

The Wintershall Plays

A very interesting talk was given on 24th April about the Wintershall Passion Plays. Set in deepest Surrey, amongst parkland and an organic farm is the home of the theatrical productions of The Life of Christ, The Acts of the Apostles and The Wintershall Nativity play.

The plays were started 15 years ago by Peter Hutley OBE KSG when a nativity play, written by Peter, was performed in the farm barn with a few friends and neighbours making up the audience. Now, with seating for 600 and with 10 performances each, they are proving very popular.

In 1994 the first "Passion Play" was performed with the natural amphitheatre of the parkland at Bramley with its 35 acres proving a very suitable setting. This was followed in 1999 by "The Life of Christ". A major production with a cast of 250 and performances over 6 days. The timing can be a bit of a problem as the shepherds huddle around the fire – in June! The Bramley performance is very different to Oberammergau as the audience follows the play around the parkland as the scenes move on and also there is no singing. These successes lead to "The Acts of the Apostles" which with its cast of 66 runs to 4 performances.

The Guildford Passion Play has regularly been performed in Guildford High Street on Easter Saturday despite a lady objecting because the scenes upset her daughter while they were shopping. On another occasion, Lewes Prison invited the players to perform but restricted the numbers of players allowed inside to 14. As some scenes needed 12 apostles and others a large crowd, there was much doubling up of roles.

Performances have been held in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday with a huge number of hurdles to overcome to satisfy the police and also the RSPCA! Animal welfare required the donkey to be led and not ridden. The pigeons released during the performance fly back to their loft at Elsted and are then returned to Trafalgar Square for the next performance! The cast of 104 performed to 120,000 people.

Tony Bennewith, who came to talk to us, was in the audience in the early days in 1995 and volunteered to help. As they are usually short of males, his offer was snapped up and since those early days he has many varied roles. The logistics of each performance are impressive with over 2 ¼ miles of cable laid for the sound and, in the winter, the Nativity performances also need lighting. In the Nativity play the principle shepherd has to carry a lamb as part of his role. For those quick off the mark – a lamb, the second week of December?! The answer is a specially bred lamb. However one year the lamb was born early, so was 9 weeks old and weighed 66lbs when he had his star role being carried in the nativity!

The aim of the Wintershall Plays is to spread the message of Christ as nowadays so many children do not know of Jesus. The Wintershall players have received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for outstanding service to the community.

Gill Fawcett

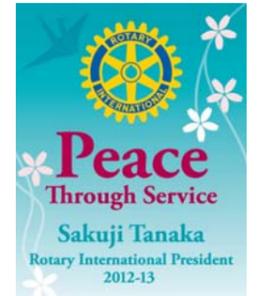
FACEBOOK

Thanks to Chris and Karen we are now at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shepperton-Aurora-Rotary/193222230826275> on Facebook. If anyone with Facebook accounts can LIKE the page, they can post to the Wall or if they'd like to add any posts or events, the members can send them to Karen or Chris. Our thanks to Chris Arnot who set the page up for us last month. Karen and Chris have agreed to share the job of keeping it up to date.

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SHIP AHOY



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

I draw a veil over our 5 day trip to the SE corner of France; it was very wet and very, very cold! Fortunately there were a number of events at home to keep spirits high. Lyn, Ken and I met some lovely children at Saxon School and I had the privilege of presenting Year 5 with a personal copy of "Street Child" by Berlie Doherty. I read the book beforehand which meant that I could understand why it had been chosen and why the pupils loved it so much, as they continue their class readings and discussions.

Mary and I were invited to a Shelterbox Reception in London through Mary, a big Shelterbox supporter, rather than me. The Charity is obviously growing bigger and attempting to increase their supply of boxes in major centres abroad. For this they have created a more professional structure from a top down perspective to support the very successful bottom-up origins. We were both very impressed by the relatively new Director of Operations, Ross Preston MBE, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Marines.

The next evening, as representatives of Aurora Rotary, we attended a Spelthorne Borough Council Civic Reception at the Orangery at Shepperton Studios. It was one of Robin Sider's last major functions as Mayor of Spelthorne. Robin's generosity and dedicated involvement in the affairs of Spelthorne is widely appreciated, as was shown by the warm applause for Robin and Jeanette, reflecting the respect and affection of the large number of attendees.

Our hat trick of 3 events in 3 days was completed by a very special President's Night at Shepperton Cricket Club. Mary and I really enjoyed ourselves, as did everybody else as far as I could see. I now possess some extraordinary artistic pieces, members participated in various devious games devised by Doreen and Pauline and we consumed platefuls of excellent food served up by Helen from Abbey Moor Golf Club. Special thanks are due to the terrible twins, D and P, and also to Peter, Anne, Joe, Diana, David W and Brian, but we would like to thank all who attended and contributed to such an enjoyable evening and to the lovely gifts of a very appropriate framed rugby cartoon and a beautiful lavender plant, which are much appreciated.

After due diligence and deliberations conducted by Joe, Doreen, Laurie and your President, we were able to recommend Harrisons as the replacement venue for Oscars. It will be nice to be able to return to our former home and I hope our members will be patient, as there is bound to be a settling in process as Aurora and Harrisons get to know each other. This is my last "View from the Bridge" and, in my final paragraph, I would like to express my gratitude to all who have helped and supported me so much over the last 12 months, headed by Doreen and Ken and then Treasurer, Club Council and Committee chairs, followed by all the members. Everyone has contributed in some way and I am grateful to you all and especially to Mary who has had to put up with my files and piles of paper! It has been hard work but it has been fun and we have all achieved a lot together.

Nigel Wilson

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Saxon School Presentation

On Tuesday 7th May, three members of the Shepperton Aurora Rotary were invited to Saxon Primary School to present books to their Year Five Class. Nigel, Ken and Lyn went to the presentation, Nigel to present the books, Ken as the official photographer and Lyn to hold the books! In discussion with the school Rotary had bought "Street Child" by Bertie Doherty.



On the day we were met by Miss Bonnie Saunders the Deputy Head and invited into the Hall for the assembly. The children, from Reception (aged 5) to Year Six (age 11) came in beautifully and sat ready to hear why three strangers had come to join them.

Nigel was asked to talk to the children. He described the role of Rotary and how we enjoy working with all the schools in Shepperton. He went on to say how much he had enjoyed the book, having read it the night before.

Saxon School receive their books from Shepperton Aurora

Each child was encouraged to come up to receive their book from Nigel. Many of the pupils were highly delighted to have their own copy of this fictional book which weaves the story of the beginning of the Barnardo Homes. The children have used parts of the script in their English lessons but did not have the opportunity to read the whole story in school.

In the school newsletter the Acting Head, Sarah Vernon stated;

On Tuesday assembly we were joined by members of the Rotary Club who presented our Year 5 children with a copy of Street Child. The children were delighted to receive their own copy which I am sure will be treasured for many years to come. Our thanks to the Rotary Club for supporting us in creating a lifelong love of reading in our children.

It was apparent when watching the children taking their copy of the book that they love reading. It also shows how important it is to continue Rotary support to demonstrate our commitment to local schools.

Lyn

Notes for Contributors.

Articles should be between 150 and 350 words long and emailed to john@dumbrell.org.uk or sent in typewritten format. Pictures can be any size and will be returned.

This is a monthly magazine and the deadline for contributions is **the 25th of the month.**

It is your newsletter, please keep sending contributions in preferably with some photos.

John Dumbrell, Editor



John Dumbrell

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Sailing at Queen Mary



Jon, who only has one complete limb (his right arm) is already a keen sailor

Much of the sailing at Queen Mary Sailability has been largely 'recreational', i.e. sailing for the fun and pleasure of it without being competitive. But even the seriously disabled some-time have a competitive streak in them as we all witnessed in the Paralympics Games this last summer. At QM Sailability we now have three "Access" dinghies - the same type as Aurora helped to provide for Phabsail at Littleton Lake a few years ago. We are hoping to add a fourth so that a small fleet of identical

boats can give competitive sailing for up to eight sailors at a time; QM Sailability is looking for contributions towards suits of "racing" sails for a fourth Access which is already ready to launch. Each suit of sail - complete with the Rotary Logos costs £500.

Douglas

SATRO – 8th May 2013

I was shocked to hear, when our speaker (8th May), Margaret Royal from SATRO, told us that careers advice in schools is no longer mandatory. Where is our next working generation going to get advice and support? How will they know what they want to do with their lives? Well, SATRO helps to fill this gap by delivering games, workshops and life skills.

In this work, SATRO is supported by over 500 businesses, who, as part of their own CSR policies, want to encourage youngsters. Using their expertise, these businesses can design and deliver workshops with little or no input from the school or teachers, thus adding a range of specialist and unique skills to the standard school curriculum.

SATRO, who have been running for 25 years, and are a well recognised and respected organisation within schools, no longer get any government support and so have lost about 25% of their income. They are doing an amazing job, reaching over 16,000 children per year, with only 20 employed staff and an amazing 650 (and growing) list of active volunteers. Margaret enjoyed the meeting and I am delighted to hear that she'll be returning to visit us in the coming weeks; expressing a keen interest to join us. I had the pleasure of sitting next to her and we chatted non-stop. Well done to Pauline for inviting her to speak!

Karen

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