

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

July/August 2006

From The President's Desk

My presidential year is over and I can retire to the rank and file of the backbenches to become again a humble foot soldier.

It has indeed been a privilege and pleasure to have been your president for the last year, Rita and I will no doubt reminisce for many years to come, remembering all the occasions and events that have been organised and passed off so successfully.

This last month has been pleasantly hectic.

The trip to visit friends in Hanau Maintal will be covered in great detail further in this issue but for me the trip certainly posed the biggest challenge of the year but in the event undoubtedly brought the biggest reward. I can still hear the noise and laughter that accompanied the final formal dinner. What fun was had!!

Throughout the trip we could not have been entertained more hospitably, it can be said without fear of contradiction that the relationships between both our clubs and individuals members has been further enhanced.

All good things come to an end and nothing could quite so effective in bring one back to reality than attending District Council at Mildenhall, the contrast in events could not be greater.

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Presidential Handover

Words by Malcolm Reece,
Pictures by Gordon Kember

Helmingham Hall's magnificent grounds were the setting this year for the club's presidential handover, and if you weren't there you missed a treat.

Just for a minute, forget Rotarians and their regalia and picture the setting. On a beautiful summer's eve we gathered ourselves together at the Coach House, drank a few beers or a glass of wine and watched the sun set over the Deer Park. And handover was almost an interruption.



Outgoing president Eddie Marsh expressed his pleasure and relief on handing over the presidential chain of office to Philip Morgan, the incoming president for 2006-2007

However, chains of office had to be swapped and club traditions eventually shone through as retiring president Eddie Marsh, with a smile of relief on his face, handed over the "burden" for the next 12 months to incoming president Philip Morgan, who in turn installed Alan Page as senior vice-president. Not forgetting, of course, a bouquet of flowers for Rita Marsh, presented by Philip's wife Susan. Eddie and Rita were obviously delighted with the end of the Rotary year gift from the club of a cut glass port decanter, presented by Philip.

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Club Assembly was Philips chance to layout the format for next year and to introduce his new team, this was achieved in much style.

It was a pleasure to entertain Karen Pickering to lunch on Wednesday 14th, we wish her well in her endeavours to promote the budding athletes in our community.

Another most enjoyable event for Rita and I was entertaining Club Councillors and their partners on Tuesday 20th. Enough to say 'they do know how to party'!!

The reports coming back from 'Kids Out' suggest that Sue, Gordon and Andrew had a wonderful day with their charges, I'm sure we will hear more in due course, my thanks to them and Sandra for all their efforts.

And finally the presidential handover evening and the presentation of £4,500 to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, it is difficult for me to express what pleasure/satisfaction it gave me to make such a contribution to helping young people with CF and hopefully to the finding a cure for the condition.

Achieving targets is a normal part of working life these days so it is with a sense of mischievous satisfaction that my team put down the challenge of bettering the £19,000 put through the charity in the year to come.

It really was a splendid effort by everyone. "Thank you", and "Thank you", for my parting gifts.

It has been my pleasure!!

Yours in Rotary,

Eddie ❖

Hanau Picture Gallery

By Gordon Kember

Gordon Kember has about two hundred photographs of the club's recent visit to the Rotary Club of Hanau Maintal, now recorded on a CD disc that will play on your computer and on your television through a DVD player. The CD records the beautiful scenery on the Rhine, interesting visits to historic sites, Rotarians wining and dining and the general merrymaking of a gathering of good friends. All are captioned with details of the venues and the participating personalities, an excellent record of the trip and of the members of the two Rotary clubs. Copies are available from Gordon at

the astounding bargain price of £5.00 Sterling - all profits to be donated to our club funds. Below, and elsewhere within this month's newsletter, are just a few shots from the collection



The imposing Neiderwald Monument 250 metres above the Rhine at Rudesheim was a massive undertaking when it was built between 1887 and 1883.



President Werner showed the crystal vase to the audience, creating the disturbing illusion that it contained somebody's left hand.



President Eddie and his wife Rita take pleasure in presenting a cheque for £4,500 to Catherine and Ian McGuire (centre) who received it on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Ipswich Orwell handovers are traditionally short and sweet, and this year was no exception. But there was time for retiring president Eddie to announce that the club during his year had raised £4,500 for his chosen charity, Cystic Fibrosis. A cheque for this amount was presented by Eddie to a local representative of the charity, Mrs Catherine McGuire. Catherine, accompanied by her husband Ian, thanked the club and promised that the money would be put to "very good use".

Eddie thanked the club for its support during his year and expressed special thanks to secretary Martin Hough, treasurer Bob Fox, and programme co-ordinator Tony Hill. "These people kept me afloat", he said.

Philip and Susan had obviously worked hard over the past few weeks to make sure handover this year was "something different" and all those in my earshot had nothing but praise for their efforts. With a mixed buffet starter, followed by a barbecue and strawberries and cream etc, complaining was not on the menu.

President Philip recalled that David and Kirsten Berridge brought him into the club eight years ago. So far he had enjoyed Rotary and he hoped this would continue during his year of office. His brief message to the club was: "Read the newsletters and make use of the web site; give your full support to our Autumn Challenge and all other events we hope to arrange to raise money for charities."

Using Helmingham for handover was a "first" for the club; I suspect it will not be the last. ■



Eddie relaxed enthusiastically as President Philip outlined his plans for the forthcoming year, aware that Peter Townley appeared to be giggling and Malcolm Reece was assiduously taking notes.



Philip and the assembled members then welcomed Alan Page as Senior Vice President....



..and Eddie and Rita received an engraved crystal decanter (and an impressive bouquet of flowers) in recognition of their hard work on behalf of the club.

Thunder & Lightening Polka, All Part of the Fun in Hanau-Maintal

Words By Malcolm Reece,

Pictures By Gordon Kember

Being struck by lightening (we kid you not!) and having to endure a serious delay when a German oil-carrying boat crashed into a bridge on the Rhine, were just part of the excitement during our latest visit to our Rotary friends of Hanau Maintal and their families.

Our one-hour Ryanair flight from Stansted was uneventful until we began the approach to Frankfurt Hahn Airport. Then we realised we were entering a thunderstorm when a resounding clap of thunder followed by lightening actually striking the aircraft, turned a few faces from healthy glow to ashen white!

However, our captain (bless his Ryanair socks) completely ignored the thunder and lightening polka and instructed us to fasten seatbelts for landing. All was fine, of course, and we were quickly processed through the airport and onto the coach for our two-hour journey to Hanau, or so we thought. The two-hour strip was eventually stretched to well over three hours by traffic on the autobahn being held up after a River Rhine boat became jammed under a bridge because of the height of the water after heavy rains. The vessel was carrying a large tonnage of oil which had to be pumped out before the vessel could be removed. Eventually, we arrived at Hanau and after leaving luggage we were all dispersed to various families for a welcome supper. It was the end of an eventful first day.



A cruise down the Rhine on the motor ship 'Aventura' provided some wonderful sights and good opportunities for wining and dining.

By comparison, I suppose, the rest of our stay in Germany was uneventful but very enjoyable. Our first

full day was spent in leisurely style cruising the Rhine from Wiesbaden to Trechtingshausen, where we enjoyed a short visit to Reichenstein Castle for a cocktail reception and lunch. Then it was back to the boat and on to St Goarshausen and the famous Lorely rocks. Our supper at Hochheim was enjoyed in typical German style with copious amounts of Rhine wine.

The following day (Saturday) our hosts took us to Saalburg, a Roman fort and an area the German's describe as similar to our Hadrian's Wall. This, so we are told, is where the German Barbarians clashed with the Romans, but the wall in evidence today is a more recently-built structure which the Germans have erected on the foundations of the original.



A whole series of picturesque castles and vineyards along the banks of the Rhine provided the photographer with plenty of interesting material.

Historically, in Roman times the Saalburg fort kept watch over a section of the Limes in the Taunus hills. For 160 years from the end of the first century AD, the Limes marked the frontier between Rome's empire and the Germanic tribal territories. Today, the remains of the 550 km frontier complex, which extend from the Rhine to the River Danube, comprise Europe's largest ancient monument.

Our party later travelled to Bad Homburg for lunch, with more excellent wine, of course. This was followed by a short board meeting, allowing the ladies time to spend a few Euros in the shops.

The business side of our Rotary visit was concluded in about an hour, our two clubs agreeing without hesitation that we should spend £2,000 jointly funding the first of the five sections of a hoist project for the Ipswich Children's Hospice. In his absence, Brian Beason, who put forward the idea for the hoist project,

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was thanked by both clubs for his fund-raising efforts and work for the Children's' Hospices. Hanau Maintal President, Werner Skupin, described it as a project "in the true spirit of Rotary", and said it was a pleasure for his club to give support.

At a previous meeting between the clubs, the prospect of establishing student exchanges and school links was raised, but Ipswich Orwell members had to report that little progress had been made with schools in Ipswich because many of the schools already had long established links. The meeting agreed to continue researching the establishment of exchanges and widening the scope of visits to include culture as well as languages.

The morning part of Sunday, our final day, was spent in a most enjoyable and leisurely way with Brunch at Villa Stockum in Hanau, a hotel well-known in the locality for this style of eating. Without exception, members of the Ipswich party agreed that our hosts provided us with a "feast" of high quality which we all enjoyed. You would be hard-pressed to find a more enjoyable way to spend a morning.

We eventually said our farewells, (the chaps shaking hands and kissing the ladies frequently), and President Werner accompanied us on our bus to Hahn airport. We all departed a little tired, but delighted that we had been able to strengthen our ties with Hanau Maintal. Heads, I understand, will now be put together to see if in future years we can be more adventurous and arrange get-togethers away from our respective towns. Eventually both clubs will run out of ideas for entertaining in their respective areas, so travelling further afield may be the answer.

Dinner at Hanau Golf Club

Words By Malcolm Reece, Pictures By Gordon Kember

Hanau Golf Club was the pleasant setting on the Saturday evening of our weekend visit for the now traditional formal dinner, with both club presidents, Eddie and Werner, behaving splendidly in their regulatory formal moments. In other words, they both sang extremely well for their suppers!!

President Werner, said he and his Hanau colleagues and families had thoroughly enjoyed meeting us again, and asked for Hanau greetings to be extended to Brian and June Beason, Derek and Janet Firmin, and Alan Lonsdale, who were unable to make the trip.

On behalf of Orwell, President Eddie presented a commemorative crystal vase to the Hanau Club, and then reminded everyone how "difficult" it had been for the Ipswich party to get to Hanau, firstly because we were struck by lightning and, secondly, because someone had tried to burn the bridge over the Rhine.



President Eddie Marsh presented a crystal vase to the Hanau Maintal President, Werner Skupin, at the formal dinner.

President Eddie thanked Hanau for accepting our proposal to fund part of the hoist equipment for the Ipswich Children's Hospice, and expressed Orwell's willingness to support a Hanau project next year.

Bob Fox and Gerhard Grossmann, were thanked for their major contributions this year to the success of the trip – and that was it, folks. The rest of the evening just disappeared in this writer's memory to a happy blur as the food was served and the wine flowed. I seem to recall that most of us were eventually taken home and put to bed, happy in the thought that we had once again strengthened the relationship between Ipswich and Hanau –determined to do it all again next year.



A good deal of feasting and fellowship was enjoyed by all at every opportunity. Here we are in the town of Hocheim where Queen Victoria developed her taste for Hock and other fine German wines

Inner Wheel Notes

By Pam Hill, Club Correspondent

The Handover Dinner which took place on Wednesday 21st June was attended by 37 members and guests. Anne welcomed everyone and thanked all the club members for their hard work and support during the year. An Inner Wheel plate was presented to Anne to mark her year in office. The chain of office was then passed to Bobbie Hopper, who gave Anne flowers for her garden.



The club officers for 2006-2007 were then introduced:- Vice President Elizabeth Cage, Secretary Cathy Bolton,

Treasurer Pam Hill, Social & Programme Maggie Kember and Club Correspondent Ann Orvis. Anne Smith will be Immediate Past President and Extension Officer.



After a delicious dinner of "Salmon and Strawberries", Reverend Andrew Dotchin gave us a very interesting talk about South Africa, past and present.

The next meeting is on July 19th when Bobbie's granddaughter, who is visiting from Oregon, will talk about her stay at Kentwell Hall. Please let Anne Smith (682069) know by Friday the 14th if you are not able to come to the meeting.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

JULY 2006

WEDNESDAY 12TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Mrs Carmen Roof, 'The Hand of Friendship'

TUESDAY 18TH

5.30 pm. Club Council Meeting, Jackaman, Smith and Mulley offices.

WEDNESDAY 19TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: District Governor Nigel Neville

WEDNESDAY 26TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Business Meeting

AUGUST 2006 MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION MONTH

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

5.30 pm. Club Council Meeting, Jackaman, Smith and Mulley offices.

WEDNESDAY 16TH

12.55 pm Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: tba

WEDNESDAY 23RD

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Business Meeting

WEDNESDAY 30TH

5th Wednesday event, tba.

OCTOBER 2006

THURSDAY 5TH

King Pin Challenge

SUNDAY 8TH

Alton Water Challenge

Picture Gallery

By Gordon Kember



At Club Assembly on 7th June the District Governor's representative, Assistant District Governor Jeremy Waller of the Rotary Club of Cambridge, made some pertinent observations, said a few kind words and gripped the attention of SVP Alan Page who looks ready for action in 2006-2007.



On 14 June 2006 Karen Pickering, international athlete, spoke on providing support for Suffolk athletes and presented a small gift to a grateful gentleman.

Double Issue

Due to summer holidays, the editor's mainly, this month's issue of the Orwell Newsletter is a double one, covering July and August. The next issue will be available at the start of September 2006.

Happy holiday.

You've Missed Your Chance

You've missed your chance to buy a 26 metre long bus shelter. The blue metal and toughened glass bus shelter was considered surplus to requirements and was placed on eBay, the internet auction site, by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The bus shelter, which is situated behind Boots in St Andrew's Street South, Bury St Edmunds, is being removed in preparation for the Cattle Market redevelopment.

The auction ended last night and the bus shelter was sold £1,8000 after 32 bids. The new owner will have to dismantle it and take it away. ■

Coventry Businessman To Lead Rotary International

From RIBI News

Coventry businessman Peter L Offer was inaugurated as President of RIBI on 1st July at the Ricoh Stadium, Coventry. He will lead 58,000 Rotarians in 1845 clubs across Great Britain and Ireland who are committed to service in communities at home and abroad. The Presidential handover ceremony was attended by The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Coventry Councillor Shabbir Ahmed and more than 400 hundred Rotarians and their partners from Rotary Districts within Great Britain and Ireland. Peter is a member of the Rotary Club of Coventry Jubilee.

New Partnership With The Institute Of Cancer Research Launched

From RIBI News

RIBI has launched a partnership with The Institute of Cancer Research to help raise awareness of the importance of early detection in the successful treatment of cancer. This aims to raise public awareness about cancer and help save lives.

Rotary Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland will be provided with a series of cancer information leaflets for distribution in clubs and communities, on the following cancer types: breast cancer, cervical cancer, childhood cancers, colon cancer, head and neck cancer, leukaemia and blood cancers, lung cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, skin cancer and melanomas, and testicular cancer.

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