

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

January 2005

From The President's Desk

In football parlance it is almost half time in the Rotary year, the first half was a bit of a roller coaster I will try and do things better in the second half.

In December we were fortunate to have two excellent speakers Ken Seager District Fire Officer who spoke highly of the warm hands of Gordon Kember, and Neil Watts Head of Northgate School, they both gave an insight into the changes they have experienced in their careers.

December also saw the Arthritis Care Party, and Malcolm reported the event in the last newsletter, I would just like to add my thanks to all those who attended and assisted, with special thanks to Malcolm, Gordon, Carol and Carol's son Ben who like everybody else worked hard and ran an excellent raffle.

In anticipation of our first meeting at the Bistro On The Quay we held a photo shoot on the 15th of December at the Marina.

It took the form of Eddie Marsh and I reporting to Alan Swann's office at the Neptune Marina, where we were kitted up with our life jackets. Leaving the office we joined our vessel, which was laying alongside.

Accompanied by two crew members we set sail. With Eddie and I standing at the bow it was reminiscent of Leonardo Di Caprio and Kate Winslet from the film Titanic albeit on a smaller scale.

On arriving at the quay alongside the Bistro, Eddie

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Loved Ones Remembered At Light Up A Life Service

By Malcolm Reece

A warm and welcoming St. Mary le Tower Church was the meeting point for a large number of Ipswich people on December 19, who came together to remember loved ones at the annual Light Up A Life service.

St Elizabeth Hospice received strong support from the local community, and expressed thanks after the service to all those who helped with supplying, erecting and decorating the Hospice's tree in Ipswich; also trees in Stowmarket, Felixstowe, Framlingham and Eye.

Special thanks also went to members of Tower Church, The Co-op Singers and Ipswich Orwell Rotary Club. President Alan, supported by Peter Hopper, Peter Smith, Brian Beason and Malcolm Reece, helped in the distribution of service sheets and candles.

The Rev Marian Carter, Chaplain St Elizabeth Hospice, led the service, and the Rt Rev Clive Young, Bishop of Dunwich, gave the blessings. The reading was given by Nicholas Ridley, Chairman of the Trustees. ■



Further pictures from the ceremonial visit to the Bistro On The Quay are available on the club web-site:

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/news/bistroquay.htm

From The President's Desk, continued from page 1

forgot the maritime law of women and children first and athletically leapt ashore. In trying to emulate the feat I managed to come ashore like a beached whale, however we were given a warm welcome by Rotarians and representatives of the Bistro assembled on the quay.

Through David Berridge's charm, a photographer from the EADT was present and hopefully we will have some publicity in the New Year.

Thanks to Bob Bacon the Christmas party was enjoyed by all, so thank you Bob.

Last but not least may I wish you and your families a Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.

Yours in Rotary,

Alan ❖

TSUNAMI CHARITY BOWL

Thursday 20th January 2005, 6:00pm and 7:00pm
Kingpin Bowling Centre, Martlesham Heath.

A fund raising 'charity bowl' is being held at Kingpin on 20th January. The facilities will be completely free of charge so that every penny raised by bowlers' sponsorship will go to the Disaster fund. The aim is to get 40 teams of six to participate, each person aiming to obtain sponsorship of £100 by means of 10p for every pin knocked down. This could multiply up to £24,000 providing that 40 teams can be found. If you could help, via a work, family or friends team, maximum potential might be achieved.

To enter a team telephone Kingpin on 01473 611111. Kingpin will provide all sponsorship forms. If you would like to participate but are unable to organise a team, Kingpin will allocate a space within a "house team".

All Proceeds To: Disaster Emergency Committee



A Rotary Shelter Box In Sri Lanka

Rotary Aid Reaches Sri Lanka

From RIBI News

Rotary Clubs in GB and Ireland have responded to the Asian Tsunami disaster by raising funds for Shelterboxes and Aquaboxes, in response to requests from Rotary Clubs in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India.

800 Aquaboxes and 500 Shelterboxes have been shipped to India and Sri Lanka in the last week to provide temporary homes and clean water for 10,000 victims of the Asian Tsunami.

Rotary Clubs had raised more than £500,000 in the first week for these boxes and further shipments of Aquaboxes and Shelterboxes are planned. This figure does not include funds collected during Saturday's Rotary Tsunami Disaster Collection Day.

Rotary Clubs have been working to arrange free transport of the emergency boxes and have co-ordinated approaches to airlines and the military for help, including Trans-Global International, Virgin Atlantic, Sri Lankan Freight and the Indian Air Force.

Gordon McInally, President RIBI said "The earthquake and subsequent Tsunami is arguably, the greatest natural disaster to befall our planet in the one hundred years of Rotary's existence. Many Rotarians have been affected by the disaster, both in the area involved and also here within Great Britain and Ireland, where Rotarians have lost family and friends. The response to the disaster by Rotarians has been phenomenal - hundreds of Rotary Clubs have held collections in shopping centres, at motorway service stations and at sports stadiums."

He added: "The public response has been incredible and thousands of pounds have been raised, thanks to the generosity of the public and to the generosity of Rotarians and their families and friends in giving time to collect that money. Perhaps more importantly a great deal of tangible aid has already gone to the disaster area in the shape of Rotary Shelter Boxes and Rotary Aquaboxes providing essential shelter and clean water.

"The need however remains immense and Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland has designated Saturday January 8th 2005 'Rotary Tsunami Disaster Collection Day' when Rotary Clubs will organise further fund raising."

INNER WHEEL NOTES

BY PAM HILL, CLUB CORRESPONDENT

We held our annual Christmas Dinner on the 15th December at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club. Everyone was colourfully dressed to add an exotic touch to the evening. Our president Elizabeth entered into the spirit of the event. She is shown here with the speaker Aravis - Story Teller.



Mention should also be made of Moira Townley's wonderful costume.



In a change from turkey, we enjoyed a meal of Mediterranean chicken with North African touches. Elizabeth made baklava pastries and brought genuine Turkish delight back from a recent holiday. Janet's delicious mince pies completed the feast. After a jolly raffle (Anne Smith was again the top raffle ticket seller!) for which we raised money for the renal unit at Ipswich

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

JANUARY 2005

TUESDAY 11TH

5.45pm. Club Council meeting

WEDNESDAY 12TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

WEDNESDAY 19TH

12.55 pm. Business Meeting

THURSDAY 20TH

6.00 pm and 7.00pm. "Charity Bowl", Kingpin Bowling Centre, Martlesham Heath. See page 2, above, for further details.

WEDNESDAY 26TH

1 12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

FEBRUARY 2005

WEDNESDAY 2ND

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Canon Sally Fogden, MBE, Diocesan Agricultural Chaplain, Farm Africa.

WEDNESDAY 9TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Judge John Devaux, Honorary Recorder of Ipswich, "Romania".

TUESDAY 15TH

5.45pm. Club Council meeting

WEDNESDAY 16TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

WEDNESDAY 23RD

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

SUNDAY 27TH

Centenary Service at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

WEDNESDAY 30TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

Calendar Of Events, continued on page 4

Hospital, we all departed for Christmas and New Year festivities.

The January meeting is on the 19th when we will have a visit from our District Chairman Margaret Barbour, and we are hoping for a good turnout. Please send apologies to me by Sunday the 16th if you are unable to attend.

■

The Changing Face of Education

By Malcolm Reece

The key to whatever you do in life is to do it well, and one person we know living up to this high ethic is Neil Watts, head of Northgate School, who passed on some of his thoughts on education at our lunch on December 8th.

Neil, who early in his address got the full sympathy of club members by admitting he was a Rochdale supporter – a first for the club – trained to be a teacher in the seventies when teaching was a very different occupation. Head teachers were headmasters or mistresses; even JPs. And they attended religious assemblies in gowns.

“As Gilbert and Sullivan said, I am now the very image of a Major General, and at Northgate I am Chief Executive,” he said. “Our annual turnover is £7 million, we have capital spending of £35 million and employ 185 people.”

The school had a board of directors; the results were published annually and were a source of great interest, and they were inspected every few years. If the report following the inspection was not good, there was nowhere to hide because it was available to all the parents.

Neil admitted that he lived in Stowmarket and worked in Ipswich because there were times when he needed to get away. “I have got used to taking my wife for a romantic dinner and finding most of the sixth form in Emphasising how times have changed at Northgate, he recalled that when he became head 16 years ago, his first annual budget was £50,000; now it was £7 million. Many of the changes at the school over the years had improved the staff and sharpened them up. And yes, I did believe standards had improved, he said.

“What has also changed is the society in which we live. We respect authority less and we challenge more.”

Neil adds that one of the most depressing things in his life is to lose a good member of staff. “But I have now got the best staff we have ever had. Over the years the job has become more difficult and families realise it is not easy. On the plus side, when ex-students come up to you and say what they are doing now, you glow. It is what makes a teacher’s job worth while.” ■

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MARCH 2005

WEDNESDAY 2ND

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

WEDNESDAY 9TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

TUESDAY 15TH

5.45 pm. Club Council.

WEDNESDAY 16TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

WEDNESDAY 23RD

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Lynne Eley from the Disabled Advice Bureau in Ipswich.

WEDNESDAY 30TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: TBA

WEDNESDAY 30TH TO THURSDAY 31ST

RIBI President visits District 1080

MAY 2005

SATURDAY 7TH

District Assembly

THURSDAY 12TH TO SUNDAY 15TH.

Rotary Club of Hanau-Maintal Visit To Ipswich

Centennial News

There’s now less than a month until the Rotary Centennial on 23rd February 2005.

Did you know that astronaut Buzz Aldrin was a member of the Rotary Club of Space Center (Houston)? Do you know who the “fifth” Rotarian was? If not, why not try the “Test Of Your Rotary Knowledge”. As preparations continue for the 2004-05 Rotary Centennial year, a visual tool to help celebrate Rotary’s history is available on the Rotary International web-site in the form of PowerPoint presentations. These presentations are designed especially for Rotary’s centennial celebration, featuring historical photos that highlight the themes and contributions of Rotary leadership.

A new PowerPoint presentation will be added each month to the Rotary Centennial site, through to June 2005.

Why not have a look? Spotlight presentations are available at: www.rotary.org/centennial/spotlight

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