

Our Man in the Hague

A series of coordinated raids launched by undercover police officers from Holland and the UK netted a haul of drugs with a street value of many millions of Euros, guest speaker Paul Harris told Kyrle Probus Club members on Thursday 5 April.

One of the most significant drug seizures was tracked in liaison with the Dutch haulage Association. It led to a giant truck emanating from Turkey and containing a vast amount of heroin.

The loss of the illicit drugs was so damaging that it created a shortage on the market and forced up the price, said Paul.

“We have police officers working around the world dealing with UK issues. Imported heroin and cocaine pose a huge threat.”

“Traffic is moved in containers quickly around Europe. We cannot physically search them all unless we have the intelligence.”

Controlled Delivery projects highlighted other successful operations and the club members were shown photographs of two dogs brought in from South America. “Both were unwell and had been stitched up,” Paul said. “X-rays showed lots of little packages under the dogs’ fur, stuffed with cocaine. One dog died and the other was adopted by a Dutch family. Two people were convicted and got 10 years in prison.”

A second picture showed a car from Croatia in which two Britons wearing tracksuits were spotted making frequent phone calls and splashing a conspicuous amount of cash. “The car’s seats had been cut and heroin stuffed into the seats. Phenomenal profits are made when these commodities are sold on the streets.”

Paul, a former Gwent police officer, titled his talk ‘Our Man in the Hague’. He worked for 10 years from his base at the Hague Embassy, after being invited to join the National Crime Intelligence Service, formed to share information and intelligence.