

**Significant Events**

1930
On 13th February, nine potential members met at the Kings Arms Hotel, Grays and agreed on the formation of a Club.
The inaugural meeting of the club was held on March 6th 1930 at the Queens Hotel, Grays, with 15 founder members
The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock was chartered on October 9th 1930
It is a daughter club of the Rotary Club of Southend on Sea
The Charter Meeting took place at the Queens Hotel in Grays with over a 100 persons in attendance
Regular weekly meetings were held at the Queen's Hotel in Grays, (four course lunch cost 2 shillings (10p))
the club held a 'bring & buy’ Auction (it raised £20 and continued as a major fund raiser until the early 1960's)

1931
The club took a great involvement in District and on October 7th 1931

it organised a District Council meeting onboard the P&O liner 'Maloja'
December saw the first Ladies Night, these continued annually until 2004

1st Club flight - Sept 24th – members flew from Hornchurch over Grays and on to Croydon in the triple engined ‘City of Coventry’.

1932
The Grays Inner Wheel Club was formed

1939-45
The war years involved a complete change of program.

Grays became an evacuation area and the Club was involved

almost full time in forming and running the Services Club in Orsett Road

1941
W E Walsham presented a golf cup to be played for annually.

(still being played for in 2015)

1949
Dr J.K. (Jimmy) Farquharson became the 100th member of the Club

1950
On November 23rd the club celebrated 'Coming of Age' with a Gala Dinner,

the National President and 11 founder members attended

1952

The club was heavily involved in the formation of the Grays Round Table which was inaugurated on 28th May

1953

Tilbury and Purfleet floods

the club was very involved in the rescue and rehabilitation process.
They organised a large evacuation centre at Palmers School,

this was one of the last to close

The Club produced its first news-letter for members, these continued until 1996

1955
The history of the first 25 years of the club was written – this gives far more detail than the above
Contacts were established with the Rotary Club of Voorschoten Leidschendam and a visit made to Holland

1958
The club donates 'Grays Old Peoples Centre' to the community

with seating for 150 it was located in Dell Rd

1959
Contacts were made with the Rotary Club of Iserlohn in Germany

1960
Tripartite, as we now know it, started on 14 May in Grays

1966
The club sponsored the formation of the Rotary Club of Stanford & Corringham

1967
The Club started the Halloween Fair fund raising event at the Civic Hall

1970

The Club moved its meeting place to the Masonic Hall in Lenthall Avenue

1971
On 4th December 1971 the Trust Fund was established

1973

From 4 – 12 July, the Club hosted an International Teachers’ Summer School

at the Mucking Residential Centre. Delegates came from France, Germany and Holland

1975
Bill Morgan became District Governor, our first
The first club sleigh took to the streets at Christmas

1980
50th Anniversary of the Club
Bill Morgan is the first member of the club to be honoured with a PHF (following his time as District Governor)
Rowland Hall completes 50 years of membership of the club

1983
The club sponsored the formation of the Rotary Club of Mardyke Valley

1985
Roland Hall's service to the club is recognised with a Paul Harris fellowship

1987
Dr Kamal Sud became our 250th member

1988
Geoff Player became District Governor, our second.

1990

Grays host Tripartite with 18 visitors from Holland and 4 from Germany

Club’s 60th Anniversary is celebrated with a Dinner at Stifford Moat House

1999

Grays host Tripartite, only 4 from Holland and 2 from Germany

Stan Deats completes 50 years of Club membership

2000
Tripartite Rejuvenated

 29 people from Grays, join 16 from Holland for the
German hosted Tripartite held in Mainz

2001
Tripartite, the invasion continues,

27 from Grays join 38 from Germany to invade Holland.

The friendships are fast building

2002
Grays are host to the Tripartite and hold it in Malvern, Worcestershire.

2004
Arthur Bradwell presided over the last formal Ladies night

2005
75th Anniversary of the club celebrated with a Dinner at Orsett Golf Club.

2006
The club starts an involvement with the 'Kids Out' project,

taking 35 pupils from Treetops School to Southend
Ladies Nights are replaced by a member’s weekend away

the first is to Lille for the Christmas Markets

2007

Club receives Presidential Citation recognising its achievements

2008

Tripartite in Grays with over 60 overseas visitors

2009

50th Anniversary Tripartite held in Iserlohn – 25 attend from Grays

2010
First Christmas Concert held at Civic Hall to sell-out audience.

Over £4,000 raised for charity

2011

Grays are hosts of Tripartite – Indian Theme - (15 from Germany & 16 from Holland)

2012
Grays Masonic Hall closes down after 42 years.

the club moves to temporary venue at Chadwell Masonic Hall
Our Dutch twin Club is 60,

Grays members journey to Holland to give their congratulations.

Two weeks later 13 travel to Iserlohn for Tripartite

Sadly we are advised of the death of Geoff Player, he had been in Rotary for 64 years (51 in Grays)

First cultural trip to Stratford upon Avon for the RSC  ‘As You Like It’

2013
October 10, Club starts meetings at new venue, Orsett Hall Hotel

The Club starts an involvement in Youth Speaks.

The Club launches its own website www.graysrotary.org.uk

2014
Our first Lady member, Yvonne Evans, joins the club on 21 July, member no.309

Tripartite held in England, highlight, Tour of BBC – 37 visitors from overseas

The Club starts an involvement in ‘Mathletics’ quiz for primary Schools

The sleigh routes are posted on the website – public comes out to meet sleigh in great numbers

The Club joins the social media age with its own  page

Sadly we lost two long serving members – Frank Saunders & Tom Shiner