

# The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

March 2006

## From The President's Desk

Another month has passed and we have moved into the final quarter of my presidential year, and the start of what will probably be the busiest period of our Club's calendar. I would like to say that if the excellent level of your support and the support of associate's friends continues for the rest of the year, from my viewpoint, it will have been a splendid year.

It's strange how just after I have written the above paragraph a little voice in the back of my head says, "Don't count your chickens"!

Looking back on last month's speakers and events, I will remind you of the excellent speakers Sandra Moore arranged for us to hear – Annie Potter, did really well on her first public speaking engagement, where she told us of her experiences and the work of the Beria Healthcare Initiative.

Jean Lark, her family and the dog informed us of the brilliant work being done for 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'.

Last, but far from least two charming ladies did a wonderful impersonation of a Morecombe and Wise act, detailing the good work being done in Ophthalmology at the local hospital.

Tony Hill exceeded all expectations with his FIND Quiz Night, as usual he had some fine helpers, but he has to take the lion's share of the credit for a great fun

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## Sight-Saving Progress At The Ipswich Hospital

From Malcolm Reece

It's not until we have cause to seek help from the doctor or treatment at a hospital that we begin to realise just how much progress has been made in recent years in the way patients are cared for today.

This was brought home to club members at our lunch on March 15th, when two staff nurses from the Ipswich Hospital's Eye Department spoke briefly on how the department is now administered.

Just how much we have progressed over the years was brought home to us by Julia Mayhew, who has been in nursing for 25 years and can remember a time when a patient entering a hospital for cataract surgery would spend at least ten days on the ward. "Now," she emphasised, "we can treat a cataract as a day case and the patient is usually on the way home after two or three hours. This has been one of the biggest advances in the treatment of eyes."

Julia and her fellow staff nurse, Anne Oliver, said the eye department at Ipswich now has five consultants, each having their own specialities and separate clinics to deal with anything from detachments to cataracts and failing sight. Julia also spoke briefly about the pioneering work being carried out in the field of macular degeneration of sight. The use recently of PDT (Photo Dynamic Treatment) had enabled a lot of progress to be made to arrest this deterioration, she said, but admitted that it was not a cure and patients had to be prepared for treatment to last about two years. "But if you are losing your sight, it is worth it," she stressed.

Another important point was made by Anne while referring to the work of corneal transplants, now being used widely to save eyesight. Eye donations, she said could be done up to 24 hours after death and then stored up to four weeks before use.

Occasionally, the club has speakers who appeal to all tastes; this was one of those occasions. No one coughed, no one blew a nose – and not one member yawned or went to sleep. Well done Anne and Julia; you succeeded where many before you have failed! ■

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evening, not only was money raised for a good cause, but the profile of Rotary was raised to a different section of the community. Well Done!

Club Council the Business and Fellowship Meeting and the Open Forum at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club, have all been dealing with club related issues and I am hopeful that everybody has now had ample opportunity to have their say as to the direction of the club in the future.

And finally 'I would now like members to knuckle down to seriously enjoying themselves and their membership of the club and Rotary'.

Yours in Rotary,

*Eddie* ❖

## Sir George Martin Honoured

From RIBI News

Sir George Martin CBE was honoured by RIBI on 1st April 2006, when he was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by President Elect of RIBI, Peter Offer. This prestigious award recognises Sir George's outstanding achievements in the music industry and his work for numerous charities over many years. Sir George Martin is sometimes referred to as "the fifth Beatle", a title that he owes to his work as a producer of almost all the Beatles records. In recognition of his services to the music industry and popular culture, he is now a Commander of The British Empire. His charitable work is wide ranging:

- The Princes Trust Concerts. George has helped to raise millions for the Trust over the last 20 years.
- Queens Golden Jubilee Concert attracted 200 million viewers and raised millions for charity.
- Following the Hurricane on Montserrat, George produced a charity record to raise funds.
- The island was again the victim of disaster when a Volcano erupted. George produced a concert at The Royal Albert Hall, raising 1 million pounds.
- After the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, he produced the biggest selling single ever, Elton John's Candle in the Wind, raising millions.

As well as all this, Sir George is an Ambassador for The Institute of Cancer Research; he supports Cancer Research UK, the RNIB and many others. ■

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary](http://www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary)

APRIL 2006 MAGAZINE MONTH

SATURDAY 8TH

Rotary/Felix Ferry SC "Racenight"

TUESDAY 11TH

Club Service

WEDNESDAY 12TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Speaker: Julian Evans – "Advertisement Design"

TUESDAY 18TH

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 19TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Speaker: Sarah Sanford – "Ipswich Resource Centre"

WEDNESDAY 26TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Business /Fellowship

MAY 2006

WEDNESDAY 3RD

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On the Quay + Speaker: Alan Humphry – "Fostering Children"

SATURDAY 6TH

District Assembly at Mildenhall

MONDAY 8TH

Golf Day at Ipswich Golf Club

TUESDAY 9TH

Provisional Club Service

WEDNESDAY 10TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Speaker: Fiona Loader – "Ipswich Furniture Project"

TUESDAY 16TH

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 17TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Speaker: "Youth Speaks" – Westbourne School

WEDNESDAY 24TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Business & AGM

6:30 pm. Garden Party at Sue Ryder Home, Chantry Park. Joint meeting with all Ipswich Clubs. Canapés and wine will be served on the lawns (or inside if the weather is disagreeable). Cost is £10.00 per head.

*Calendar Of Events, continued on page 3*

# Silent Applause For Hearing Dog Megan

By Malcolm Reece

Guide Dogs for the Blind, are known worldwide, but perhaps not so universally known is the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. This being the case, it was of great interest to the club on 8th March when Jean Lark and her husband Trevor brought along their hearing-trained dog Megan, to tell us how it all works.

Trevor is totally deaf and Megan is his constant companion, so Jean made it clear when she started her talk that she would simultaneously be doing sign language while she was speaking for the benefit of her husband. Jean also asked us to refrain from applauding as this was interpreted by Megan as a punishment. Personally, I had never found it so hard not to applaud.

Megan is four, and as Jean demonstrated, he has been highly trained to be the ears day and night for Trevor, telling him such things as when there is someone at the door or he needs to lead him somewhere. Trevor spent a long working life with the Greene King brewery at Bury St Edmunds, where the couple live, and was forced to give up work when he severely injured a leg in a work accident. It was following this accident that the couple were introduced to Hearing Dogs, which has transformed their lives and brought meaning and purpose back to Trevor's life.

Since 1982, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People has been training unwanted dogs to act as assistants and companions for people who are severely or profoundly deaf. Over half a million people in the UK experience severe or profound hearing loss and could potentially benefit from a hearing dog.

This is the only organisation of its kind in the UK. The work is made possible by the generous support of companies and the public, plus a dedicated network of over 1,000 friends and volunteers.

More information is available about the organisation from: The Grange, Wycombe Road, Saunderton, Princes Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9NS. ■

Calendar Of Events, continued from page 2

WEDNESDAY 31ST

Breakfast Meeting @ Holbrook Compasses

JUNE 2006 ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> - SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

Visit to Hanau-Maintal RC

MONDAY 26TH

"Kids Out"

THURSDAY 8TH

Evening meeting – Club Assembly at Ipswich & Suffolk Club



Mr. A. Hill

23rd March 2006

Dear Tony

On behalf of the FIND Committee I write to thank you so much for your coordination in planning and running the FIND FUN QUIZ on March 10<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Ipswich Orwell and of the Inner Wheel of Ipswich Orwell.

It was a tremendous effort on your part as shown by the numbers who participated on the night. The whole evening was very enjoyable and most successful. The magnificent final sum will provide a good number of cookers for families on Maureen's list of those in urgent need.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you for your inspiration and, no doubt, "perspiration" at times!

Yours Sincerely,

*Heather*

## Did You Know That?

Did you know that at two minutes and three seconds after 1:00 in the morning on Thursday 4th of May this year, the time and date will be

**01:02:03 04/05/06**

## Club Enjoys Steak And Kidney Pud Followed By A Forum of 'Afters'

From Malcolm Reece

If you need to discuss serious matters, then choose a comfy venue and add a tasty supper. Which was precisely what the club did on 29th March, our fifth Wednesday, when we gathered at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club, enjoyed a meal of steak and kidney pudding with all the trimmings – and then got down to discussing the serious bits.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the club was progressing since the move over a year ago from the Town Hall to the Bistro, and to air our thoughts on a few other matters such as committee structures and what to do with £2,000 of charity money.

After President Eddie had recalled some of the clubs many activities over the past few months, including our glittering Charter Night at Ipswich Town Football Club (a 'first' for us), a successful first trip to Banham Zoo for Kids Out (soon to be repeated) and lots of fund-raising efforts you don't need me to remind you about, we moved on to the Hanau Project, a joint venture set up with our twin German Club in which we take it in turns to benefit from charity money from the two clubs to be used in our respective communities.

This year it's Ipswich Orwell's turn to use the money and four presentations were made by club members, Brian Beason, Sue Goddard, Phil Morgan and Tony Hill.

Brian, a stalwart when it comes to the Children's Hospice, reminded us that the hospice was now seven years old and had increased in that time from four beds to between 75 and 80 children being cared for. He explained that because expected lottery funding had not materialised and no more funding from government, plans to find alternative accommodation had been shelved. But there was a dire need for a hoist lift and Brian's request was for about £2,000 to fund this project.

Tony Hill asked the club to consider funds for the charity Families in Need, specifically earmarked for children affected by Nocturnal Enuresis (night time bed wetting). "You may be surprised to know that 15 per cent of five year olds, and up to three percent of 15 year olds suffer from this problem," Tony told us. "Many causes are suspected; it may be inherited, or

be medical, hormonal or diet-related. Happily most cases can readily be treated and resolved."

Lack of money in many family homes often prevented the purchase of an effective washing machine or provision of replacement bedding, resulting in bad odours because of bed wetting. Funds were not available from the NHS, Tony pointed out, or social services, and the one local charity willing to help received no grant aid for these emergencies. Therefore, Tony suggested to the club that part of the Hanau/Orwell joint project money could go to the charity Families in Need – specifically earmarked for children unfortunately affected by this disorder. In doing so, he said, it would give relief to their families and to other people close to them.

Sue Goddard's suggestion for the Joint Hanau Project was the County Trust, a national educational registered charity set up in 1978 to enable deprived inner city children to visit and enjoy the countryside. Sue explained that a surprising number of inner city children had never visited the countryside.

Trust staff and volunteers find teachers and classes of children in the heart of the worst areas of towns and cities, then take them to generous hosts who, at no charge, introduce them to their estates and, for many of them, their first experience of woodlands, farms and villages. Sue points out that demand exceeds the Trusts resources and efforts are currently being made to fund a programme for 2006-07. A new project has recently started in Norfolk and Suffolk to bring the programme to our doorstep.

"Let's do a little to help a few of those families less fortunate than us to appreciate basic things that we often take for granted," was Sue's plea to the club.

The suggestion from Phil Morgan involved the award of two scholarships of £1,000 each to be selected from entries to a Hanau-Orwell competition. Each student would be required to submit an entry consisting of two elements:

- (1) – in a prescribed medium, i.e. essay, poetry, pictorial, responding to a topic/question set by a managing Orwellian committee;
- (2) – how the student would use the award, comprising the subject matter and how the money would be used (not normal private school fees).

Applications, Phil suggested, would be sourced through local school in the age group 7-17.

Successful applicants would receive an advance payment, but would have to demonstrate the money was being put to good effect and in pursuit of the aims identified in their application. "This is a chance for the club to connect with young people, offers endless scope for development and engagement with our German colleagues," Phil concluded.

A fair amount of time was taken up to air views on the club's current venue at the Bistro on the Quay, and while it was unanimously agreed that the Bistro was a pleasant place to meet and top drawer in terms of food and value for money, the drawbacks were lack of space to allow for recruitment and no facilities available for socialising and a bar. President Eddie stressed that efforts were still being made to keep a look out for any suitable alternative in the Ipswich area, but so far this had proved fruitless. He reminded us that Ipswich East Rotary Club had been asked to vacate their Centre Spot venue at the football ground and were currently struggling to find an alternative. It was agreed to have our comments noted, while continuing to agree that if a suitable alternative to the Bistro came up it would be investigated.

Attendance issues were briefly discussed after Martin had pointed out some of the drawbacks with so-called honorary membership, and the fact that this was not an automatic option for members who found it impossible for various reasons to keep up their attendances. Martin reminded us about the 85-Year Rule, where if you added your age to the number of years you had been a Rotarian, it was possible to get round the attendance rule. President Eddie said this would be noted for future occasions.

It never hurts to occasionally remind members about their duties, and Martin usually does this with a great deal of tact and diplomacy. So you are reminded, once again, that incorrect notification of numbers for lunches causes problems for the caterers and may lead to members being disappointed in the choice of food. The message is: Tell the Attendance Officer if you have a change of plans.

Senior Vice President Phillip outlined for us some of the alternatives being considered to cover committee structures in the future. Phillip supplied all Rotarians present with a copy of suggested committee structures, and the subject will probably come up again later this year when Phillip approaches his presidency.

All club members have been notified of the main points

emerging from the recent district meeting to discuss guidelines for Rotary's future involvement with children and vulnerable adults such as our Arthritic Care Club commitments. Brian Beason stressed the importance of allowing schools with special needs, such as the Thomas Wolsey, to handle their own cover for children with Rotarians offering their back-up and support, while Malcolm Reece, pointed out that his own car insurance company had "noted" that he was a volunteer driver for arthritis care people. The insurance company said they would add a clause to his insurance policy and send him a copy for reference.

David Berridge asked the club to consider the annual workload to see if we were "stretching" ourselves too much by taking on too many commitments. Rather than have committees coming forward with too many events, he suggested it would be far better to have few events with "enablers" who would make sure the jobs got done. Agree on the function and find the right people at the beginning of each Rotary Year, he said.



## Opinion Poll

From Martin Hough

When we visit Hanau on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006, we want to take the club's recommendation for the £2000 joint community project, this year to be spent within the Ipswich community.

Those of you who attended the Forum evening will have heard presentations from Brian Beason, Sue Goddard, Tony Hill and Philip Morgan. If you were not there, Malcolm Reece has provided summaries above for information.

Please reply to Martin Hough, listing your preferences. They will be treated in confidence.

Project	Preference
Children's Hospice (Brian)	
County Trust (Sue)	
Families in Need (Tony)	
Scholarships (Philip)	

**Preference (mark 1, 2, 3, or 4)**

# Picture Gallery 1

Words & Pictures By Gordon Kember



*Two new members joined us this month. Here with President Eddie Marsh are new Rotarians Trevor Harris (right) and Tony Burrows (left). Trevor is MD of Harris Commercial Surveyors, with thirty-odd years of experience in his profession, and Tony is a retired postmaster and past national President of the Sub-Postmasters' Association. They are warmly welcomed into the club.*



*At our luncheon meeting on 15th March nursing sisters Julia Mayhew and Ann Oliver from Heath Road Hospital described the extensive range of optical and ophthalmic procedures and services that are provided at our local NHS Hospital.*



*On 1st March Community Service Chairperson Sandra Moore introduced ward sister Annie Porter, who spoke about the Ipswich-Beira Health Initiative. This charity from Ipswich Hospital under the leadership of Dr John Day provides practical assistance and training for medical students at the Catholic University of Mozambique and for the staff of the Central Hospital and community clinics in Beira.*



*District 1080 arranged a Training Day at Red Lodge, near Mildenhall, on Saturday 18th March to examine the regulations for the protection of children and vulnerable adults as they affect Rotary activities. Secretary Martin Hough is seen here with District Protection Office John Phillips (centre), and Terry Broom, SAFE Training Officer (in the splendid waistcoat). Both speakers produced valuable information which secretary Martin carried to the club's Forum held on 29th March at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club.*

## Inner Wheel Notes

By Pam Hill, Club Correspondent

March 15th was a busy day which started with President Anne, Janet and I attending the District Meeting at Soham. This was preceded by the annual Presidents' Lunch. At the meeting 27 clubs in our district were represented. Various items of business were discussed including motions to be put to the International Convention in New Zealand in April. There was also a talk about the charity Rainbow Trust-Africa.

In the evening we held our club business meeting and the following officers were elected for 2006/2007.

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| • President                | Bobbie Hopper  |
| • Vice President           | Elizabeth Cage |
| • Secretary                | Cathy Bolton   |
| • Minute Sec.              | Janet Firmin   |
| • Treasurer                | Pam Hill       |
| • Social/Programme         | Maggie Kember  |
| • Club Correspondent       | Ann Orvis      |
| • Past President/Extension | Anne Smith     |



Here are some dates for diary:

**Monday 1st May** - East Suffolk Mind Open Garden on Bank Holiday Monday (more details from me and/or at next meeting)

**Sunday 7th May** - Inner Wheel Walk further details and menu choices for Helmingham Hall at next meeting.

We were sorry to hear that Christine Mason is moving back to Leicestershire soon and may not be at the April meeting. We wish her well. She will be missed as an enthusiastic member of our club.

Also, Elizabeth announced that the club would now like numbers on a Friday before our meeting, so that

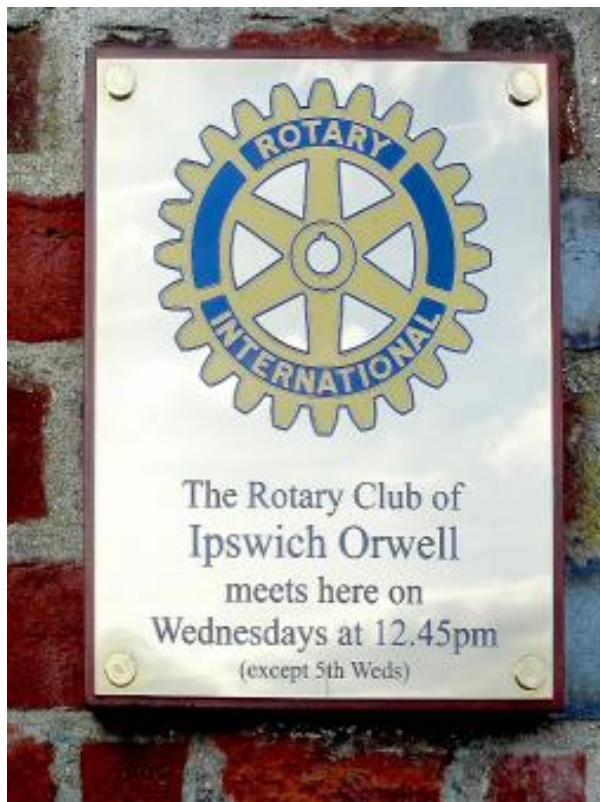
means please let Elizabeth know by FRIDAY 14th APRIL if you are unable to come to that meeting. Our speaker will be Richard Watson from MIND.

Raffle for April - Ann Orvis

■

## Picture Gallery 2

Words & Pictures By Gordon Kember



*Since the beginning of March the Ipswich waterfront has been graced by Ipswich Orwell's Rotary plaque adorning the Bistro on the Quay. It was commissioned by Rotarian Tony Hill and manufactured by a local firm, 'SIGN\*A\*RAMA'.*

## Minor Disruption

You might notice a few things moving about on our web-site, particularly the Orwell Newsletter archives. That's because we've run out of space on the web-site and I'm trying to free up some space.

Please let me know if this causes any problems.

Thanks.