



The Orwell Newsletter



The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

December 2007

From The President's Desk

Another busy month has flown by. It seems like only yesterday that I was saying, "It's too early to think about Christmas" and yet here it is on top of us all! I don't know about you but I really enjoy the Christmas period. I suppose it's the total acceptance by everyone that it is the "national chill out time" when everyone seems to accept that not much will happen except eating, drinking, sleeping and singing. I probably ought to be referring to a period of careful thought and quite reflection.

Over the last few weeks we had been treated to a number of excellent lunchtime presentations. Quite notable were Rtn Hugh Davies, the District Foundation Chairman, and Georgina Wilson and Danielle Whiting. Hugh Davies explained the work carried out at District in relation to Foundation and helped a number of us finally understand a little more clearly just what "Foundation" is about. Georgina and Danielle described the events of their recent work experience placement in Madurai Hospital in India and brought home to us the realities of medical care in that area.

Following their return from India, Georgina and Danielle have determined to raise sufficient funds (about £700) in order to buy an oxygen monitor for donation to Madurai Hospital. I would like to support this effort and I hope to

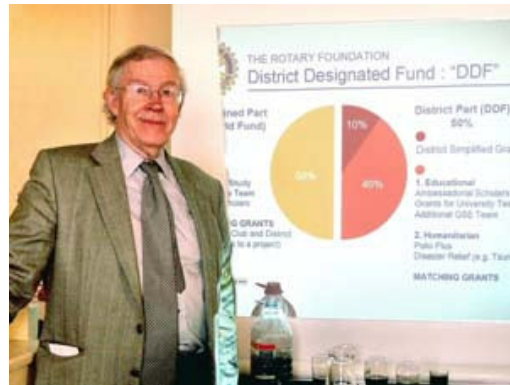
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District Foundation Committee Chairman

Words By Malcolm Reece

Picture by Gordon Kember

We were entertained at our club meeting on 21 November by the latest chairman of 1080's District Foundation Committee – Hugh Davies.



Hugh Davies, District Foundation Committee Chairman, provided a valuable overview of Foundation services on 21st November.

A member of Yarmouth Rotary Club, Hugh, unlike some of his predecessors, really did entertain us and took the trouble to set up a slide presentation to make sure we understood what was happening in Foundation at local and international level.

Hugh's links to the area go back many years to the days when he was serving with the RAF at HMS Ganges. It was during this period, he told us, that he was selected as an "extra" for the now world famous film "Yangtse Incident". Many of the scenes when the film was being made were shot on the River Orwell – hence the use of local extras.

Too much detail to elaborate on Foundation activities, but suffice to say that Hugh regards Ipswich Orwell as one of 1080's top clubs when it comes to foundation projects, including the all-important Matching and Simplified Grants.

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Seasons Greetings

From The President's Desk, continued from page 1

persuade Council to agree that our Club should make a donation to help their fund on the way.

I was very pleased to be able to attend the Arthritis Care Christmas Party on 7th December. Rotarians who provide regular transport and those who organise and assist at the Christmas event should have no doubt about just how much their efforts are appreciated. I would like to give a special mention and express my thanks on behalf of all the Club to Carol Lockett who shouldered the main responsibility (and the organisation) for this very successful event again this year.

Thanks also has to go to Bob Bacon for organising (again) a suburb Christmas Dinner celebration for our Club at the Ipswich Golf Club. We were treated to good food followed by cheerful carols to put us all firmly in the Christmas mood. I was very pleased to welcome Michael Nicholas as a guest and he certainly aided our enjoyment by producing the music for our carols on his keyboard. Not such a treat... was the eardrum damage caused by the duet sung by yours truly and David Berridge in a verse of "We Three Kings", but the sweet sound of soloists Tony Vincent and Malcolm Reece was a joy for all to behold.

Already we have to start thinking of 2008! The year begins with a visit from DG Howlett to our Club on Wednesday 2nd January (... all on best behaviour... I will dust down my best suit and tie). We hope to be able to arrange a Burns Night on 30th January (fifth Wednesday event). I'm sure we shall all have a lot of fun in 2008.

Don't forget we still have to think about our chosen joint project to organise with our Hanau friends. Thinking caps on.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours in Rotary,

Alan ❖

District Foundation Committee Chairman, continued from page 1

In the past, Orwell has taken advantage of Matching Grants and more recently the club used the Simplified Grant route to help pay for a special battery-operated wheelchair for our Arthritic Club members, which can be folded flat for easy transportation in a car of coach boot.

Finally, thank-you Hugh for taking the trouble to come and see us; it was a pleasure to see you.

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Feedback on Last Year

By Philip Morgan

Thanks in no small part to the efforts of Rotarians, Impact Foundation has been able to equip and re-launch the Lifeline Express hospital train in India, known as 'The Magic Train'. The re-launch of the new Lifeline Express means it will continue its life-transforming journey, providing free surgery and treatment to reverse disabling conditions for impoverished people in rural India.

Rotary has also donated and helped ship two Shelter Boxes being used in the Community Health Initiative run by Impact India in Maharashtra State. We can be proud that in our 2006/2007 year that our club was able to assist in small measure with the Lifeline Express project and also with Shelter Boxes.

On the subject of Shelter Boxes it is worthy of mention that by early December, over 1,000 had been sent to Bangladesh following it being hit recently by Cyclone Sidr. Each box with its 10 person tent, cooking equipment etc providing badly needed help to those who have suffered so much.

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A POSITIVE NOTE

FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL WEB-SITE

Thanks to a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant project totalling US\$4,000, three Brazilian public schools that serve children from poor areas of Rio de Janeiro enhanced their music programs. With the grant, German and Brazilian clubs purchased instruments to allow students the opportunity to

learn about music, while keeping them off the streets.

The three schools are using instruments purchased with a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Rio de Janeiro-Guanabara and Lohr Marktheidenfeld, Germany. The project benefits more than 2,000 young people from communities where drugs and violent crime are a daily reality. ■

Archaeology – Part 2

Words By Peter Hopper

Picture by Gordon Kember

“A frightening time,” was how Keith Wade described the massive developments currently being carried out around the Ipswich Waterfront...though he was looking at the many building projects from the perspective of an archeologist.

I considered that Keith’s talk to members, as Ipswich Council’s Archeological Services Manager was worthy of a second article because of what, for him and all those interested in the history of one of England’s oldest towns, earthly sites dating as far back as the seventh century are now being lost forever.



Keith Wade spoke on 7th November about recent important archaeological findings adjoining the Ipswich waterfront.

It was perhaps sad to hear MR Wade say: “In a year of two’s time there will be nothing left,” referring to the loss of the long buried evidence that could tell us more about the people who lived in the town centuries before us. Having developed an avid interest in social history myself, I empathized with his thinking.

Keith told us that in the 19th century, developers had their first “go” – a massive expansion of Ipswich, and then a second massive redevelopment was carried out in the 20th century, the foundations of which having destroyed what was there in terms of archaeological evidence. There was virtually nothing from these excavations in the town’s museum.

The waterfront buildings now being built also have massive foundations, so there would be only small amounts left from excavations. There was a once and for all chance of getting to grips with it. “Specific

interest really is the area from Stoke Bridge to St Mary Quay Church, because it was assumed that the Saxon waterfront stretched between those two places.

At the Cranfield’s dock site they had found, on the eastern side, a very large 15th century stone-built merchant’s house, dated around 1490 and built on the side of Bigod’s quay. “We haven’t found any trace of that period, which is amazing,” said Keith. “All we found was this house and then, to the side of that, a large area of intact timber deposits down at around two-and-a-half metres.”

The other thing that came out of Cranfields was the brook that ran down Brook Street and originally emptied out into the estuary at that point. The lower part of that channel was full of peat which dated back to the Roman period.

The big site still to be excavated is the St Peter Port development between St Peter’s Church and St Mary’s. A very important site in archaeological terms, not only has it got the massive St Peter’s Church, the only church in Ipswich which could have Saxon remains relating to it, but there were the medieval priories of St Peter and St Paul, also Wolsey’s College, with its massive walls and two Friends’ meeting houses with some 500 burials associated with them.. In total, there were upwards of one thousand burials on the whole site.

“I get this rumour going around, which is quite true, that we think it’s going to cost upwards of £2 million to excavate that site and publish the findings .” said Mr. Wade. That’s true, and that’s the amount agreed.” The good thing was that developers were obliged to allow the excavations, under the planning consent, and it was paid for.

“We are actually at a point where developers can afford that cost...one of the reasons that the development is has to be such large scale there is that the figures don’t add up otherwise. You can’t put smaller scale developments on that sort of site; they are very expensive to develop for all sorts of reasons.

“We are about third to half way through a very exciting phase, where we are learning an awful lot about the waterfront and its Saxon origins,” Mr. Wade added.

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Age Concern

Words by Peter Hopper

Picture by Gordon Kember

What surprised most of us about Age Concern Suffolk was the size of what is after all a local charity, as indicated by three significant statistics: a staff of 450, 750-800 volunteer helpers and an annual turnover of £3.6 million.

The information was provided at a lunchtime meeting by the charity's Chief Executive, Daphne Savage, who told members that she was giving the talk because other members of her team found that speaking to Rotarians was "scary." I wonder why?



Daphne Savage on 14 November told us of the valuable help provided by Age Concern despite reductions in government funding.

Daphne said the fact that expenditure was larger than the income was part of the life of charities, "particularly charities in the business we're in, like the St Elizabeth Hospice, like Suffolk Family Carers and the disability charities...we are all in the business of delivering services that previously had been perhaps public services."

Following reductions in funding, and they could never work out whether it was the Government's fault or the fault of the County Council's – each blamed the other depending on who they talked to – there had been a significant reduction in the sort of funding what could be labeled social care or community support services.

Daphne said Age Concern's chairman had reported on a

very depressing year as a result of these reductions, and they had had to make some hard decisions about downsizing and trying to reduce in the way which had the minimum impact on the most important people, the older people in Suffolk, whom they served and supported.

"Some things we couldn't do anything about, so here in Ipswich, for our long-standing Access Team, a team of professional social workers and nurses and others who supported those with dementia in the borough, their funding was completely cut, also for its partner team in the rural north-east part of Suffolk.

"Unfortunately with all the best will of the social care teams that belong to the County Council and who have huge numbers on their caseloads, families are finding that they not getting the support they used to get, and I feel very passionate about people with dementia and about what it is perhaps the hardest caring of all."

"If you are caring for people who are physically disabled, they still know who you are, you still have some kind of relationship, but if you are caring for someone with dementia, as they lose their cognitive abilities and also lose their memory, people lose touch with who they are"

"You might be married to the person for whom you are caring for 50 or 60 years, but if that person doesn't actually know who you are and why you are in the house, they find that quite threatening because they don't know why you should be there. That is a devastating form of caring that families have to do."

Daphne was thanked by Peter Smith. ■

A Little More On Age Concern

By Malcolm Reece

Sooner or later, whether young or old, you will find a need to call on the services of Age Concern. It may be just for advice, but the chances are that Age Concern, being "experts" in so many fields of our daily lives, will offer more.

Daphne Savage gave us a brief insight into the current workings of the organisation in Suffolk, and the strong message coming through to us was that Age Concern is regularly finding it a struggle to make ends meet and constantly needs our support – particularly financially.

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Inner Wheel Notes

By Ann Orvis, Club Correspondent

Pictures by Pam Hill

As mentioned in last months notes, we welcomed partners to our meeting on 21st November. We were very pleased that several came and a really enjoyable evening was had by all.



Our guest speaker was Captain Barry Humphries from the Army Air Corp at Wattisham Airfield. Captain Humphries is an excellent speaker who told us about the work of the Army Air Corp in Afghanistan, and in particular about the efficiencies of the Apache helicopter. This helicopter is the best in the world for its purpose, which is heavy attack. He told us about its impressive safety record and the fact that it is totally crash resistant. He said it is possible for any ambitious young person, given the appropriate training and encouragement, to become an apache pilot.

Apart from the desolate war zones, Captain Humphries assured us that Afghanistan is a fascinating place with some areas of outstanding beauty. It also has a great history. After his presentation, a question and answer session was held. The situation in Afghanistan was also discussed and people were encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions.

At the end of the evening and on behalf of us all, President Elizabeth thanked Captain Humphries for his excellent and informative talk. It was a privilege to hear this first-hand account of events taking place in Afghanistan.

Our Christmas dinner, which will be a three course meal this year, will be held on Wednesday 19th December. Best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas.

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A Little More on Age Concern, continued from page 4

Recent County Council cut-backs had meant several areas where they had been receiving financial support had been axed and this, said Daphne, had meant cut-backs in their own working arrangements.

But in spite of these difficulties the organisation continues to give a wonderful service to the community in so many ways. As Daphne pointed out, many people were not getting the care they deserved and this was because of the need for “down sizing” in many areas.

“We find that many families with problems have no idea where to go to get help and support. This is an issue we come across quite often and many of them are quite relieved when we offer to help,” Daphne explained. “In the past couple of years, for example, we have managed to get about £3 million in extra benefits – and we have done it far quicker than many of the government departments.”

If the response from members was a pointer, it would not be surprising if fund-raising for Age Concern found its way onto our agenda in the not too distant future.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

DECEMBER 2007 FAMILY MONTH

WEDNESDAY 19TH
12.55 pm. Christmas Lunch, Bistro On The Quay

WEDNESDAY 26TH
NO LUNCH - HAPPY CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 2008 ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

WEDNESDAY 2ND
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: tbc

WEDNESDAY 9TH
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: tbc

THURSDAY 10TH
Club Service Committee

THURSDAY 15TH
Club Council

WEDNESDAY 16TH
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: tbc

WEDNESDAY 23RD
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Business Meeting/Fellowship

THURSDAY 24TH
Kingpin Challenge / District Council

WEDNESDAY 30TH
NO LUNCH - Fifth Wednesday

FEBRUARY 2008 INTERNATIONAL MONTH

WEDNESDAY 6TH
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Int. Speaker: tbc

WEDNESDAY 13TH
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Int. Speaker: tbc

THURSDAY 14TH
Club Service Committee

TUESDAY 19TH
Club Council

WEDNESDAY 20TH
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Int. Speaker: tbc
Saturday 23rd World Understanding and Peace Day

WEDNESDAY 27TH
12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Business Meeting/Fellowship



"OUR SINCERE THANKS GO TO EVERYONE AT SUFFOLK FOOD HALL AND TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE FESTIVE EVENING. AS A RESULT OF YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS A GRAND TOTAL OF £1538.85 WAS RAISED AND DONATED TO THE HOSPICE. AND WE ALL HAD A MARVELLOUS EVENING AS WELL!"The Hospice Team



CONGRATULATIONS!

THE SUFFOLK FOOD HALL CHRISTMAS QUIZ WINNER 2007 WAS DIANA SEGAL OF IPSWICH WITH 29 CORRECT ANSWERS!

Picture Gallery – From Alton Water Challenge, 7th October 2007

Pictures by Gordon Kember



Derek Firmin, Frank Ponniah and Brian Beason were comfortably seated at the Alton Water Experience on 7th October.



A happy pair on the Alton Walk, Gunila Mottram and Mags Kember return to base.



JVP Carol Lockett's supporters - her son Ben and husband Simon Green completed two circuits around Alton Water by cycle.



President Alan Page managed to complete the course with the support of his wife Susan

NEXT EDITION OF THE ORWELL NEWSLETTER

Please note that there will not be an issue of the newsletter in January. The next edition will be in **February 2008**, scheduled for release on Wednesday 6/2/08