

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO GRAHAM VINCENT, GUILDFORD CHANTRIES RC'S COMMUNITY AND VOCATIONAL SERVICE CHAIRMAN, ON A NOSTALGIC RETURN TO HIS FORMER CLUB HARPENDEN VILLAGE RC.

Graham writes:-

CLASSICS ON THE COMMON WITH GLOBAL SIGHT SOLUTIONS

Once a year, Harpenden Common comes alive for a day with more than 1,000 classic cars, motor cycles and scooters, plus 10,000 admiring spectators. Little wonder Classics on the Common, one of Britain's biggest mid-week classic car shows, ranks among the top events of the Classic Car Calendar.

The event was started by local enthusiasts and later given to Harpenden Village Rotary Club to organise and raise money for charity. The charities this year were Global Sight Solutions, Home-Start Hertfordshire, Malawi Water Project and the Samaritans.

Global Sight Solutions is a Guildford based avoidable blindness charity. It was registered with the charity commission back in the 1990's by members of Guildford Rotary Club. The aim being to work with Rotary Clubs in the developing world and together establish financially sustainable eye hospitals, which can provide a full range of eye care, free to the world's poorest. It has to date enabled over 80 eye hospitals in both the Indian subcontinent and in Africa.



Representatives from all three Guildford Rotary Clubs supported Global Sight Solutions on the day by assisting with the all-important bucket collections. Wearing our Rotary in Harpenden tabards, we manned the entry points in turns for an hour at a time, welcoming people, receiving donations and giving out stickers. We were rewarded with a free lunch and ice creams!

Fiona Miles, Senior Ambassador of Global Sight Solutions, plus myself from Guildford Chantries RC, PDG Peter O'Keefe, Secretary of Guildford District RC, and Andrew Jackson Chairman of the Trustees of Global Sight Solutions and Foundation Chairman of Guildford RC. Also assisting was Global Sight Solutions' Trustee, John Miles. The day was particularly poignant for me as I had been a member of Harpenden Village RC for 20 years prior to moving to Chantries in 2009.

It was good catch up with old friends, even the one who said 'I didn't recognise you at first'!

The weather was ideal, and due reward for those involved with the months of organisation preparing volunteers and contractors for road cones, perimeter fencing, toilet facilities, and additionally gazebos for Money Collector Sign-In, Reception, General Tasks Sign-In, plus a special welcome gazebo with chairs and water to refresh us. Also arranging for the essential range of food and drink concessions to be on site.

It was not long before immaculate classics and modern cars started arriving: An American Tank, Audis, Austin 7s and Healeys, Bentleys, Chevrolets, Citroen as driven by Maigret, DB5 and Vantage Aston Martins, Dodges, Ferraris, Ford Mustangs, Humvees, Lagondas, Lamborghinis, Route master London Bus, Lotus 340R, McLarens, MGs, Model T, Poplar and Galaxy Fords, Morgans including 3-wheelers, Noble, Porches/ /Rolls Royces, Rovers, Mark 2 Coupe and E-Type Jaguars, Talbots and VW Camper Vans. My favourite number plate was, "Life without music would B flat"!



Motorbikes included: Ducatis, Harley Davidsons, Honda Goldwing with trailer, Jet Bike, Scooter with a side car, Victory Vision and vintage AJSs.
Commercial concessions included: Bentley, BMW, Kia and Porsche, with hybrid and electric cars, local garages and car accessories.



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