the Community. So far, 14% of the total loan requested has been raised.

Since 2010, Lend with Care has lent over £55m through this Project, all originating from private donations, and involved over 75,000 loans. It ring-fences all such donations, so that 100% of our monies go to help the businesses chosen.

The record of default on repayment of these loans is excellent. As an example, Tettenhall Club's defaults were just 3 (amounting to about £100) out of 147 loans (totalling £8,400) since 2016.

Ivan stressed it was important to realise how much good can come from relatively small amounts of money being lent. Which justifies the initial claim that 'A loan from you can change someone's life.'

Obituary - Bob Boyle



Henry Boyle known to all as Bob, sadly passed away on 26th January age 97. Bob was a chartered engineer by profession and in top management at both NPL & Hovercraft. A prominent member of Shepperton & Sunbury Rotary Club and he was club president in 1990 and 1997. He served for a period as an Assistant Governor of our district, then 1140, and established an Interact club using his house in Laleham as a meeting place. Bob a supporter of many Spelthorne Charitable causes was chairman of two, including CAMEO.

Most members of Shepperton Aurora would have been unaware that Bob was a major player with another member, in setting up the Aurora club. His funeral in Southampton was attended by members from both Shepperton Rotary clubs. Our deepest sympathy and condolence go to his daughters and family.

The Mayor of Spelthorne visits Aurora

Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club was honoured by the visit of the Mayor of Spelthorne (Cllr Denise Saliagopoulos - left) and her Consort (her Husband Yanis) at an evening meeting held on Wednesday, 28 February 2024 in the Ferry Coffee Shop, Shepperton.

The Mayor, formally attired in her Mayoral robes, was welcomed by Jan Matthews (President of Aurora) and by Aurora Member Alderman Robin Sider BEM (a Former Mayor of Spelthorne).

During her talk to Aurora, the Mayor said that she been born and educated locally, and she was the daughter of the late Cllr Isobel Napper who had been elected Mayor in 2023 but very sadly was unable to finish her term of office as she died in August of that year due to breast cancer. This was the principle reason why the Mayor had chosen the Jasmine Suite at Ashford and St Peter's Breast Unit which helps local patients through their treatment as one of her Charities. Her other Charity is Daybreak Respite Care at St Peter's Church, Staines opened in 2008 which offers 'a high standard of care, entertainment and delicious food to elderly and disabled people who are resident in Spelthorne whilst their Carer takes a well-earned break'.

The Mayor stressed that the job of being Mayor took up much more of her time than she had anticipated, and she had limited her other commitment (to Barchester Health Care, a Premium Care Provider) accordingly.

She then described her interactions with some local charities, with school children (for example asking them how they would deal with a giant bean stalk that had grown in Staines High Street!) and with dealing with the Twinning arrangements with the French Commune of Melun.

Aurora Member Colin Barnard (also a Former Mayor of Spelthorne) thanked the Mayor for her visit to Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club and for making it a most enjoyable evening.



ShelterBoat Talk

Paul Weatherill of Watton RC gave us this amazing talk via Zoom about the ShelterBoat. He was accompanied by other Members of Watton RC, including Mike Gicquel (who in a former 'life' had been President of Aurora RC), Mike's wife Vivian (also a Past President of Aurora and a Past District Governor), and Dave Forster from Evesham Vale RC.

By adding bow and stern sections, Paul had turned a ShelterBox into the ShelterBoat. This is shown right with Paul actually sitting in the green ShelterBox.

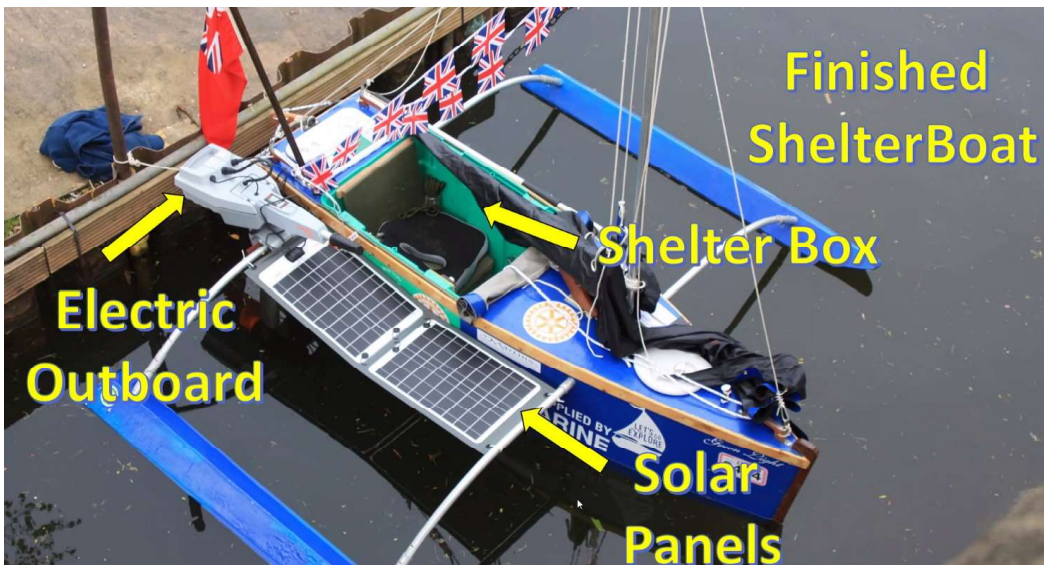


At only 8ft long by 2ft wide, the ShelterBoat is particularly precarious, even though Paul was 'escorted' during his voyages by an inflatable dinghy crewed by one of his sons to rescue him if he got into trouble!

The ShelterBoat was first launched in August 2021 after tests on a local duck pond! Then Paul navigated it from Norwich via Great Yarmouth - some 50 miles which took 4 days. The purpose of the journey was to raise awareness and funds for the ShelterBox charity.

Paul made a Second epic journey in ShelterBoat in April 2023 along the River Avon and gave us a fabulous slide show on that journey. He was not only supported by his own Rotary Club but also by a number of other Rotary Clubs along the route who helped him through locks and put on receptions and information displays along the route. He raised over £ 5k which is sufficient to buy some 10 ShelterBoxes.

It was a fabulous feat by Paul, whose Third journey will be down the River Thames. The end date has now been confirmed as July 21st at Shepperton Lock.



The Queen is patron of ShelterBox and sent Watton RC a congratulatory letter on their achievements with ShelterBoat. So it is possible that the Thames trip may start from Windsor even with a Royal presence!

Charity Cheque Presentations, Photos by Rushna



Thames Sailability



Lourdes Goup



Black Swans



Dramatize



Youth Speaks 2023 - 2024, A Debate Competition



The annual Youth Speaks: A Debate competition, organised by Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club, took place on Thursday 25th January in the Council Offices at Knowle Green, Staines. The competition is in the form of a debate with each team consisting of a Chairperson, Proposer and Opposer; the team choose their own topic for debate. This year, the Intermediate and Senior competitions took place on the same evening and we were very pleased to welcome back Mandy Smith, Leigh-Anne Dimech and Peter Rose who undertook the unenviable task of adjudicating.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber was full of praise for the performances which the young people gave and once again it was very encouraging to see so many young people willing to tackle a new skill which will help them in their future. The Mayor of Spelthorne attended the event; she said that she was very impressed with the level the pupils had achieved and enjoyed the evening very much.

There were three teams in the intermediate competition, which is for years 7, 8 and 9.

Halliford School was the winning team in this section; their topic for discussion being, 'We must ban private schools'. The winners of the individual trophies were all from the Halliford School team; the best proposer was Hayden Sanghera, best opposer was Nicky Bootle- Wilbraham and the best chair was Lucas Bullen.

There were three teams in the senior competition which is for those in years 10 and above. In this section the winning team was The Matthew Arnold School, their topic was 'Congo Crisis'. The individual winners for best proposer and best opposer were Zoya Mozawala and Daisy Adams respectively, both of whom were pupils of The Matthew Arnold School.

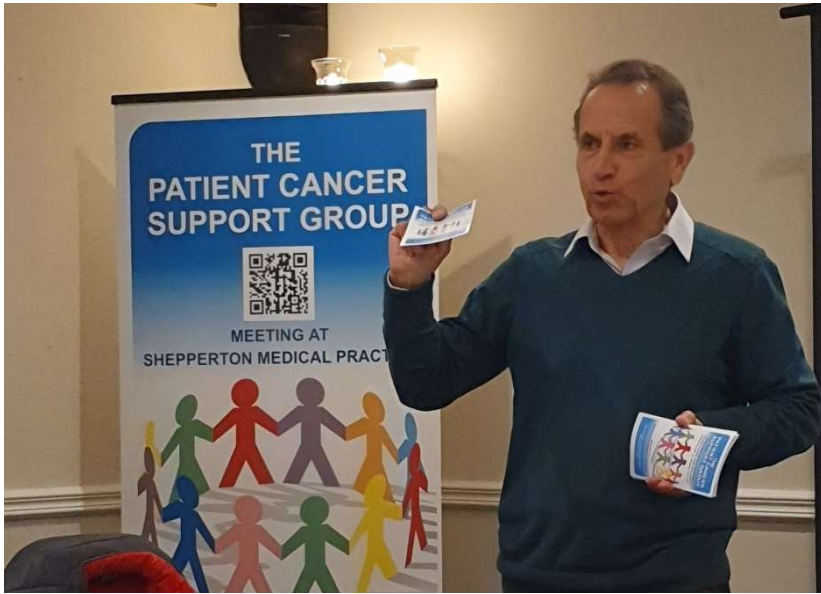
Sara Youssef, from Sunbury Manor School, won the best chair award; her team debated 'Social Media'.

Both winning teams will go forward to the district semi-final which takes place on Friday 23rd February at St Mark's Catholic School in Hounslow.

Charity Cheque Presentations, Photos by Rushna



The Patient Cancer Support Group by Founder /Chair Trustee Andy Anderson



Following an article about The Patient Cancer Support Group in the January 2024 edition of the Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club Newsletter, the Founder / Chair Trustee of the Group, Andy Anderson, gave an update on the progress of the Group at the Breakfast Meeting on Wednesday, 21 February 2024. The most important recent change was that the Group was granted a Charitable status earlier this year and within only a few months from application. Andy explained that the Group, which has been meeting on the Second Tuesday of every month since 2018 at Shepperton Medical Practice (but independent

from the Practice), offers support and a safe place to talk to cancer patients, carers, family and the bereaved that lost loved ones to cancer.

In particular, it provides a friendly and informal space for Patients themselves to generate empathy and emotional support for everyone concerned. The value of the Group has been clearly demonstrated by the additional numbers of people attending each meeting.

Andy expressed his gratitude for all the financial support the Group had received from local Councils, Industry, Clubs, and individuals. Currently, he was looking for donations to cover the additional activities planned for this year. He was especially grateful for the support from Robin Sider BEM and Member of Aurora who had agreed to serve as a Trustee for the Group.

Note of Thanks from Andy Anderson



Hello members and friends of Shepperton Aurora Rotary,

This newsletter is a great opportunity for me to thank you all again for such a friendly and warm welcome I received on the 21st of February when I gave a presentation at the Warren Lodge Hotel about the above charity.

At that time in the morning a strong coffee usually wakes most people up but in my case the green tea did just that and I'm very grateful for providing it!!!

I'm also grateful to Janet for her invitation to your morning coffee at the Ferry Coffee Shop on the 2nd of March when I had the opportunity to meet a few more members and friends of the Rotary and of course chatting to others I met a few days earlier.

The trustees are so appreciative of your two donations which I assure you will have a real impact on the lives of others. Cancer journeys are tough and lonely sometimes, despite having friends and family around you. We hope to "cheer up" some of these patients and give them something to look forward.

Many thanks again, Kind regards, Andy, Chair Trustee

From the raffle at the Mayor's evening,
we made a donation of £135 to the Patient Cancer Support Group

The Life and Work of Sue Ryder



Joanna Bogle, a local author, historian and lecturer gave a most fascinating account of the Life and Work of Sue Ryder (see left) at the Breakfast meeting on 7 February. Her talk was based on her book 'Sue Ryder: A Life Lived for Others' written to mark the centenary of Sue Ryder's birth.

Joanna explained that Sue Ryder devoted her entire life to the care of others. Sue Ryder was born in either 1923 or 1924 (apparently falsifying her age to gain admittance into the FANY's - see below) into a relatively prosperous farming family. Her early childhood though was spent living on the outskirts of Leeds, near some of the city's worst slums. It was to be her first experience of poverty. During the 1930s, the Ryder's farm fell on hard times; and the family moved to

a summer cottage in Thurlow, Suffolk and became in Joanna's words 'Impoverished Gentry'.

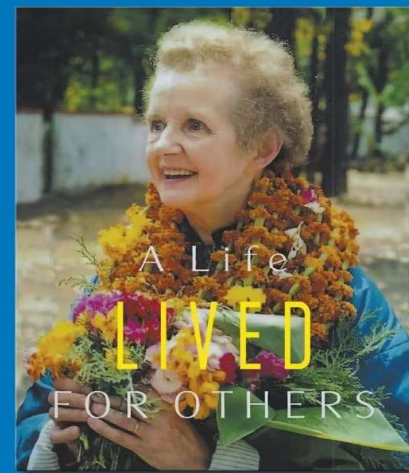
With the outbreak of war in 1939, Ryder left school and volunteered for the FANYs (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry). After training, she was assigned to the Special Operations Executive (SOE), a unit involved in sabotage and supporting resistance in occupied countries. Attached to the Polish section, Ryder endured extreme danger and hardships and lost many of her compatriots on various missions. This further inspired her to devote her life to the relief of human suffering. She later served in North Africa and Italy, and at the War's end performed relief work in France and Poland.

In 1953, using a small inheritance (including a War Widow Pension after the death of her first husband) and borrowed money, Ryder established the first Sue Ryder Home in Suffolk, a refuge for concentration camp survivors as well as the mentally and physically ill. In 1959, she went into partnership and married Leonard Cheshire VC, a British war hero and founder of the Cheshire Homes for young disabled people.

Through the Sue Ryder Foundation, she would establish 24 Sue Ryder Homes in the UK and 80 other centres in 20 nations. She also set up 500 Sue Ryder charity shops, where she was known to purchase her own clothes. The Homes serve patients with cancer, the physically handicapped, the elderly, the mentally ill, and those suffering from Huntington's disease.

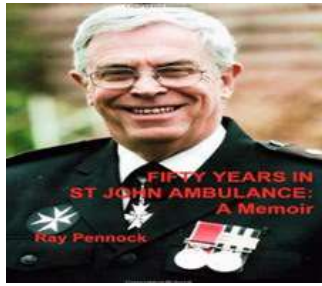


SUE RYDER



Joanna Bogle

Report on CPR/AED/ First Aid including How to use a Defibrillator - Awareness Session by Ray Pennock of St John Ambulance



This Awareness Session was held at the Paxmead Riverside Base in Shepperton and was presented by Ray Pennock (left). Ray explained that he been in St John over 60 years, starting in the Addlestone Division before transferring to Weybridge in 1972.

His long and meritorious service has been recognised by the award of the Commander, Order of St John (CStJ), and the British Empire Medal (BEM).

The talk was most thought provoking and consisted of the following three main parts, dealing with:

Overall assessment of the trauma suffered by the injured person, making them medically safe and comfortable, how to inform the '999' operator of the treatment required.

Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) - an emergency procedure consisting of chest compressions often combined with mouth to mouth resuscitation in an effort to manually preserve brain function until further measures are taken to restore blood circulation and breathing in a person who is in cardiac arrest. This was demonstrated for us on a plastic doll named 'Resus Annie.'

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) - a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses abnormal heart rhythms / or a cardiac arrest when it can send an electric charge to the heart of the patient to try to restore a more normal rhythm. This was also demonstrated for us on 'Resus Annie.'

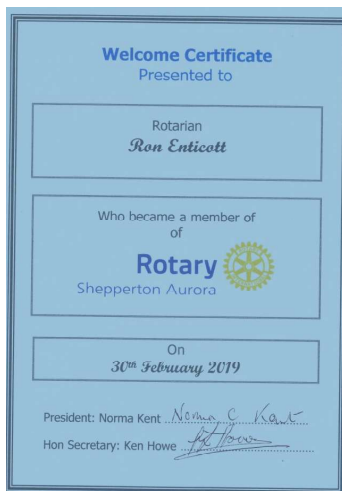


'Resus Annie' and a Defibrillator

Fortunately, should with ever need to use one for real, the device is fitted with a 'voice' which sets out clear instructions for its use.

There are a number of places in Spelthorne where Defibrillators have been fitted and Aurora will be compiling an up-to-date list of where they can be found. Although we hope never to have to use a Defibrillator for real, after the talk at least we will have the confidence to try!

When was Ron Welcomed?



Charity Showcase 2024

Sunbury & Shepperton RC did Rotary proud with over 20 Charities and Clubs being represented. I spotted Douglas and Ken on the Local History stand.



Volunteers needed for Aurora Community Raffle 2024

Volunteers required to help sell Aurora community raffle tickets.

Members, family, friends welcome.

Venue: outside Sainsburys in Shepperton High St.

Date: Saturday 30th March (Easter Saturday).

2 volunteers required for each 1 hour slot. Table and chairs will be provided.

Aurora Sports update for 2023/24 season by Simon Lovett

Badminton Team A: Simon & Gale drawn to play Carshalton Park, TBA

Team B: Chris & Sue drawn to play S&S Team C, TBA

Darts – Pointy Draw

- ⇒ The Team [Jim, Bob, Peter M, Sue & Simon] had a Bye in the first round after Carshalton Park withdrew. the Aurora Darts team had a major success last Tuesday when they won their darts match against S&S C - well done team.
- ⇒ They are now in the semi-finals to play either Twickenham on Thames or their opponents from a first round draw. Congratulation Team, lets keep up the good darts.

Pool

- ⇒ Henry & Simon lost to Farnborough in the first round.

Table Tennis

- ⇒ Henry & Simon lost to Farnborough in Round 1. We played Farnborough at Pool and then Table Tennis on the same night. They play/practice regularly and it showed. Even playing the Table Tennis in semi- darkness didn't help us.

Quiz – Merlot Draw.

- ⇒ Team A: Diane, Cyrus, Lyn & Bob had a Bye in the first round then lost to S&S in next round.
- ⇒ Team B : Ivan, Jo, Sylvia & Peter N lost out to Twickenham in round 1.
- ⇒ Team C: Robin, Doreen, Tony & Henry had a Bye in the first round and now face our Team D in the next round.
- ⇒ Team D: Rushna, Phil, Gale & Jan had a Bye in Round 1 after Twickenham on Thames withdrew at the last minute. D v C to be arranged.

Skittles - Fast Draw

- ⇒ Team A: Simon, Ann, Ken, Gill, Jim & Sylvia had a Bye in round 1 after Dorking withdrew then lost to Rushmoor at home. Our consolation was Ann winning the Charity Killer game!
- ⇒ Team B: Peter N, Peter M, Gale, Jim, Val & Lyn played Woking B but lost.

Ten Pin Bowling – Badger Draw

- ⇒ Team A: Simon, Rushna, Cyrus & Jim lost to Woking B in round 1
- ⇒ Team B: Doreen, Tony, Sylvia & Gale lost to S&S in round 1

Practice makes perfect said Bruce Lee and a bit more practice, while having a laugh, will help us progress further next year so I aim to organise a few sporting socials.

SHEPPERTON AURORA ROTARY-Diary 2023-24 No7a

| Month | Date | Meeting | Event | Speakers -Venue |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------|---|---|
| March | | | Rotary Water and Sanitation Month | |
| | Sat 2nd | From 9.30 | <i>Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning</i> | Ferry Coffee Shop |
| | Mon 4th | 18.30 | Club Council | Swifts Lodge |
| | Wed 6th | Breakfast 7.15 | <i>Lend with Care</i>  | Ivan Hill |
| | Sat 9th | All Day | Charity Fair | Village Hall |
| | Wed 13 th | Evening |  Defibrillator Demonstration | Venue TBC Ray Pennock CSt, BEM |
| | Wed 20th | Breakfast 7.15 | Business Meeting & Race Night Briefing | |
| | Sat 23rd | Evening |  <i>Aurora Charity Race Night With Fish & Chip Supper & Bar</i> | Venue Jubilee Centre Shepperton |
| | Sat 30th | | World Bipolar Day | |
| | Sat 30th | From 9.30 | <i>Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning</i> | Ferry Coffee Shop |
| April | | | Maternal & Child Health Month | |
| | Wed 3rd | Breakfast 7.15 | Race Night Debrief | Warren Lodge |
| | Mon 8th | 18.30 | Club Council | Swifts Lodge |
| | Wed 10 th | Zoom 18.30 | <i>Kids for Kids Water Project in Darfur</i>  | Patricia Parker OBE |
| | Wed 17th | Breakfast 7.15 | Club AGM | |
| | Sat 27th | From 9.30 | <i>Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning</i> | Ferry Coffee Shop |
| May | | | Youth Service Month | |
| | Wed 1st | Breakfast 7.15 | Business Meeting | |
| | Wed 8th | Zoom 18.30 | Air Ambulance KSS | |
| | Wed 15th | Breakfast 7.15 | Club Assembly | |
| | Mon 20th | 18.30 | Club Council | Swifts Lodge |
| | Sat 25th | From 9.30 | <i>Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning</i> | Ferry Coffee Shop |
| | Wed 29th | Evening | Presidents Night-? | |
| June | | | Rotary Fellowship Month | |
| | Wed 5th | Breakfast 7.15 | Briefing for Shepperton Fair | |
| | Sat 8th | All Day | Shepperton Village Fair Rotary Village | All Aurora Hands To Help |
| | Mon 10th | 18.30 | Joint Club Council 2023-24 & 2024-25 | Swifts Lodge |
| | Wed 12th | Zoom 18.30 |   | Judith Pratt PhD, FRSB |
| | Wed 19th | Breakfast 7.15 | NHS District Mental Health Lead -TBC | Jan & Peter |
| | Sat 29th | From 09.30 | <i>Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning</i> | Ferry Coffee Shop |
| | Sun 30th | TBA | Presidents Handover TBC | TBA |
| July | | | Start of New Rotary officers year of Service | |
| | Wed 3rd | Breakfast 7.15 | Aurora Welcome New President  Social Morning-Invite Guests | |
| | Wed 10th | | No meeting (if Boules this week) | |
| | Thurs 11th | 7.15 to 9.15 | District Council | Reigate |
| | ? | Evening | Annual Joint Boules Evening? | Bell Inn |
| | Fri 12th | Evening | Charity Evening & Raffle Draw TBC | Venue TBA |
| | Wed 17th | Breakfast 7.15 | Business Meeting | |
| | Sat 27th | From 09.30 | <i>Informal Pop-In Coffee Morning</i> | Ferry Coffee Shop |
| | Wed 31st | Evening | Special Speaker? | |
| Aug | | | Membership & New Club Month | |
| | Mon 5th | 18.30 | Club Council | |

Ken 01/03/24