

# The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

June/July 2008

## From The Immediate Past President's Desk

At the time of writing this piece for the Newsletter, I am officially titled the Immediate Past President (yesterday's man) and no longer "The President". Earlier in the week I attended our "Handover" evening at Royal Harwich Yacht Club, a great venue for me because of my love for all things connected with boats and yachting. We were blessed with a fine, warm evening overlooking the River Orwell. It was a great social event for the Club, with a high turnout of just one short of the room capacity. I was particularly pleased to see so many members and guests turn out to support President Brian (as he is now known), who has committed himself to a second term at the helm of our Club.

I did have one final official duty to perform on "Handover" evening. I had the pleasure of bestowing Tony Hill with Honorary Membership of the Club. We were very sad indeed when Tony informed us of his intention to resign from the Club, but our spirits were lifted when he accepted his honorary membership. Tony has been a very long standing member who epitomises the Rotary ideals and particularly the philosophy of "service above self". He is the sort of person who throws himself 100%

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## Club Assembly

Words by Malcolm Reece

Photograph By Gordon Kember

Club Assembly this year, marking the movements of President Alan on his way "out", and SVP Brian on his way "in", was well up to the Ipswich Orwell tradition of a relaxed and enjoyable occasion.

We gathered as usual at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club and, thanks to Derek's expert fine tuning behind the scenes, we were beautifully served with excellent food and thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship.

Oh yes, before I forget, we did a little business, with incoming president Brian telling us how he is looking forward to yet another year in the hot seat, and then introducing his team – SVP and Club Service Carol Lockett; Membership Trevor Harris; Foundation Derek Firmin; Community Service Gordon Kember; Vocational Service Malcolm Reece; and an apology for unavoidable absence from Frank Ponniah who takes on International Service.



*Assistant Governor Trevor Sayer is introduced by President Alan Page at our Club Assembly on 4th June 2008*

I will not bore you with in-depth reporting on what your incoming team is planning for you in 08/09; suffice to say at this stage that we all enjoyed the wine and chin-wagging and that all of us in Brian's team will be getting down to some hard work in the

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into everything he does and our Club (including many charitable causes) have benefited from his efforts over the years. Tony has informed me that although he will not be able to join us every week at lunch, he intends to maintain close contact with us and he and Pam will get along to as many social events as possible. He will of course continue to be a great source of useful information about all things "Rotary and fund raising" for a long time to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to repeat the thanks I delivered at "Handover" for the continuous support I have enjoyed from members throughout my year as President. I have no doubt that my time in office would not have run quite so smoothly but for the efforts of Brian Beason, my Committee Chairpersons and particularly my Secretary, Martin Hough, and my Treasurer, Bob Fox.

Susan and I also send our thanks for the lovely gifts presented to us on "Handover" evening. I was only slightly disappointed that when Brian Beason announced that he had consulted Susan about the gift I might like...she clearly failed to mention that a big shiny new yacht sitting in the Marina would be very welcome. Nevertheless, the crystal glasses will always remind me of a wonderful year on the top table. Oh well... I suppose I now have to get used to waiting in turn for my lunch.

Before I end this piece, I will just mention that we finished the Rotary year with a flurry of activity. We enjoyed the GSE Rally at Stowmarket, our annual Breakfast Meeting at The Compasses in Holbrook, Club Assembly at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club, good lunchtime speakers, Kids Out at Banham Zoo and of course our Handover. Many thanks to all the organisers.

I understand that during my year we raised approximately £10,000 for charitable causes, including approximately £3,000 for The President's Charity (Suffolk Family Voluntary Carers). The Treasurer will provide us all with the actual figures in due course and I will organise further presentations. I think our efforts have been very rewarding and I end by thanking you all.

Yours in Rotary,

*Alan* ❖

not too distant future. Or I should say, just to cover our backs, that we are already active and busy...honest!

We gave a very warm welcome to District Governor's Representative, Trevor Sayer, who is currently Assistant District Governor South in 1080. I discovered a few days before we gathered for our assembly that if you need help and guidance Rotary-wise, then this is the man you should consult. For example: as incoming Vocation chairman I realised that because no-one from Orwell had attended the recent District Assembly (unforeseen circumstances rather than choice) we were desperately short of information. However, a phone call to Trevor and information in abundance was supplied. Many thanks, Trevor.

Trevor referred at our Assembly to Rotary going through "interesting times," with many club members leaving and the fight to get new people into the movement. Ideas and suggestions to stimulate recruitment would be welcomed, he said.

But he added that it was not all grim news on the membership front. While some clubs were struggling others were trying to cope with new members coming through the door. He thought that Rotary in his area was very much alive and kicking.

"Rotary has to change," he said. "It has to grow with the times and alter to cope with today's social pressures. If we don't change there will problems in the future."

Trevor dealt briefly with messages coming down from RIBI, with health, water, Shelter Boxes and child mortality high on the list. He reminded us that 300,000 were dying every year around the world, and Rotary needed to be concerned to try and allay some of these statistics.

I believe that Trevor can rest assured that although we departed having enjoyed an evening of fellowship and fun, we have taken on board his comments and warnings that we need new members, we need new ideas – and we need to change. ■

### **NEXT EDITION OF THE ORWELL NEWSLETTER**

Please note there will not be an edition of the Orwell Newsletter in August 2008. The next edition will be release in the first week of September 2008.

# Presidential Handover

**Words By Malcolm Reece**

**Photographs By Gordon Kember**

Perhaps it was just curiosity that persuaded such a large number to turn up at our Handover dinner on June 24th to witness Brian accepting Orwell's presidency for a second time.

But such a negative thought would not do justice to a Rotarian who over the years has led by example and, to my knowledge, has never refused a Rotary duty – no matter how difficult. So the true reason so many of us came together on a warm June night at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club was to give him our full support as he leads the club for the next 12 months.

This year, for the first time for ages, we had the pleasure of welcoming several of our members' children, and in Brian's case his grandchildren, so who knows what the Rotary future will be.



*Immediate Past President Alan Page presenting Honorary Membership certificate to Tony Hill*

In addition to Brian's "second coming." This year's handover was also special in several other ways, sadly to begin with by the departure from the club of Tony Hill, who announced several weeks ago that he needed to resign to give him time for other commitments. But it was not all bad news as retiring president Alan, performing his final presidential task, presented Tony with an Honorary Membership certificate.

Alan said Tony over the years had given 110 per cent to Rotary and the club, proving that you did not need to hold high office to be a top Rotarian. And it was pleasing to hear Tony say after the presentation: "You have not seen the last of me yet; I have a few ideas up my sleeve".



*Immediate Past President Alan Page handing over to President Brian Beason*

Before handing over his chain of office, retiring President Alan said, unlike Robert Mugabe, he would not be fighting to the death to stay in office! He said there was a total of £10,000 in the charity pot, of which in excess of £3,000 would in due course be presented to his chosen charity, Suffolk Carers.

Alan expressed his thanks for the support he had received in the past year, and the efforts made to swell charity funds, including projects such as Shelter Boxes, Filtastraw, Cancer, and Kids Out. "We are a small club but we always punch above our weight," he said, and added special mentions for Steve Canham (newsletter), secretary Martin and treasurer Bob.



*President Brian Beason making a special presentation to Susan Page*

Brian recalled that when he joined the club hundreds

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# Picture Gallery 1

Photographs By Gordon Kember



*Greg Stephens, seen here with President Alan Page, spoke at our luncheon on 11th June. Greg is commissioned as a 2nd Lieut. in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps and after four years training at West Point Military Academy graduated in 2007 as valedictorian in his class. He was selected for Rotary Scholarship at Churchill College Cambridge, where he has written two academic papers on medically orientated subjects and has been examined for his Masters Degree in Public Health. Greg answered some wide-ranging questions, several on the attitudes of people at home and throughout the world considering American military commitments and philosophies.*

*He presented a balanced and mature approach to the problems facing him and his fellows in his chosen career and greatly impressed his audience. He was flying back to the U.S. the morning after to be re-united with his fiancée, also a graduate of West Point, whom he was marrying two days later. Greg and his bride will participate in further military exercises before Greg starts training for his medical degree in Washington D.C. A remarkable young man and a worthy Rotary Scholar.*



*Maggie Kember stealing dumplings from an old lady outside a restaurant in Weimar. May 2008*

of years ago he looked through the membership card and decided that he would be too old to reach the presidential chair. "Here I am for the second time," he said.

He paid tribute to Alan's "exceptional year" – a year on which he could look back with great pride.

Brian mentioned his own and the club's continuing close association through Kids Out with the Thomas Wolsey School, who were preparing to move to a new school at Thurlston.

But because of Health and Safety requirements the school's old equipment cannot be used and deputy head Matthew Brackenbury made it clear to Brian that they needed to raise money for new stock.

Brian announced that he had nominated the school as his charity, and his decision was well received by those of us who attended the handover.

There was also warm applause for Carole, who becomes Senior Vice President and, a year from now, will become Ipswich Orwell's first woman president.

And finally, President Brian, ably assisted by his grandson Alex, presented bouquets to Susan Page and to Maggie Kember, who was celebrating her XXXX birthday.

■



*The Jester entertaining diners at a banquet in the cellar of a mediaeval inn in Erfurt. May 2008*

## From The President's Desk

### Photograph By Gordon Kember

As the song says "Here we are again, Happy as can be, all good friends and jolly good company". That was certainly the case at the Presidential Handover evening at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club at Woolverstone. It was good to have a full house and to see some honorary members, some Leave Of Absence as well as our regular members. Have five juniors was also a very welcome sight.



*President Brian Beason and Senior Vice President Carole Lockett at the Presidential Handover*

My congratulations to Immediate Past President Alan Page for having such an interesting and successful year. A very good and varying programme consisting of good speakers, good fellowships and about £10,000 raised for good causes, something Alan can look back at with great pride, and something I will have to work hard to live up to. But I am confident as like Alan I have a very good team to push me along the way. With Carole Lockett as S.V.P., Martin Hough as Secretary and BOB fox as Treasurer, who could want for more! But there is more in the four committee chairmen who I know with their respective teams will do everything possible to keep us floating on the ORWELL.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of being your President for a second time, I shall do everything possible to make the next 12 months happy, enjoyable and successful.

Yours in Rotary,

*Brian* ❖ .

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary](http://www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary)

### JULY 2008

THURSDAY 10TH

6:00 pm Neptune Marina, Membership Services Committee

WEDNESDAY 16TH

Pre-lunch (time: tbc) Talk on the history of the waterfront.  
(John Field)

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

WEDNESDAY 23RD

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

WEDNESDAY 30TH

NO LUNCH

Evening. Dinner at Royal Harwich Yacht Club. See 'flyers' & info board. Speaker: Detective Chief Superintendent Stewart Gull. Stewart led the inquiry into Suffolk's largest serial murder investigation and will give his personal perspective on events.

### AUGUST 2008

WEDNESDAY 6TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Richard Sharp. Richard will give an account of developments in Orwell Park

WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Fellowship

THURSDAY 14TH

6:00 pm Neptune Marina, Membership Services Committee

WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

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

### SEPTEMBER 2008

WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

Bistro Lunch – Visit by District Governor....Peter Harris

### OCTOBER 2008

FRIDAY 10TH

Charter Night at Claydon Country House Hotel

# Club Visit To Germany

**Words By Malcolm Reece**

**Photograph By Gordon Kember**

Early starts from home to enable you to get through traffic in time to catch flights, are fine if it's spring and the weather's good. Our intrepid party of 31 en route to East Germany on May 8th were lucky on both counts – spring; bursting out all over; weather, excellent.



*Rotarians in the ballroom at Altenberg Castle on our visit to Germany in May 2008*

So, with cars safely tucked away for three days, we boarded our coach, some at the Kembers and the rest outside the Compasses, for our early and uneventful journey to Stansted and onward Ryanair flight to Altenburg, which for those of you geographically interested is not that far from Leipzig.

Our arrival at Altenburg airport was a happy occasion, punctuated for long moments by lots of handshakes and kisses, followed by superb Hanau Maintal efficiency for our journey to the beautiful little town of Altenburg, where most of our party enjoyed a tour of the town and castle while the “infirm” rested under café umbrellas and regained their strength with a light lunch and a glass or two. Incidentally, it needs to be mentioned at this juncture that our hard-working “slaves” throughout our visit, President Wolfgang Diem and his lovely wife Christa, made sure our stay was happy and relaxed throughout. We give them our sincere thanks.

Our home for the rest of our stay was at the Hotel Ibis, where we renewed old acquaintances and established new ones while enjoying excellent German beer, wines and food.

Friday after breakfast saw us boarding a coach for a

short journey to Erfurt's industrial estate, where we were introduced to the rapidly-expanding world of solar energy. Peter Schneidewind, deputy board member of Ersol Solar Energy AG at Erfurt, explained briefly in a slide presentation how research in solar energy panels is enabling rapid development in this field. However, because of “clean room” restrictions in the company's manufacturing area, we were unable to see at close hand how the work was done. Suffice to say that in Germany and many other countries, this branch of energy seems to be finding an increasingly important place in the world, accelerated, of course, by the ever-rising costs of fossil fuels.



*Shops lining the Kramerbrücke (Merchants' Bridge) over the River Gera in Erfurt. May 2008*

After lunch we were taken on a guided tour of Erfurt and later we gathered together at the city's magnificent cathedral for a specially-arranged organ concert, details of which have been dealt with under the expert hand of Derek Firmin.

Our evening entertainment was described to us beforehand as an informal medieval supper being held at a special restaurant in Erfurt and well within walking distance from our hotel. Well, I can tell you that our peasant entertainer for the evening, complete with jester's suit and tinkerbell legs, was Soren Menke, who made absolutely sure that we were all supplied with copious amounts of beers and wine before the food was served. And because we were supplied with just large spoons and a knife (forks, of course, were still waiting to be invented), most of the grub found its way either into our greasy hands or on the floor. As you might expect, it was a happy and hilarious experience and we all managed to return to our hotel without too much disturbance in the streets of Erfurt.

I think we all agreed that our enjoyment during this

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particularly visit to our German Rotary friends was enhanced not only by their company but the warm and sunny weather throughout. We took full advantage of this and spent some happy moments frequenting the streetside cafes and restaurants and enjoying the local food, wines and beers.

On Saturday, our final day, it was an early start for our coach trip to the city of Weimar, where special arrangements had been made for us to visit the residences of poet and collector, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, writer and philosopher, Friedrich von Schiller and the remarkable Anna Amalia Library.

The Weimar library has an outstanding rank among German libraries, states a travel report from 1788. This fame was due to its ducal promoters Wilhelm Ernst, Anna Amalia and Carl August, as well as its librarians, among whom Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was the most significant.

After a ravaging fire in 2004, the severest library fire in Germany since World War II, and the festive reopening of the historic building in 2007 for the 200th anniversary of Anna Amalia's death, the library is again the centre of attention in Weimar. The historic library building belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage. Thanks were expressed by our party for the efforts made by our German friends to ensure we were able to visit this historic library.

Later that day, at the joint board meeting at the Ibis Hotel, it was reported that last year's joint project of instruments provided to the German music school was much appreciated. Hanau members were given an opportunity to hear pupils performing on the instruments at a concert.

Following a presentation by Martin Hough, Hanau Maintal RC agreed to contribute 1500 euros to the joint project for restoration work of steps and walkways in Bridge Wood, part of the Ipswich Orwell Country Park. Once the £2,000 project has been completed, a plaque will be placed in the wood acknowledging the contribution to the work of both Rotary clubs.

In line with tradition, the Rotary Club of Hanau Maintal was invited to visit us on an appropriate date in 2009.

When it comes to organising annual meet-ups between Ipswich Orwell and Hanau Maintal, there's not much more we can say about Bob Fox that would put a new slant on how much we appreciate what he has achieved on our behalfs. Suffice to say, I think, that this

year we not only thanked him for his hard work and dedication to a difficult task, we also had a "whip-round" (which for our German friends means we each contributed a sum of money). There was enough money to buy Bob a commemorative beer tankard, so, the message to our Hanau friends is: If the next time you see Bob he seems to be wobbling about, you will know the reason why!! The tankard was presented to Bob by Carole's son, Ben.

The Gala Dinner in Erfurt is included in a separate report. ■

## Erfurt Cathedral Organ Concert

**Words By Derek Firmin**

**Photograph By Gordon Kember**

On the Friday afternoon most of us climbed the steps of Erfurt Cathedral for an organ concert given by an exceptionally fine young organist with a CV that included a period as deputy at Notre Dame in Paris.



*The Cathedral Square in Erfurt overlooked by the Gothic Mariendom Cathedral and the three-spired Severikirche*

The first item was a piece by Bach (what else would you expect?), beautifully played, and followed by what he called Sumphonic Variations.

The Cathedral has two fine instruments - one at the East End and another, much more modern but still built in the Baroque style - and both playable from the West End console. The range of colors and sounds was unbelievable. From sweet-sounding registrations using vox humana, salicional and the like to magnificent bourdons, bombards and reeds which, to those not used to such powerful sounds could only wonder.

These variations were not a written piece but were performed as extemporisations. ■

## Gala Dinner - Erfurt

**Words By Malcolm Reece**

**Photographs By Gordon Kember**

Our two clubs are becoming quite famous for their joint hospitality, and this year, the responsibility of Hanau Maintal, was no exception with excellent wine, food and friendship at our formal dinner at the Restaurant Zumnorde in Erfurt.



*Friends from the Hanau-Maintal club gathering for dinner at the Restaurant Zumnorde in Erfurt. May 2008*

President Wolfgang and Christa, ably assisted by their fellow Rotarians and their ladies made all those from Ipswich feel at home and relaxed and the evening passed by too quickly in a buzz of good conversation and happy memories.



*Friends from the Ipswich Orwell club gathering for dinner at the Restaurant Zumnorde in Erfurt. May 2008*

President Wolfgang formally welcomed us and complemented Ipswich on "such a good turn-out" –

which was not surprising because all of those who made the trip were looking forward to seeing the sights of eastern Germany, most of us for the first time. And, as President Wolfgang told us, our meeting had "deepened and enhanced our friendship".

This was followed by Ipswich Orwell's third in command and very able stand-in for our absent President Alan – JVP Carole Lockett, accompanied by her son Ben. President Alan's message, read by Carole, expressed his disappointment that business commitments had prevented him visiting Germany. He mentioned the success so far of the two clubs joint projects and expressed Ipswich Orwell's appreciation of Hanau's acceptance of this year's project at Ipswich Orwell Country Park.



*President Wolfgang Diem accepts a gift from the Ipswich Orwell Club, presented by Vice President Carol Lockett. May 2008*

Carole reminded everyone that it was the tenth anniversary of our association and that we were now looking forward to many more years of friendship and co-operation. Carole added that we in Ipswich were excited about the Orwell Park project and hoped that, together, progress could be made with student exchanges.

Finally, Carole expressed our thanks to our German friends for organising such an interesting and enjoyable weekend, with particular reference to Georg Grosser, Gerhard Grossman, Gerhard Wussow and, of course President Wolfgang Diem "for taking charge".

All in all, it was an enjoyable, entertaining and informative weekend, all made possible by excellent German hospitality and friendship. Perhaps Ryanair knew how relaxed we all were by delivering us back to Stansted half an hour early. Was this a first?? ■

## Ipswich Vice Team

**Words by Malcolm Reece**

None of us needs reminding that prostitution is the most dangerous profession in the world. Five murders in the space of a few months not so long ago left this gruesome fact indelibly printed on our minds, and it was a great relief to all of us when Steve Wright was convicted and sent to prison for the rest of his life.

But this was 2006-07 and as the months have passed by since these grim events we have all tended to forget about this seamy side of life in the town – until, on 2nd July, Police Constable Janet Humphrey, a member of the Ipswich Police Vice Team, came to our lunch meeting. And in a short, but quite absorbing, talk Janet reintroduced the murders scenario while at the same time giving us a new perspective on what it was like to be one of the police team.

Janet said that it was realised quite early after the murders that changes needed to be made in the way these women were dealt with. The Press, she said, had done a good job in pointing out that these were “normal women” who often, through circumstances beyond their control, had resorted to selling their bodies to feed their drug addictions.

“You have got to remember that street prostitution is driven by drugs and that 99 per cent of these women are verified drug addicts We had to look at that problem and see how we could address it,” she told us. “Even after five women were murdered there were still prostitutes on the streets of Ipswich, and that it what we were concerned about.

“The majority of them don’t have a home and sleep rough; we even found one woman who lived in a shed. Some of the children went for adoption because of their mothers’ addictions.”

With the help and co-operation of local councils and other authorities, the strategy to deal with the problem of “the oldest profession in the world” was the introduction of an enforcement policy which included targeting kerb crawlers who were always arrested. In addition, she said, the vice team was trying to help the girls to leave the profession. Over a period 130 men had been arrested with CCTV playing a major role.

It was found that when police officers went out to talk to the women, the majority said they wanted help, and this had been offered to them. Janet pointed out that it costs a prostitute about £700 a week to feed her habit, so there was seldom any money left to buy food or

feed a child.

“That’s where we come in,” said Janet. “We go out, speak to them and arrange support and adoption of the babies. That’s how the support agency works.”

Janet stressed that many people in addition to the police were currently involved in getting these women off the streets and back into a normal way of life. “I feel that if I can help to change someone’s life, then my job is worthwhile”, she said. ■

## Picture Gallery 2

**Photograph By Tony Hill**



*President Alan handing over a cheque for £1000 to Jemma Hale and Amy Dobrucki of the Willow Foundation, our partners and joint organizers of the recent Racenight event held at Waldringfield Golf Club. The Rotary ‘Filtastraw Project’ also benefited by a similar amount.*

### **YOUNG YORKSHIRE CHEF COOKS UP A STORM AT FIFTEEN LONDON**

A budding young chef from Yorkshire was cooking up a storm in a top London restaurant this week as part of his prize for winning the Rotary Young Chef 2008 Competition in association with Filippo Berio.

Thomas Souter, from Helmsley, spent the day learning the tricks of the trade from top chefs at Fifteen London (founded by Jamie Oliver) on 2nd July and even got to meet the main man himself.

The 16 year old worked in the kitchen cooking delicious Italian dishes, and trying his hand at a range of pasta styles including gnocci, ravioli and mezzalune, before being congratulated on a job well done by Jamie who gave him his own tips for succeeding as a chef.

This year’s competition attracted over 4,000 entrants.

## Inner Wheel Notes

**Words By Ann Orvis, Club Correspondent**

**Photograph By Pam Hill**

This year we held our Annual General Meeting on 21st May. All those present were welcomed by President Elizabeth and following the usual formalities, various items were discussed and reports given.

After reading her report, President Elizabeth thanked her committee for all their support throughout her year as President. She complimented them on being a very good team. She wished Linda Smith an enjoyable time as President next year.

Janet was given confirmation of those who will be attending the District Committee meeting and AGM at Thurston on Tuesday 17th June, and those who will be attending Club Officers Assembly at Mildenhall on Thursday 12th July.

Attendance at meetings has been steady throughout the year and we have had a mixed selection of interesting speakers. Unfortunately, we have lost two valuable members; Moira Townley and Jenny Towell, who have both moved away from the area. The AGM was the last meeting Jenny Towell attended. Elizabeth presented her with a card signed by members and said how sorry we all were that she was leaving. Jenny thanked everybody and said how much she has enjoyed her time with Inner Wheel.

For the July meeting, we will be having our usual meal at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club at the earlier time of 6.30pm. This will be followed by dessert and coffee at President Linda's home.

■

## Inner Wheel Handover

**18 June 2008, Ipswich & Suffolk Club**

**Words By Bobby Hoper**

**Photograph By Pam Hill**

Our Presidential Handover evening began with President Elizabeth announcing that Peter Hopper was celebrating his birthday, (much to his embarrassment!) and continued through the evening in our usual relaxed and happy mode. Attendance of members this year was rather low because of holidays and some family duties and commitments, but nevertheless, we all enjoyed an excellent meal and appreciated the company of husbands, partners and guests.

Retiring President Elizabeth said that she had enjoyed her year of office and thanked committee members for their help and advice and for giving their time to attend meetings.



*Various members at Handover Dinner*

She welcomed new President Linda Smith with good wishes and handed over the official collar and badge.

Badges of office were then given to Jane Leeburn (vice-president) and to Cathy Bolton (secretary).

President Linda Smith thanked Elizabeth for her good work during the previous year and presented her with a lovely bouquet. Linda's named charity this year is Diabetes UK.



*Incoming President Linda Smith takes over from Elizabeth Cage*

Elizabeth declined the usual gift from the Club and asked that, instead, an appropriate sum be donated to the charity she has supported through her Presidential year - the Princess Anne charity for young carers.

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