

Dear Colleagues,

Now that Spring has officially started and we are in April, I thought it timely to prepare another Newsletter to update you on some of the main activities which have taken place recently and also draw your attention to a number of up-coming events.



**Welcome to New Members**



I am pleased to be able to welcome the following new members who have joined since my newsletter of 23 January.

Clive Grattan, Dick Brown, Mary Hartley, Mike Millar, Lizzie Clifford, Sue Adcock.



### New Treasurer

I am extremely pleased to confirm that Mike Millar kindly took over the role with effect from the first of the month, and I am extremely grateful to Akmal for managing the transition so well. Mike now has the necessary authorisations to manage our on-line bank account and the authorised signatories have been up-dated.

Mike is now reviewing the accounting and financial reporting arrangements and also intends to introduce a new process for claiming expenses.



### Annual Subscriptions

Just a gentle reminder that these are now due and remain excellent value at £10 per annum. It would be really helpful if you are willing to make payment by either setting up an annual bank standing order or by direct bank transfer to the RIA account as below using Subs and your surname as the reference.

Account Name: Rushmoor International Association, Sort Code: 30-91-53, Account number: 03517668

*Note:- if you joined RIA after 01 January 2023 your subscription is valid until 31 March 2024.*

### Rushmoor Community Lottery- Rushmoor Borough Council

This has proved to be an extremely successful initiative by the Borough Council and is a well-received weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Rushmoor, including the Rushmoor International Association. Tickets cost just £1 per week and there is a top prize of £25,000. From every £1 ticket you buy, 60p goes to local good causes and you are able to specify the particular organisation you wish to see benefit – hopefully Rushmoor International Association!

I joined sometime ago and pay by direct debit and would urge you all to consider joining and making the RIA your preferred cause.

To buy tickets follow this link

<https://www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/>



## Gorkha (Nepal) Visit – 9 – 13 March

As many of you are aware, Rushmoor has a Friendship Agreement with Gorkha in Nepal and a delegation, including the Mayor and his wife, the Deputy Mayor and three Ward Presidents visited the Borough between 9 and 13 March. The purpose of the visit was to renew and sign the Friendship Agreement which is now open-ended rather than time limited, and for the guests to be taken on a wide range of visits across the Borough, which included the Mayoral Banquet and dropping in at the centenary celebrations at John Jerome's Outfitters shop in Aldershot.

Veronica and I were pleased to have been asked to support the visit and together with several other Association Members, we attended the formal reception and signing ceremony on 9 March.

It was delightful meeting the guests, and we were able to explore potential areas for further collaboration, particularly around health and education. We all agreed that it would be essential to identify a small number of key priorities, which we could then seek collectively to deliver. The Mayor of Gorkha and his colleagues, agreed to give careful consideration to their key priorities and feed them back in due course.

The visit was extremely well organised by the Borough Council and there is no doubt that it led to a strengthening in personal relationships and the guests clearly had an excellent time.

Here are some pictures, which capture some of the key moments, including a memorable visit to the 24ft Wind Tunnel.



The Mayor meets the Mayor



The Deputy Mayor meets RIA Members



The Deputy Mayors meet (left & centre)



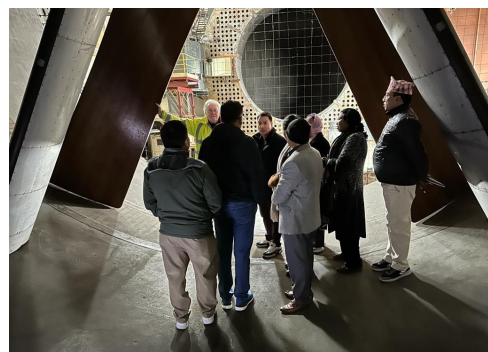
The Reception



The Banquet



The 24ft Wind Tunnel  
with FAST Guides in  
high vis. jackets





## VFOS Oberursel (Germany) Visit to Rushmoor 25 – 29 May

Veronica and I have been working closely on this and I am pleased to confirm that the plans are coming together extremely well and we are looking forward very much to welcoming approximately 30 of our German friends to Rushmoor.

The delegation will be arriving by coach, which will remain with them throughout the visit and I have included for your information the current version of the itinerary, which may yet be subject to some fine tuning.



## Oberursel Brunnenfest 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

As many of you are aware, in the past, the Association was actively involved with the sale of Hogs Back Brewery beer at the annual Brunnenfest. Unfortunately, for circumstances beyond our control, this ended some years ago.

I have now received a request from the Rathaus to see if we would be willing to have a presence at this year's Brunnenfest. The suggestion is that we consider selling whisky shots – in a similar way to the Christmas market, and we would be part of an "International Village" together with the VFOS and the City's other twin towns. The opening hours would be limited and it is likely that our stall would be open for just a few hours each day.

I am keen to accept this invitation and have already started acquiring whisky which I will take over in my car.

It would be great if any of you would be willing to take part in this and if you are interested, please let me know.



## Oberursel – Hochtaunus Cup: 7 – 8 October

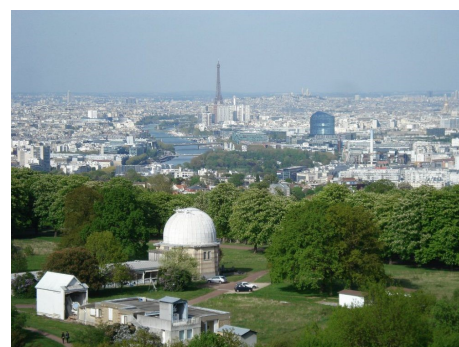
The Oberursel swimming club has arranged this event at the local swimming pool and would be pleased to include participants from swimming clubs in Rushmoor. We will have the opportunity to discuss this at our forthcoming meeting and would be grateful if you could give it thought in the meantime.



## Meudon (France)

I recently had an extremely constructive and helpful conversation with Suzanne (Gremillet) who confirmed that they would love to host a visit by guests from Rushmoor in 2024. I agreed with her that this is an excellent idea in principle and the time scale would allow the opportunity to plan well in advance.

It is also likely, that there will be a Christmas market, focussed on Meudon's twin towns in early December and it would, ideally, be nice if we could be represented there. Clearly we need to confirm the precise date, but if anyone is interested in attending, perhaps you could let me know.



## Date of Next Meeting

This will be held on **Thursday 13 April at 7:00 pm in the Concorde Room at the Borough Council Offices.**

An agenda will be circulated shortly.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 13<sup>th</sup>.



Best wishes

Andrew Lloyd

Chairman Rushmoor International Association

5th April 2023

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