



humanity in motion

club bulletin

No 273 December 2025



Rotary Club of Locks Heath / District 1110

<u>Mtg Date</u>	<u>Duty Rotarian</u>	<u>Venue & Activity</u>	Forthcoming Events
Dec 16	N/A	Business - CANCELLED	Christmas Meal Tuesday 16 December 2025
Dec 30	N/A	Social - CANCELLED	Charter Night (to be re-arranged)
Jan 6	JS/SO	Council and Business Victory Hall Speaker	Burns Night Saturday 24 January 2026 (apologies that the wrong date appeared in the last edition of the Bulletin)
Jan 20	JS/SO	Business, Victory Hall	Youth Speaks Local Round 29 January Murder Mystery Dinner (to be arranged)

Birthdays: David Monks

Business meetings on the third Tuesday of each month will have a guest speaker. Please consider whether you would like to invite a guest. Please nominate speakers.

International Convention, Taipei, 13-17 June 2026

District Conference 9-11 October 2026 – The Imperial Hotel, Torquay

November Review

November started with a bang when Melanie helped Whiteley Rotary Club at the Fireworks. As the groups and families queued to enter the site there was lots of chit chat and dancing and it was a lovely atmosphere. The fireworks were fantastic.

Later Roger represented the Club in Warsah on Remembrance Sunday by laying the wreath and paying respects.



Club meetings at the Victory Hall have been enhanced over recent months by our growing membership. Delicious meals are accompanied by friendly conversation and laughter. The buzz is boosted further by the interesting speakers that have joined us. Hampshire Search and Rescue gave us an insight into the dedication, training and expertise involved in providing support to the police with lowland searches for missing vulnerable people.

They are volunteers who rely completely on charitable donations. We were entertained more recently by the Warsash Band who have supported many events locally, including the Rotary Warsash Festival.

Thank you to everyone who provided a shoe box for the Wessex Rotary Shoe Box Scheme this year. The lorries departed for Europe in November.

Proposed Meetings in February 2026

Feb 3	Business	Victory Hall
Feb 17	Business	Victory Hall



Have you joined the Locks Heath Lottery? Do you know friends who would like to join?

Tickets are just £1 each, of which 78.2% goes to good causes and prizes. It is registered with Fareham Borough Council. There is a draw every Saturday. See the link below:

<https://www.onelottery.co.uk/support/rotary-club-of-locksheath>

And finally..

Thanks to John Selby for the following:

On November 25th I had the unique opportunity to step back into the last century and visit the long empty office where I started work on January 8th 1951, as a 16 year old Scientific Assistant/Computer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. This was in the Aerodynamic Department in the Transonic Wind Tunnel, built in 1942.

The RAE closed some 30 years ago and is now an executive jet airport and Business Park. Fortunately three of the wind tunnels survived as they were granted grade 1 listed building status due to their unique engineering. However after being empty for 30 years the Transonic Tunnel is somewhat dilapidated, and appears much as it was when the door closed for the last time.

In my time the tunnel had a working section of 10ft x 7ft. and could reach speeds around mach 0.85 (620mph) Much of my time was spent with tests on models of the Avro Vulcan Mk2 bomber, as the Mk1 had some severe aerodynamic problems, and I like to think I had a very tiny part in making the Mk2 such a successful nuclear deterrent aircraft, and its later use in the Falklands.

Scale models were attached via 3 struts to mechanical weighbeams under the tunnel (this was all before the days of electronics). The weighbeams drove dials in the control room, which were photographed each time the tunnel was settled at a new speed or model angle of incidence. The films went off to photographic department to be developed and came back two or three days later to be read by the likes of me, and the data transferred by pencil to sheets of paper. This data then had to be computed to obtain meaningful information on lift, drag etc, and finally plotted on graph paper for the senior scientists to look at. One day's testing could take 2 to 3 weeks before the graphs were completed. Compare that with today's real time displays. The calculator I used was mechanical, I set a load of levers to represent a number, then wound a handle, and the answer was displayed on a mileometer style display.

An exciting and very secret time (I dare not ask my friend what went on in his department). For this I received the princely salary of £150 per annum, with a £15 annual increment. Yet I was

able to pay for food and accommodation to live in the Ministry of Supply Hostel, and never seemed short of money. I attended the RAE's own technical college one day a week, staffed mainly by scientists from the establishment.

Going back to, that office some 70+ years later seemed unreal, yet I remembered work colleagues so clearly, it was like it was only yesterday.

Farnborough Air Sciences Trust has a wonderful museum covering the history of the RAE since its inception in 1908, including a full size replica of the 'Cody Flyer' the first British heavier than air, powered airplane to fly, in 1908. <https://airsciences.org.uk/>

Normally open weekends

only.



The control room, 75 years later, little had changed

I am always grateful for any interesting articles for the Bulletin. Your next bulletin will be short if no one gives me any articles.