



The Orwell Newsletter – August 2003

From The President's Desk

What an excellent start to the Year! The Jazz Day at Wenham was a delightful affair and, again, a superbly organised event thanks to Secretary Tony and his band of workers. My thanks to him, to Diana and Jonathan and to Sir Leslie for his generous co-operation. The budget was, give or take a bob or two, balanced for our funds already gifted to Polio Plus.

August is Membership Month, so in July we were able to welcome Martin Hough on his move from London to retire in Suffolk. An admirable geographical decision and even more discerning in his choice of Club. We wish many happy years amongst us and his talents in the Movement will no doubt be utilised. Only a short spell of relaxation will be permitted before his zeal will be called upon! We have one or two other prospective members and hopefully we will achieve our target of a further five before this Rotary Year comes to an end.

We must now put all our efforts in to making the Alton Water Walk successful. Sue is working hard to obtain walkers and we must back her and Brian's Committee in this project. If we all managed to find 4 walkers there would be over 100 taking part and the result, not only for charities generally but also for our own Rotary efforts would be cause for real celebration. Even if you cannot walk – find friends and acquaintances who will walk for you. We have about 6 or 7 weeks, plenty of time, to ensure success.

Please remember – the programmes, news and events, and other useful information are all on the Club's website. It's there – it's very good – USE IT!

Yours in Rotary, again

Derek

President's Profile

Born 1 November 1936. Educated in Clacton-on-Sea with a strong musical influence at school. Became a chorister at St. James Clacton at the tender age of 6½.

Having finished school I joined the Trustee Savings Bank at the age of 16 and was subsequently called up for National Service. I was fortunate in being able to choose my own posting and went to Hong Kong. There I was able to become a chorister in St. John's Cathedral. Two pleasant years in the Army Pay Corps and return to Blighty and to the TSB.

An invite came from Martins Bank and I worked for the next 13 years or so in Colchester and Lombard Street in London.

It was during my time with Martins that I met Janet and we were married at St James. Barclays Bank took over Martins in 1969 by which time our son Stephen was born in 1967 closely followed by Joanna in 1969. I transferred from Martins in Colchester to Barclays in Ipswich for a short spell before joining the Hastings & Thanet Building Society in Nottingham. I then returned to Ipswich to open a development Branch for the same society.

The society merged with the Anglia in 1975 and I moved across to Estate Agency, firstly in Burt St. Edmunds and then, again, started yet another business in Ipswich in Northgate Street. From there I joined another practise and then, finally, in my Estate Agency period I joined Carter Jonas.

My last six years or so were spent in practise management with Jackaman, Smith and Mulley and it was, undoubtedly, the most enjoyable occupation of my working life, which ended in retirement in November 2001.

I consider myself very fortunate to have a marvellous wife, two very successful children, Stephen a Partner in Jackamans and now married to Lene who is herself a lawyer. Daughter Joanna is now reading for a teaching degree in America and is married to Rick, the Deputy Fire Chief at Pittsburgh Airport. They have managed to produce two wonderful grandchildren for us, Stephie and Banks, who are both growing up like weeds.

I have been able to pursue my love of music – in particular church music – and I currently sing with St. Mary Le Tower in Ipswich, which has a very extensive repertoire in the cathedral style. As well as singing in Hong Kong I have also sung in Singapore, Cape Town and a number of cathedrals in England, including York and Canterbury. I have also sung in France and Germany on tour. I am proud to be an Associate Member of the Guild of Musicians and Singers and a Fellow of the Guild of St. Cecilia.

Apart from the music, I lose myself in DIY projects and am wending my way laboriously through a tome entitled "The 500 Best Beers in the World". Very fortunately I do not have to travel far to find the finest ale and sensibly I never drink alone.