

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

January/February 2006

From The President's Desk

So the great festive season is now in the past but what a full and enjoyable time it was within the Club.

Andrew Dotchin got us all in the mood with his 'Celebration of Christmas' at Whitton Church, a new and different event in the Club's calendar, and one that I suspect will become a regular feature for many years to come.

Bob Bacon can take a lot of credit for an excellent evening Christmas Dinner at Purdis Golf Club, I only hope it was not his tough negotiating stance that tipped the catering company that night into receivership a few weeks later.

Our host at the Bistro on the Quay provided a Christmas lunchtime special which was much appreciated by us all, that occasion also provided us with an opportunity to thank the management and staff for the superb hospitality and service they have provided for us during the year.

The 'Light up a Life' service at St Mary-Le-Tower was a very moving service for those who attended, another of those events that have become a regular part of the Clubs Christmas calendar.

In addition to the above we have had a string of excellent speakers at our lunchtime meetings giving forth on a variety of subjects you will recall:

- Mike Cook - Planning Application

continued on page 2

A Doctor Tells Us About His Tsunami Work In Sri Lanka

By Malcolm Reece

Picture By Gordon Kember

We were heading for the Boxing Day and first anniversary of the Asian Tsunami when Dr. Allan Ponniah had lunch with us at the Bistro on December 14th, and by the time we had said our goodbyes to him after the meal we knew a lot more about the man and his medical and humane skills.



Dr Allan Ponniah speaking about his experiences

To put the situation in its right perspective, David Berridge appealed to club members a few days after the Tsunami disaster for funding to send Dr. Ponniah to Sri Lanka – one of the worst-hit areas and where his skills would be urgently required.

His experiences in the disaster areas of Sri Lanka and his examples of the many ways he was able to help, were related by him in a short talk to us, graphically illustrated by slides. All of us witnessed the disaster through television reports and film, but Dr Ponniah's pictures which included some of the people he was able to help, seemed to put a more personal touch on the tragedy. It made us realise just how important

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From The Presidents Desk
- 1 Tsunami Lunch Talk
- 3 Calendar Of Events
- 4 Picture Gallery
- 5 A Christmas Celebration
- 6 Inner Wheel Notes

- Dr Paniah - Sri Lanka
- Hamil Clarke - ISCRE
- Brian Ralph - 'Those That Can Do'
- Frank Grace - Rags & Bones

The presentation styles varied greatly but the content was always informative and interesting.

And then there was District Council!!

On Thursday 19th January Martin Hough and I attended the District Council meeting at Mildenhall, on your behalf, whilst recognising the need for the dissemination of information and the opportunity for fellowship, I do question viability and costs involved in transportation, peoples time etc. of bringing all those people, there must have been 100 delegates, all that way to vote on what seem in the broader picture, appear to be, relatively minor issues.

Finally, our gallant quiz team took part in the District final on Friday 20th January, we may not have won any prizes but they where by far the best-supported team.

The present format of the quiz may not provide the greatest spectator sport but we all had a good time. Better luck next year.

Yours in Rotary,

Eddie ❖

Forthcoming Events

Find Fun Quiz

On Friday 10th March 2006, at 7:00pm at the Garatt Memorial Hall in Bolton Lane, Ipswich Orwell Rotary, Inner Wheel and FIND are putting on a fun quiz and sausage supper in aid of the "Families in Need" charity. It would be great if any of you could muster a team of 4 or 6 and support this brilliant event. Quiz and supper tickets are £7 and are available from Tony Hill.

Race Night

Ipswich Orwell Rotary and Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Clubs are holding a joint fun race night and supper on 8th April 2006 at the ferry. First race at 7:30pm. All members are implored to support this event and to bring their chums. Proceeds are to be shared equally by the promoters. Admission and supper tickets are £10 and are available from Tony Hill. ■

skilled medical people are at a time like this.

Dr Ponniah, who qualified as a doctor at St George's Hospital, London, in 2000 and is currently working as a trainee surgeon, reminded us that the devastation in Asia killed 5,000, made 500,000 homeless and destroyed the livelihoods of thousands of survivors. And it was into this chaos and devastation that Allan Ponniah found himself shortly after the Tsunami.

"I wanted to help as many people as I could," he told us, explaining that following discussions with friends in Sri Lanka he was able to get to many of the remote areas where his medical skills were most needed. His helping hands included performing several minor procedures and he instanced a young boy who escaped the flood by sheltering in a tree but later broke a leg when he fell to the ground. A plate was put into the leg but because of poor facilities the wound area was badly infected. Dr Ponniah was able to give him anti-biotics to fight the infection.

Medicines, including vital anti biotics were mainly supplied by the United States and Singapore, and these vital supplies, he said, were instrumental in saving many lives. He stressed that, a year on, the priorities now were new housing and regaining livelihoods, particularly repairing and providing boats for the fishermen.

Dr Ponniah, whose family live in Ipswich and was accompanied at our lunch by his father Frank, is currently working on research into facial deformities at Great Ormond Street Hospital. He was thanked a little prematurely (but with great sincerity) by Peter Townley, who dashed off early to attend a carol service. "I think you make a big difference to people's lives, and we are fortunate to have you in our community," Peter told him.... ■

Earthquake Relief Aid Update

From Allan Wiseman of Maldon Rotary Club
A third load of relief items was despatched to Stansted Airport and flown out on Friday 9th December.

We would like to thank the Ipswich Orwell Club for their support, if we have missed out any other club we sincerely apologise. Once again many thanks to all the clubs who have supported this wonderful effort.

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The Invasion Of Germany

From Bob Fox

Our next visit to Hanau is taking place from June 1st to June 4th 2006.

I have booked 25 seats so far and those concerned have been notified.

We are due to depart Stansted at 15-35 on June 1st, and return to Stansted at 18-30 on June 4th.

Nearer the time I will arrange Coach Transfers to and from Stansted, and advise you all of the arrangements and programme when they are to hand.

In the mean time please ensure your passports are up to date, and don't forget Travel insurance as required.

Flights are still available at £53-40 as of Jan 3rd, but they do tend to rise as time goes on.... ■

Light Up a Life Service

By Malcolm Reece

St Mary le Tower Church was filled to capacity on the Sunday before Christmas for the annual Light up a Life service organised by St Elizabeth Hospice.

In keeping with a tradition established several years ago, members of Ipswich Orwell attended to hand out service sheets and candles and help with a collection for the Hospice. Representing the club were President Eddie Marsh, Brian Beason, Peter Hopper, Gordon Kember, accompanied by Maggie, Peter Smith, and Malcolm Reece.

St Elizabeth Hospice chaplain, Rev. Dr Marian Carter, welcomed people to church and led the special service, which included readings by Mr Nicholas Ridley, chairman of the trustees, and Mr David Bird, a trustee and chaplaincy volunteer.

The Co-op Singers, accompanied by Douglas Betts and Susan Matthews, sang "Light a Candle" before the lighting of the tree and prayers. The Bishop of Dunwich, Rt Rev Clive Young, was unwell and unable to attend.

St Elizabeth Hospice expressed thanks to all who helped with supplying, erecting and decorating trees in Ipswich, Stowmarket, Framlingham, Eye and Felixstowe, and all those who attended the St Mary le Tower service.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

FEBRUARY 2006 WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH

WEDNESDAY 1ST

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + International Speaker: Andrew Dotchin, "South Africa: Past and Future"

WEDNESDAY 8TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + International Speaker: Ugur Vata, "Settling in"

TUESDAY 14TH

Club Service

WEDNESDAY 15TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + International speaker: Miquez Roca – "Mozambique"

TUESDAY 21ST

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 22ND

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Business /Fellowship lunch

THURSDAY 23RD

International Meal at Trongs – see flyer on page 4

MARCH 2006

WEDNESDAY 1ST

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Community Service speaker: Annie Porter – "Beira Healthcare Initiative"

WEDNESDAY 8TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Community Service speaker: Jean Lark – "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People"

FRIDAY 10TH

"F I N D FUN QUIZ" Joint evening meeting and supper with Inner Wheel & F I N D at St Margarets Church Hall

TUESDAY 14TH

Club Service

WEDNESDAY 15TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Community Service speaker: TBA – "Changes in Ophthalmology"

SATURDAY 18TH

District PETS at Mildenhall

Calendar Of Events, continued on page 4

Picture Gallery

Words and Picture By Gordon Kember



On 18th January 2006 Rotarian David Lowe greeted an old friend, Frank Grace, who spoke about his recently published book "Rags and Bones", which describes the life of the poor in Ipswich in the late 19th Century.

We enjoyed the Christmas party with the Arthritis Care group on 2nd December 2005



President Eddie Marsh and Fred Everitt expressed seasonal greetings and other nice sentiments to themselves and their supporters.

Calendar Of Events, continued from page 3

TUESDAY 21ST

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 22ND

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Business / Fellowship

WEDNESDAY 29TH

Evening "Members' Forum" at Ipswich & Suffolk Club

JUNE 2006 ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

THURSDAY 1ST - SUNDAY 4TH

Visit to Hanau-Maintal RC

THURSDAY 8TH

Evening meeting – Club Assembly at Ipswich & Suffolk Club



Carol Lockett and her team generously provided and served the Christmas fare - and did the washing up.



Kathleen Harris, an accomplished pianist and accompanist, provided the music for a jolly session of community singing.

A Christmas Celebration



Our club's very successful recent event at Whitton Church raised £1047 for Macmillan Cancer Relief. Mrs Doris Brynley-Jones, Macmillan's Ipswich Committee Chairman, looks delighted as Past President Alan Lonsdale hands over the proceeds at lunch on the 4th January.

Event Organiser: Rtn Tony Hill

18 December 2005

Dear President Eddie and Orwell Rotarians

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION at St MARY and St BOTOLPH WHITTON: 16 DEC 2005

I write on behalf of the organising committee to thank you for your part in making this charity fund-raising event such a success. The day was jointly organised by the parish of St Mary and St Botolph, Macmillan Cancer Relief's Ipswich Committee and the Rotary Club of Ipswich Orwell. I'm

pleased to report that a little over £1000 was raised for Macmillan C R to help people living with cancer.

The event got off to a good start with a lunchtime meal and wreath-making workshop held in the parish hall; this was arranged and performed by two members of Macmillan's Ipswich Committee, Andrea Clark and Shirley Ingham.

The evening carol service in the beautifully decorated and candle lit church was deftly led by Rotarian Rev Andrew Dotchin, ably assisted by two young soloists, members of the choir and organist John Burggy. The Lessons were thoughtfully read by the mayor of Ipswich, Councillor Bill Wright, Mary Sokanovic and Angela Parabij (representing the parish), Diana Hunt and Doris Brynley-Jones (representing Macmillan) and Rotarian Eddie Marsh (President of the Ipswich Orwell Rotary Club). Our friends Ray Condon and Stella Saunders very kindly helped to organise the congregation of more than a hundred supporters, and Rotarians Carol Lockett, Sandra Moore, Peter Smith and Bob Fox oversaw the bountiful collection.

After the concert, light refreshments were served in the Parish Hall by courtesy of friends and committee members of Macmillan. There was also a chance to browse through the selection of lovely gifts on display and to buy a last minute Christmas present; free advice on computer problems was also on offer. A raffle for prizes generously donated by friends and members of the Macmillan committee and the Rotary Club brought the very successful proceedings to a close.

The organising committee, (Andrew Dotchin, Pam Pace, Gail Morgans and Tony Hill), sends profuse thanks to everyone who helped to make the event so enjoyable and rewarding, particularly the Parish of St Mary and St Botolph for being such kind and generous hosts.

Best wishes,
Yours truly,

Tony
Rotarian Tony Hill



IPSWICH ORWELL ROTARY CLUB presents:

'AN EVENING WITH PHILIP TRONG'

at TRONG'S RESTAURANT 23 St Nicholas St Ipswich
Thursday 23rd February 2006 at 7.30 pm Cost £19 pp

For your pleasure we offer:

A TALK - "MY LIFE AS A RESTAURATEUR"

A DELICIOUS CHINESE FEAST

A PRIZE RAFFLE IN AID OF PHILIP'S CHOSEN CHILDREN'S CHARITY AT IPSWICH HOSPITAL

Guests are welcome but space is limited so please let Peter Smith know your seating requirements by 8th February at the latest!

Inner Wheel Notes

By Pam Hill, Club Correspondent

The Ipswich & Suffolk Club looked very festive when we gathered for our Christmas dinner on 21st December.



Our speaker was Jenny Towell on "Morocco, Food and Other Experiences". A presentation of colourful pictures accompanied the talk and we were transported to a country of sunshine and warmth. This was quite a contrast to the grey skies and cold damp weather we usually have at this time of year!



Our January business meeting was attended by District Chairman Jill Sallis. She spoke about her life in Inner Wheel and her love of sailing. RYA Sailability, which is her charity for the year, gives opportunities for disabled people to enjoy a boating experience. As her surname Sallis is derived from the word Salix the willow, Jill likened an Inner Wheel Club to a tree. The founder members are the roots, the trunk is the club itself and the branches are the members and council. There may also be twigs; new members, and fruits; social and fundraising events. A plate which showed several views of Ipswich was presented to Jill Sallis as a gift from the club. Then on to business, and President Anne made quick work of all the resolutions that needed to be put to the club in time for the International Inner Wheel Convention in New Zealand in May. There was a lively discussion about who should be eligible to join IW. Secretary Janet was kept busy recording votes for and against various categories. It was all handled very smoothly and a late evening was avoided!



At the February meeting on Wednesday the 15th, Jane Leeburn will be speaking on "Colour Analysis". One lucky member will be able to have her colours done that evening. We will also need to discuss further the Quiz Evening on Friday March 10th. It is to be an Inner Wheel joint fund-raising event with Rotary and FIND. Please let Elizabeth know by Sunday the 12th if you are unable to attend... ■

Lent Lectures Being Held At St. Mary-Le-Tower Church, Ipswich

A Series of Friday Lunchtime Addresses at 1p.m. Light lunch from 12.15p.m. "It Affects Our Lives"

- 3rd March "Our Town" - James Hehir, Chief Executive, Ipswich Borough Council
- 10th March "Health" - Dr. Brian Keeble, Director of Public Health, Ipswich Primary Care Trust
- 17th March "The Law" - H.H. Judge John Devaux, Honorary Recorder of Ipswich
- 24 March "Education" - Neil Watts, Head of Northgate High School, Ipswich
- 31st March "The Countryside" - John Kerr DL, Farmer and former High Sheriff of Suffolk
- 7th April "God" - Professor Ann Loades, University of Durham
- Good Friday Devotion - Noon to 3p.m. 14th April - The Venerable Geoffrey Arrand, Archdeacon of Suffolk