

## A Brief Summary of the History of the Rotary Club of Windsor and Eton No 3480

Extracted from **The Rotary Club of Windsor and Eton—The First 75 years 1931-2006**  
by Rotarian John Handcock CVO DL (full version available from the [Rotary Press Officer](#))

1905	FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL IN CHICAGO BY PAUL HARRIS
1931	Foundation of the Rotary Club of Windsor & Eton under the Presidency of The Very Revd. Canon Albert Baillie, DD, KCVO, Dean of Windsor
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Charter Dinner at The Castle Hotel
1932	
1939	Foundation of the Inner Wheel under the Presidency of Mrs Walter Varney
1940	Adoption of HM Drifter B7B (a wartime minesweeper)
1945	Inception of the provision of holidays at the Rotary Home at Weston Super Mare for disadvantaged local boys. Commencement of the annual Old Peoples' River Trips, which each year for many years embarked several hundred elderly Windsorians for a river trip complete with tea. Commencement of career talks for local schools.
1947	Collection of donations in respect of relief work following the severe floods of that year. Presentation of a pony and trap to the Victoria Home for Crippled Children in Margate. First contacts with the Rotary Club of Karlovy Vary in Czechoslovakia. Formation of the Rotary Club of Ascot under the sponsorship of our club.
1951	Sponsorship of the Windsor & Eton Round Table by Maidenhead Round Table supported by the Club.
1953	Founding of the International Club in Victoria Street. Rotarian Cyril Dyson knighted.
1957	Acceptance of Honorary Membership by H R H The Duke of Edinburgh. The first of two car raffles based on estimates of the total attendance at the Motor Show at Olympia.
1960	Foundation of the Spencer Denney Memorial Workshop.
1966	Presentation of a children's playground to the people of Aberfan.
1967	Twinning with the Rotary Club of Celle in Northern Germany.
1968	The first of the annual "Youth Speaks" competitions won by Windsor Parish Church Youth Club. Foundation of Windsor "Probus Club". Renovation of the Old Well in St Albans Street for fundraising purposes (eventually closed on account of vandalism).
1969	Opening by the Duke of Edinburgh of Manor Lodge Approved Probation Hostel at Old Windsor.
1971	First expanded car competition at Safari Park.
1974	Collation of local opposition to the merging of the Boroughs of Windsor & Maidenhead. Twinning with the Rotary Club of Castricum in Holland. Organisation of a "Validictory Civic Dinner" at the Guildhall to mark the passing of the Royal

	Borough of New Windsor.
1975	Commencement in conjunction with the Round Table and the Lions Club of the annual Old Peoples' Christmas Shopping.
1976	Purchase of Grove House, Straight Road, Old Windsor as a retirement home for elderly people.
1977	Participation in the Queen's Silver Jubilee events.
1978	Visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to Grove House.
1981	Organisation of a Royal Variety Gala Show at the Theatre Royal in conjunction with the Entertainment Artists Benevolent Fund attended by the Duke of Edinburgh. Erection of two new bungalows in the grounds of Grove House. Formation of the Rotary Club of Windsor St George sponsored by the Club.
1982	Formation of the Rotoract Club of Windsor & Eton. First Royal Charity Gala production at the Farrer Theatre, Eton College attended by the Duke of Edinburgh. Completion of a new physiotherapy department at King Edward VII Hospital in Windsor to celebrate the Club's Golden Jubilee. Presentation of painting of Church Street, Windsor by Ken Howard, RA, to the Royal Borough.
1984	Participation in the "Royal Ascot Spectacular" attended by the Duke of Edinburgh.
1985	Presentation of a cheque for £29,000 to the Thames Valley Hospice.
1987	Major raffle for car in conjunction with the Windsor St George and Rotoract Clubs at Safari Park raised some £12,000. Commencement of the annual Windsor Carnival in Alexandra Gardens (now designated the "Annual Summer Fayre").
1988	Presentation in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Windsor St George and Windsor & Eton Round Table of a portrait of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to hand in the Chamber of the Guildhall.
1988/1989	Donations of £5,000 to the League of Friends of Windsor Hospital, £1,000 to the Spencer Denney Workshop for the Elderly, £1,000 to Thames Valley Hospice and £10,340 to Old Windsor Day Centre.
1990	Visit of H R H The Duke of Edinburgh to the Old Windsor Carnival.
1996	Celebration banquet in the Legoland Boardroom to mark the seventy fifth birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh who responded to the toast of the guests.
1997	Planting of a Rotary "floral wheel" in Alexandra Gardens to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Paul Harris. Sale of Grove House. Closure of the Spencer Denney Memorial Workshop owing to the cessation of Local Authority funding (reborn as the Spencer Denney Day Centre).
27 <sup>th</sup> October 1997	The Duke of Edinburgh entertained to lunch.
2002	The Rolls-Royce and Bentley Golden Jubilee Tribute organised by the Club in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Windsor St George produced a cavalcade of some five hundred and fifty Rolls-Royces from all over the world which drove past The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in the Quadrangle of the Castle. This event raised the sum of £53,168.44 for The Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough. Organisation of funds from Rotary Clubs within the district in support of the Berkshire Golden Youth Festival at Bisham Abbey. Celebration Banquet attended by the Duke of Edinburgh to receive the cheque from the proceeds

2004	of the Rolls-Royce Rally. £12,621.47 raised in a street collection, together with the Rotary Club of Windsor St George for the Tsunami Earthquake Appeal, matched shortly afterwards by a further £12,621.47 for the same cause.
20 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	Rotary Centenary Service of Thanksgiving at Windsor Parish Church attended by the Duke of Edinburgh. The Royal Windsor St George's Day Festival of Aston Martin held over the weekend of 22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> April, when 300 Aston Martins paraded past The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle and raised £50,115.38 for The Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough.
November 2005	Dinner at Combermere Barracks attended by Prince Philip for presentation of the Aston Martin cheque.
December 2005	Youth Concert organised in Windsor Parish Church.
12 <sup>th</sup> February 2006	Death of Rotarian Dr Ken Walter, a Rotarian for fifty seven years aged ninety seven.
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2006	Champagne Reception in the Guildhall in celebration of the Club's seventy fifth anniversary.
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2006	Organisation in connection with The Lord's Taverners and in conjunction with Windsor Cricket Club of the largest cricketing event ever held in Windsor.
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2006	The painting competition.
September 2006	
September 2006	Publication of "The Rotary Club of Windsor and Eton The First Seventy Five Years – 1931-2006"

The Publication of John Handcock's Book coincided with the launch of the website which now contains a detailed history of events during each of the subsequent Presidents' years. Click on links below to see the Events for any particular Rotary year.

[2005-2006](#) President David Shaw

[2006-2007](#) President - Ron Lewandowski

[2007-2008](#) President - Bob Pickles

[2008-2009](#) President Paul Bayley