



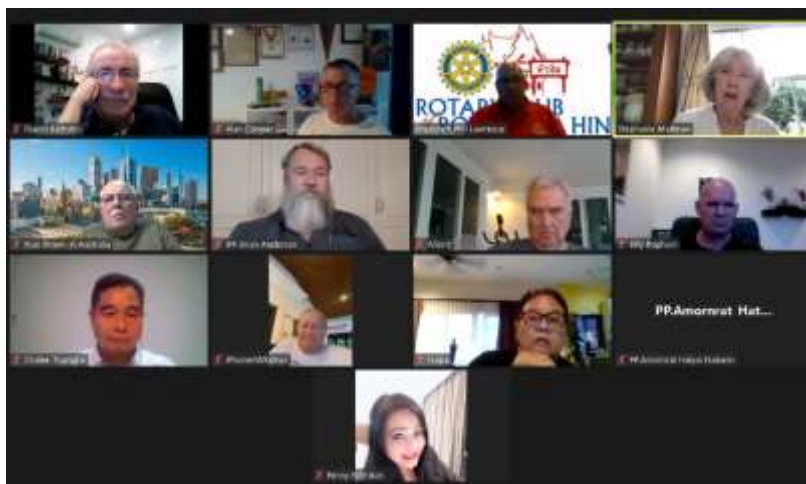
WEEKLY ZOOM MEETING REPORT OF ROTARY CLUB OF ROYAL HUA HIN 31st August Fireman Remembered Stephanie Maltman.

Attendance - 14
Members - 9
Guests - 5

Guests:

Stephanie Maltman	Guest Speaker
PP Penny Ritthikan	RC Hat Yai Nakarin
PP Amornrat	RC Hat Yai Nakarin
PE Chalee Thangfai	RC Hat Yai Nakarin

President Phil opened the meeting and then welcomed the guests as above to the last zoom meeting for August Rotary Year 2021/22.



P Phil offered tips for attendees at zoom meetings as follows:

Mute Your Microphones:

To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking

Be mindful of background noise:

When your microphone is not muted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as talking to other people.

Position your camera properly:

If you choose to use a web camera, be sure it is in a stable position and focused at eye level, if possible. Doing so helps create a more direct sense of engagement with other participants.

Limit distractions:

You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone.

P Phil confirmed that zoom meetings would continue as listed below until further notice due to current lockdowns in Thailand.

First Tuesday of the month a zoom fellowship evening 18:00hrs where possible

2nd, 4th Tuesday's club meetings as per the schedule on Club Runner 18:00hrs depending on National Holidays

3rd Tuesday Board meeting 12:00hrs to 14:00hrs

Obviously the current situation will be reviewed on a regular basis.

P Phil then mentioned news from the world of Rotary starting with Rotary International.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

Rotary joined its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to mark the first anniversary of a historic public health milestone: the World Health Organization's African region being certified free of wild polio.

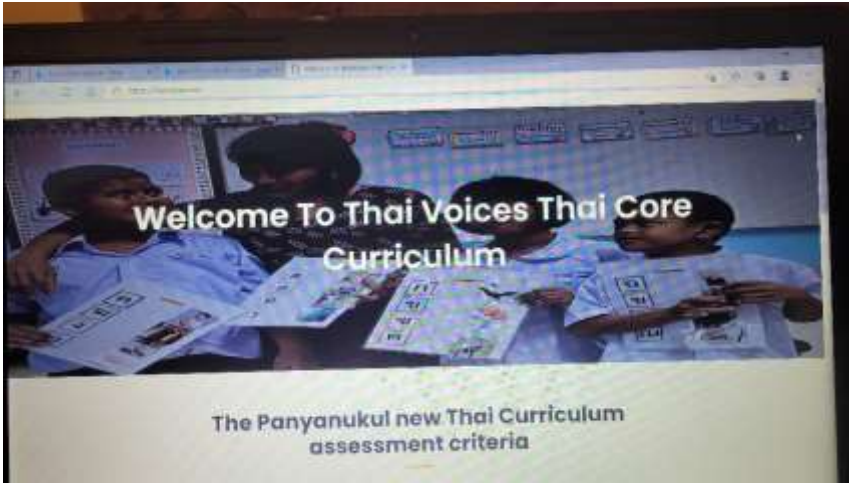
The anniversary was celebrated on 25 August during a WHO Regional Committee for Africa meeting, which also addressed current challenges to eradicating polio and new tactics to achieve a polio-free world. Africa's milestone has already benefited children's health and public health across the continent. The infrastructure and innovations that helped the African region become free of wild polio are playing an important role in the COVID-19 pandemic response and are available to use in future public health emergencies. Polio workers also now conduct other routine immunizations, deliver medicines, and provide other health care services.

Reimagining Rotary.



It's been a challenging year, but Rotary has proven again that we can adapt and thrive in the face of change. The lessons we learned this year will shape our Organisation for years to come.

P Phil stated that more information on these articles were available on the RI Website.



Rotary Club of Royal Hua Hin:

P Phil mentioned that work was progressing well with the new website for the Thai Voices National Project, and that a meeting was held between Ajarn Weera Director of Phetchaburi Panyanukul School, Khun Meow and Khun Bank, Dr Keith Humphreys and P Phil to look at building the Thai side of the website and the role of the webmaster Khun Bank.



P Phil went onto say that the Lake View golfer's society whose members include Rotarian Rick Lunstrum, President Phil Lawrence donated 50, 600 Thai Baht in August due to golf courses being closed. The money went towards providing much needed food for the Mercy House Foundation in Pranburi. Due to lockdown and school closures, it costs on average 2,500 Thai Baht a day to provide three square meals a day. A donation was also received from Rotarian Keith Humphreys.

Rotary District 3330:

P Phil asked Assistant District Governor (ADG) Gianni whether there were any updates from our Rotary District. ADG Gianni stated that it seemed most things at district level were on hold due to Covid-19.

P Phil Reminded attendees about the sale of the world Polio Day T shirts.

P Phil then mentioned the forthcoming events as follows.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 31 st August | Historian Stephanie Maltman in the UK will present on her work with the charity Firemen |
| Remembered | |
| 7 th September | 1 st Club Assembly Rotary year 117 |
| 14 th September | Health Insurance for Ex Pats |

21st September
28th September

Board Meeting
Dr Mowae Apisuttipanya Be Well Clinic

P Phil then introduced today's guest speaker Stephanie Maltman a historian from London England.



P Phil mentioned Stephanie is married to Philip and is a keen gardener and cook.

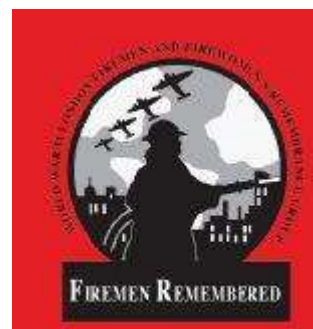
Stephanie began work in archive conservation and worked there for four years in the Public Record Office before it became the National Archive at Kew.

Stephanie taught for twenty-eight years, History, English and History of Art, in a girl's public school and later a boy's comprehensive, one of Blair's "named and shamed".

She became interested in wartime fire brigade history in the mid-nineties as part of a general interest in the Second World War. Not much had been written or researched about

it at that time. Stephanie decided she would like to write about it and in the course of research found that

many ex-wartime firemen she interviewed felt their wartime experience, their contribution to the war, had been forgotten and ignored. They felt this most acutely in relation to their comrades who had died, so in the late nineties Stephanie set up 'Firemen Remembered' in response to this, to commemorate those who died and to educate the wider public about the history of the Fire Brigade in London in World War II. So far, we have located 32 wartime plaques in the capital and two commemorating Fire Brigade deaths outside of the war.



For the past sixteen years Stephanie has also helped organise Holocaust Remembrance events in Tower Hamlets each year on HMD, January 27th, the date of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Russian Army. Holocaust History is something that I have studied over a number of years and with the Jewish Historian Martin Sugarman we have written a history of wartime Jews in the Fire Service in the Second World War.

Stephanie also worked in First World War Remembrance through a project begun in 2014 related to a Great War Memorial near where I live. I have written and spoken on all of these things, the interest in Holocaust history having come out of an interest in the fire service.



Phil went on to say he first met Stephanie in 2002 when he was Station Commander at Whitechapel Fire Station in the East end of London and Stephanie had organised a wartime plaque for a fireman who died during the blitz.

Stephanie mentioned that she has never been a fireman or associated with the fire service; however, her interest started with watching such films as *Fires* was started made in 1943 by the Director Humphrey Jennings.

Stephanie explained the GPO Film Unit became the Crown film Unit in 1940, a film-making propaganda arm of the Ministry of Information, and Jennings joined the new Organisation.

Jennings only feature-length film, the 70-minute *Fires* were started (1943), also known as *I Was a Fireman*, details the work of the Auxiliary Fire Service in London. It blurs the lines between fiction and documentary because the scenes are re-enactments. This film, which uses techniques such as montage is considered one of the classics of the genre.

Humphreys films were otherwise short, inclusively patriotic in sentiment and very British in their sensibility, such as: Spare Time (1939), London Can Take It! (1940), Words for Battle (1941),

Stephanie went onto say that many of these films the parts were actually played by real fireman of the Auxiliary Fire Service and that the depth of the films often left the audience in tears.

Stephanie went onto explain the role of the Auxiliary Fire Service during the blitz.

During World War II, the German Luftwaffe, or Air Force, bombed the city of London. At the time London was the world's second busiest port in the world. It was also the political, economic and religious seat of the British Empire. Near the docks were a huge natural gas work and the Ford Motor Company plant. Some of the businesses along the Thames included flourmills, grain storage silos, tar works and chemical plants. Any of these could trigger a major conflagration. Also near the river were the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, businesses, and homes for millions of Londoners.

In 1937, the British passed the Civil Defence Act allowing local authorities to raise an auxiliary Fire Service. London made plans to have a force of 28, 000 Auxiliary Firemen and Firewomen. Two years later on September 1, the Auxiliary Fire Service mobilised. In this short time period 23,000 members had been recruited, trained and equipped. Throughout the city there are more than 300 Auxiliary Fire Service Substations. The London Fire Brigade had 59 land stations and 3 river stations.

During the war the number of men serving as firemen would swell to 273,000 nationwide. In addition, 70,000 women, both full-time and part-time performed such duties as dispatchers, couriers, canteen operators, and in some areas as pump operators for the fire department. Personnel worked 48-hour shifts and were then given 24 hours off. When not fighting fires, the men often produced war materials at the firehouse. In their off-duty time many firefighters worked in factories that made more war goods.



Stephanie went onto talk about the National Fire Fighter memorial in London.

Two figures in the sculpture are based on a photograph, "A relief crew damping down in Cannon Street, 17th April 1941". The other figure was modelled by the sculptor's father-in-law, Cyril Demarne, OBE, who had the initiating idea for the memorial. The original concept was for a memorial to the 363, male, members of the London fire service who lost their lives in WW2. The idea grew to be a national WW2 memorial and then it was decided to include the women (a very late afterthought, but better late than never). Thus, the north side of the plinth carries reliefs representing women working in the Fire Brigade in WW2. The statue was erected in 1991 on a low plinth

carrying 1,027 names.

In 2003 it was decided to include all lost firefighters, not just those lost in WW2. This required the addition of 1,192 names which meant the statue had to be raised by over a metre to provide space on the plinth for all the names. A rededication took place in September 2003. The list of names is updated as necessary and the total number on the plinth is over 2250. The [Firefighters Memorial Trust](#) provides on-line access to the list of names.

P Phil thanked Stephanie for her talk and her work in remembering those that gave their lives during the Blitz.

The meeting was opened to questions where a number of interesting discussions took place where some members remembered their own parent's memories from the war and in many cases it was difficult to speak about them.

Another story by scoop Lawrence