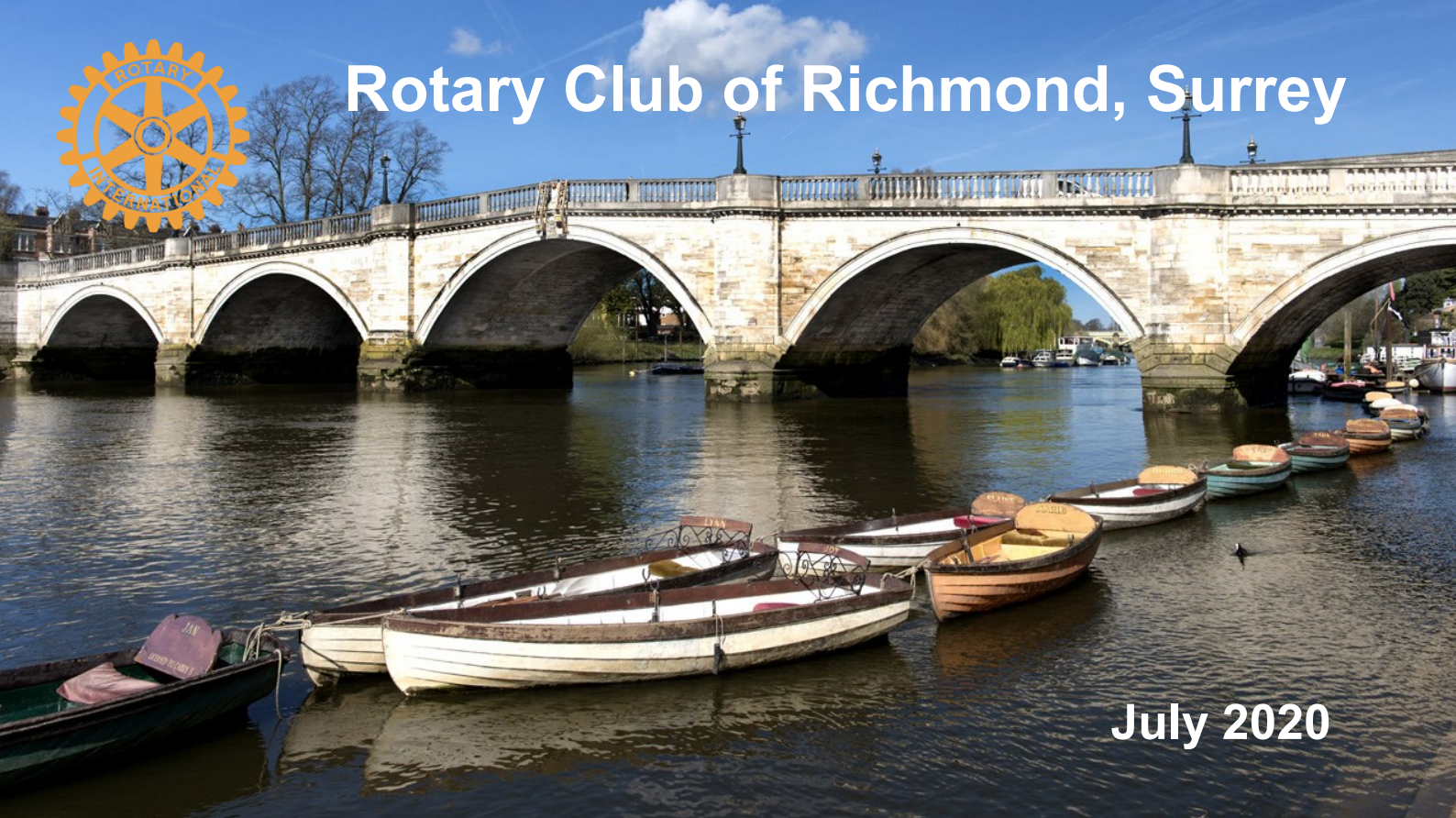




# Rotary Club of Richmond, Surrey



July 2020

## The New Normal

Welcome to the latest edition of our club newsletter. In spite of the Corona virus causing most aspects of our normal Rotary year to come to a halt, we have persevered! Zoom has brought us back together for our regular Tuesday meetings, and the beautiful weather has helped a lot of us get some of our old energy back. With this good news, we have also suffered a great loss, with the passing of Brian Frith on 16 June. One of the club's longest-standing members, Brian continued to attend Tuesday lunch meetings, always with a ready smile and a sharp wit. He will never be forgotten. Former long-time member Robert Dowler has written a moving tribute to Brian, on page 2.

## Membership Drive

At our regular meeting, two weeks ago, Ed Hall agreed to spearhead a membership drive, and it's going great guns! We have several potential new members, thanks to his efforts and those of current members. Our club is growing!

## Prospective Members

**Perminder (Pindi) Singh Tamana** will transfer from Twickenham Rotary to Richmond, and he has already been attending our Zoom meetings from his current base in the Punjab. Here's a bit of info:

I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Twickenham since 1993. During that time, I have held various positions, serving as President on three occasions - 2004/5, 2010/11 and 2016/17. I was the first Rotarian in the Borough to receive the London Borough of Richmond Community Award in 2013. My friend Alan Bowers was probably the second Rotarian to receive this award.

I am a retired grocer, married to Surinder Kaur Tamana. I am Chairman of the Traders Association, Chairman of the East Twickenham Village Group, a Trustee of ETNA Community Centre and have been an active member of various subcommittees dealing with local issues.

**Rodney Bennett** (Associate Member), will soon be joining us, as well:

Pindi and I have been very good friends for many years and when he told me that he had transferred his membership to the Rotary Club of Richmond I was very pleased. He then invited me to consider becoming an Associate Member, as I am unable to consider full membership due to my home responsibilities caring for my wife, Joan.

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**President Elect:** Alicia Dance  
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## Future Project in the Works

Though we are severely restricted by the Corona Lockdown at present, we are considering reachable goals for the club. One of those is the revival of the Rotary Garden on the Richmond riverside. We have received a £250 grant, and the thinking is to use this money to re-mount the original plaque placed in the garden when it was opened in 1974. The remainder will furnish a large number of purple crocus bulbs to be planted on the now open ground there, representing Rotary's commitment to End Polio Now. The plaque has been looked after for some time by Alan Bowers.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RICHMOND WAS  
FOUNDED IN 1924 AND TO MARK ITS  
JUBILEE, THE CLUB ARRANGED FOR THE  
LANDSCAPING OF THIS GARDEN IN THE  
HOPE THAT IT WILL GIVE PLEASURE TO  
INHABITANTS OF THE BOROUGH AND  
TO VISITORS ALIKE.

THE CLUB GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
DONATIONS TOWARDS THE COST SO  
GENEROUSLY GIVEN BY ORGANIZATI  
BUSINESS HOUSES AND INDIVIDU

## 100 Club Draw!!

Though Our last regular meeting of the Rotary year ended with a bang as John Hadler drew the winning numbers for the past four months! Congratulations, all, especially Associate Member Janet Wildgoose, who won the year's grand prize!

Mar 20	Jimmy James	£10.00	Apr 20	Ken Hitchcock	£10.00	May 20	Brian Frith	£10.00
Jun 20	John Chalker	£10.00	Janet Wildgoose	£100.00				

## Council Meeting

This was held on Thursday, 2nd July, via Zoom. The following points were noted...

- John Hadler will retire as club Secretary after 17 years of exceptional work. He will hand over the reigns to Miguele Bocti. The Club has unanimously voted to give John a lifetime Honorary Membership, in recognition of his devoted service.
- Alan Bowers will continue as Secretary
- Miguele Bocti will continue as Health and Safety Officer
- Alicia Dance will continue as International Officer
- Hilary Parsons will be Foundation Officer
- Remaining positions will be confirmed soon

## Website updates needed

Current Members - The website needs a lift into 2020. Many of you have yet to submit a paragraph/brief biography about yourselves for the Member Profile section, with a photograph. Please do this as soon as possible, and if you need some editorial assistance, get in touch with Alicia at [dancers@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dancers@blueyonder.co.uk) or give me a call!

## PDG Brian Frith : 13<sup>th</sup> July 1932 – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

It is with great sadness that we record the passing Brian Frith a member of the Club since 14th July 1964.

To describe Brian simply as a "member" does not do justice to the contribution which he made to the life and well-being of the Club in the almost 56 years of his membership. A man full of ideas and enthusiasm coupled with a joie de vivre and a sense of humour (which was not necessarily appreciated by everyone) his interests were many but with fellowship being at the core.

Brian was born in Twickenham on 13th July 1932 and attended Bishop Perrin C of E Primary School- one of its first intake of pupils when the family moved to Whitton. From there Brian went to Hampton School.

On leaving school Brian took the somewhat unusual step for one raised in suburban south west London by becoming a farmer, firstly in Sussex and subsequently in Berkshire. However the call of the family business running a prominent Chemist and Photographic Retailing shop in Lower George Street brought Brian back to Richmond, though his farming gene remained and he ran a very successful Young Farmers Club from premises in Petersham Meadows.

Always a joiner, Brian in 1952 became a member of Round Table and remained until the age 40 when the rules of that organisation required him to leave. By all accounts those years mark the heydays of Round Table in Richmond.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July 1964 Brian joined the Rotary Club of Richmond (Surrey) and throughout his membership he has undertaken many roles within the Club including Membership Officer, Speakers' Secretary and Council Member etc. though his long lasting interests were in the International Committee where he achieved great success in masterminding a programme of hospitality and support for au pairs attending Richmond Adult College to improve their English by providing excursions, social events organized by the Club and participation in fund raising events in support of Club's activities. So successful was this project that despite the programme having to be abandoned several years ago Brian kept in contact with many of the participants to this day.

Brian's year as President of the Club was 1981-1982 and as might be imagined was a year of plentiful activity and fun with the emphasis as always on fellowship. Any expectation, on conclusion of his presidential year that Brian would take a step back was completely misplaced and he immediately joined the District Team becoming District International Committee Chairman in the year 1984-1985. He was appointed District Governor for the year 1989-1990, only the second member of the Richmond Club to achieve that position. His year as DG was undoubtedly memorable with maximum Governor participation throughout including visits to four Club meetings in the District in one day and an unforgettable District Conference in Eastbourne where not only did attendance by Rotarians throughout the District beat previous records but also saw the introduction of the "Parade of the Presidents" with each Club's President adding their Club's piece of the jigsaw to a map representing the District. At the close of that Conference Brian was awarded a much deserved Paul Harris Fellowship.

One may be inclined to think that having achieved all of that Brian would take a step back and enjoy a quieter life – but that was not his way. He and March enjoyed cruising the Thames in the summer, supported the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and organized hugely successful Jazz Concerts. He remained a very regular attender at weekly meetings and Club activities where very occasionally he was known to enjoy a tipple. His dark Rotary secret however was that in his almost 56 years of membership he managed by various means to avoid delivering a "my job talk" to the Club.

And so with sadness we say farewell to Brian with enormous gratitude for all he has done as the longest serving member of the Club throughout its entire history and with many happy memories of our time with him.

