



THE PAST ROTARIAN

Formerly 'PROCLAIM'
The official journal of the
ASSOCIATION OF PAST ROTARIANS

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In association with
FEDERATIE VAN CLUBS
VAN PAST ROTARIANS IN NEDERLANDS.



Hon. Editor
P/R Tony Gomersal : Watling Street Club
Phone 01582 502883
email:

thepastrotarian@gtdrawings.com

Association Hon. Secretary
P/R Neil Munro: Watling Street Club
Phone 01908 254412

email : *neilmunro121@btinternet.com*

Christmas Edition 2020

Our Association President orchestrates a
COVID style Handover in West London



Thanks to the COVID 19 restrictions our AGM was cancelled and with no likelihood of it being re-scheduled this year, the only option was for an informal Handover . Our photos show outgoing President Harish Vekaria with incoming President Philip Earwicker, transferring the Presidential Chain of Office from one to the other.

THE PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Well, all I can say at this time is how disappointed I am with all that's happened this year. The AGM in May was cancelled, although I did recover my hotel booking fee despite having chosen the cheaper option that precluded a refund if you failed to turn up, my thinking "there was no way I would miss my handover"!

So no AGM, no handover, no chain of office, no nothing. Following a discussion with the Committee about what we should do, it was decided to implement our Constitution's provision to delay the AGM for 3 months, but even invoking that rule proved fruitless.

In the end, Immediate Past President Harish and I chose to initiate a low-key handover whilst maintaining our "social distance!". The photos on page one are the proof!



**National President
Philip Earwicker**

The one success to which I can lay claim, or at least partially, is re-establishing our connection with the Dutch Association of Past Rotarians through Robert van der Heijden, President of the Dutch Federation. That association goes back into the realms of past times. Not only did Harish hand me the Chain, but encumbered me with several bags of "stuff". Opening them was as good as receiving a Christmas present! Therein I discovered a number of, I suspect, valuable goodies. The Bournemouth Past Rotarians Cup presented to the association by Robert Heynen in 1948, I would guess, that being the first date when Bournemouth held the trophy, for what I know not. But, whatever its purpose, the Thanet Club, my own Club, held it in 2009 before I became a member. It seems a pity that the name of the holder of the aforementioned cup ceased being inscribed in 2012!



The "**Hands of Friendship**" statuette was presented to the association by the Dutch in 2010 on the occasion of the Association's Golden Jubilee. It takes little to work out that this year is our Diamond Jubilee! But Celebrate we did not!

Then there is the **Golf Trophy**, last awarded to Roy Mills of the Dorchester Club, again in 2000. Was that when the Trophy ceased to be fought over?



Then there is the "**Flame of Friendship**" (see pic) a Delft Ware Candlestick presented to our Association by the Dutch in 1983. It would be a shame if we were ever to allow it to become redundant and the flame die. Friendships need to be re-kindled on a regular basis and that applies to our Dutch friends as well as to those on our own shores. It is such a pity that so many Clubs listed on Bournemouth's cup are no longer members of our Association.



Finally there is a cup, again presented by Bournemouth, to whom we should all thank for their conception of the APR and for their continuous support throughout the entire history of the movement, recording now our 60th year.

I wish each and everyone of you the Seasons Greetings this Christmas and further wish that this pestilence, not Boris Johnson I should add, leaves our land and allows a return to normality and, hopefully, an AGM, somewhere, next May?

Phil

FEDERATIE VAN CLUBS VAN PAST ROTARIANS IN NEDERLAND

Dear members of the Association of Past Rotarians,

As President of the Dutch Federation of Clubs of Past Rotarians (including 120 clubs) it is an honour to be invited by your President to write this message .

Contact between our two organizations goes back a relatively long time, to 1965.

At that time both our organizations appointed a contact- person, in charge of keeping members informed about each others' activities.



My impression is that this idea did not really work out as well as was hoped for, so it died a sudden death, which of course was not intended to happen in the first place.

On the occasion of our 25th anniversary in the year 1950 your Association presented us with a so called “Loving Cup”, a lovely traditional present, and I am proud to keep this trophy as a memory at home, and will pass it on to my successor one day.

The Cup certainly keeps our shared history alive!

Looking back to our common history, in the past there have been some club –contacts, as far as I can find back, the first one happened to be a meeting between the Rother district(Hastings) and De Drechtsteden (Dordrecht).

For some reason contacts between our two organizations do not run for granted.

However, your Association President and I keep hoping for better times!

Our organizations share common interests and that is what membership is all about!

On behalf of the board of the Dutch Federation of Clubs of Past Rotarians may I wish all British members of the Association a merry X-mas and a healthy and happy Covid –free 2021!

Robert van der Heijden, President





It would be rather redundant to say we've had an extraordinary year.

Writing at this time last Christmas, who would have imagined the dramatic changes that were about to be launched in 2020. Covid-19, lurking in the depths of Wuhan, was about to explode on an unprepared world and wreak havoc on our social and financial lives and, of course, bring personal heartbreak to many thousands, already over 60,000 in this country alone.

As an older group of mainly retired members, we and our partners have largely been spared the trauma of lost jobs and failing businesses that have affected younger families who still have to pay the mortgage. However, as a group, we have had to be especially careful to avoid the virus. Nevertheless, we all seem to have adapted well to the necessary changes in our lives.

The club of course, has gone into lockdown, but it is pleasing that we have been keeping in touch, with a good number of us enjoying our weekly zoom meetings. I hope that will continue.

This year we have organised substantial donations to 'Hospice at Home' and the local 'Salvation Army'. They have both readily agreed to come and talk to us when the situation settles. We still have charity funds and should consider further donations to suitable charities. CHUMS and Ian Rennie have been suggested.

Sadly, we have lost one of our own, with John Dent recently passing away unexpectedly. I know, that when we are all enjoying a restricted Christmas with some of our family, we will remember John with affection and imagine just how Verna will be feeling on her first Christmas without John.

My Christmas message would be "Life is short. Make the most of it."

With best wishes for Christmas and a positive New Year.

Mike Chapple



PUBLICATION DATES

The PAST ROTARIAN magazine will be published 4 times per Presidential year in May (or just after the Conference weekend as appropriate) September, December, March.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PAST ROTARIAN

Publication depends upon the support of clubs and its members.

Please send your contributions via email on a regular basis and try to include photos wherever possible. Send to thepastrotarian@gtdrawings.com

DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAGAZINE

Each edition will be sent via e-mail only. If you would care to send your email details to the editor, or the email address of any other interested party who you feel would be interested in receiving a copy of the publication, the address will be added to the distribution list.

EDITORIAL CONTENT

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From Neil Munro Assoc. Secretary

I am continuing to try to organise a meeting when we can give an opportunity to all club members to meet, celebrate and give thanks to the various people who have served the Association over the past year and set the course for the next year. It has not been possible because of the difficulties produced by the pandemic but I will carry on. Neil



Dear Readers,
I hope you will be cheered and encouraged by receipt of this edition of the PastRotarian, which celebrates Christmas and reminds you that the Association is still functioning, albeit in difficult circumstances.

I have not received any reports from other clubs in time for this publication, so assume you are still in lockdown, but I hope you will be keeping in touch with your own club members, somehow.

It is very pleasing to include a message from Robert, President of the Dutch Federation of PR Clubs, thus renewing contact with our friends across the sea, thanks to our new President Phil.

I join with both those in wishing all our readers a safe and happy Christmas. Maybe we shall all meet again at some time in 2021.

Tony G
Editor

