

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

June 2007

From The President's Desk

Good Cheer

A new member and a new Paul Harris Fellow in recent weeks. A warm welcome to Frank Ponniah who joined the Club last month. Well deserved plaudits to David Lowe on becoming a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his distinguished service to Rotary and to this Club.



At the Breakfast Meeting on 30th May Rotarian David Lowe was invested with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his long and valuable service to the club (Picture By Gordon Kember)

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Paul Harris Fellow

Words By Peter Hopper

It often gives me pleasure to introduce David Lowe, the club's official welcomer, to speakers and guests as "Our Celebrity." For that is what he is. Who but David could get away with telling The Beatles he could make them even more famous by having their photograph taken with him?!

David was host to dozens of show business celebrities during his long career as manager of the Regent Theatre - singer Dolly Parton being among his favourite performers.

It was therefore a pleasure for all of us who attended the annual breakfast meeting at the Holbrook Compasses to see President Philip confer official celebrity status on octogenarian and founder member David, the club honouring him with Rotary's most prestigious award, a Paul Harris Fellowship, for his long and distinguished service.

Before making the presentation, President Philip referred to Rotary Founder Paul Harris and the establishment in 1917 of the Rotary Foundation "to do good in the world." When Paul Harris died in 1947, Rotarians around the world had sought to honour his memory by promoting the Rotary Foundation. Through the Foundation, Rotary had made a substantial contribution towards achieving 99 per cent eradication of polio around the world.

Philip said he had been looking on the RIBI website about the qualities of Rotarians and he had found an example referring to nice people. "When I look around the club and think of nice people, I think of David Lowe," he said. "David has served us very well in many capacities in the interests of the club." It was an honour not bestowed lightly, he said.

David's face registered complete surprise as the President walked towards him to make the presentation. He responded by saying that he was very appreciative of the award and said he would continue to carry out his duties as a Rotary member.

■

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Added to this the recent the successes of raising funds for a number of good causes, has made these enjoyable and worthy weeks for the Rotary Club of Ipswich Orwell.

I would particularly like to thank the friends and spouses who assisted us at ASDA and at the Golf Day, such support is so valuable. As with the support from Inner Wheel and that which we have received from members of other rotary clubs during the past year.

In early June we have the visit of our twinned club from Hanau. We look forward to renewing friendships, to developing our close ties and sharing of interests. Our work continues and this month we have Kids Out. Whilst my term as President is soon to run out, I am keenly aware that our work in Rotary is never finished.

Yours in Rotary,

Philip ❖

Picture Gallery

Picture By Gordon Kember



At the Breakfast Meeting on 30th May President Philip Morgan received from Inner Wheel President Bobby Hopper a cheque for £100 donated by the Inner Wheel for the ShelterBox appeal

Inner Wheel Notes

By Ann Orvis, Club Correspondent

Our Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 16th May. President Bobbie welcomed all those present and after the usual formalities various items were discussed, and reports given.

Bobbie thanked Elizabeth for all her support over the past year and wished her well for her year ahead as President.

Our two honorary members, who have been with the club for more than two years, were unanimously voted on by all those present to become full members. This means that we now have vacancies for two new honorary members.

Regarding future events, we discussed the visit of Penny Holder of Weekender Clothes. This will probably take place on 19th September after a short business meeting.

Maggie made final arrangements for our visit to Jacqui Collings' garden on 7th July and now has enough volunteers for the cake making.

On Sunday 9th September our new President Elizabeth will be holding a fundraising social event in her garden from 12.30pm. There will be drinks and a finger buffet. The cost will be £10.00 per ticket, and Elizabeth will be providing all the food. Please bring a bottle. Elizabeth will need to know numbers by the beginning of September.

Our handover dinner will be on 20th June. Most people have already signed up for this. If you are unable to attend please let Bobbie Hopper know by the Thursday prior to the meeting. ■

BEACH BATTLE

FROM ROTARY FOR TODAY, JUNE 2007

An incredible 900 bags of rubbish was gathered from some of South Ayrshire's finest beaches in March by members of Rotary clubs in Ayr, Alloway, Girvan, Prestwick and Troon. Amazingly, it was all done in three hours, despite a strong westerly wind, the threat of rain undoubtedly kept a few more volunteers at home. Around three-quarters of the rubbish collected was plastic - soft drink and water bottles, milk cartons, food wrappings, plastic bags and other containers. Much of the debris had been there for years — going in and out with the tides. Rotary spokesman Dr Jimmy Begg said: "A massive programme of education is required to make people aware of the long-term consequences of throwing bottles into rivers or leaving them on the nation's beaches." ■

Golf Day

Words By Malcolm Reece

Pictures By Gordon Kember

Ipswich Orwell's annual charity Golf Day was held this year at an overcast and showery Purdis Heath. But gloom was nowhere to be seen as golfing teams whacked their way around the 18-hole course and helped the club to put a sizeable amount in the charity pot.



Barry Gough, Roger Girling, David Knights and Nigel Steed.

Richard Brown, David Berridge and Bob Bacon, who make organising a complicated charity golf event look as easy as a walk in the park, tell me that a grand total of nearly £3,500 was raised, most of which will be sent to the Institute of Cancer Research – President Philip's chosen charity. Not forgetting, of course, the financial skills of Bob Fox, making absolutely sure that not a penny escapes.

David said: "Well done team and thanks to the many who helped to raise the money. We are getting better at organisation and we have a good following of golfers who now recognise it is good value for money with plenty of prizes to be won." David had a special word of thanks for Tony & Pam Hill, (refreshments), and Brian Beason, who is now an "expert" starter.

Our sponsors this year were:

- **Wilson Transformers**
- **Barnes Construction**
- **Dummett Copp**
- **Prysmian Cables**
- **Schneider**
- **Ensors Accountants**

- **Ipswich Bathroom and Tile Center**
- **Shirley Shelly Contracts**
- **Barnes Upholstery**
- **And a donation from Mrs Thompson.**

The raffle made over £800.



Charity Golf Day - Monday 21st May. Past President Eddie Marsh sends it straight down the middle

There were 21 teams competing, one less than last year, and, according to David, there was "a major improvement in the weather". Well, listen mate, I was a 'late selection' to marshall the 12th, and I can tell you that after three hours my hot tea and toasted teacake back at the clubhouse just about managed to remove the blue tinge from my lips! (only joking, David).

The winning teams:

- **First – Kingpin.**
- **Second – Misfits (Golf Galore Shop).**
- **Third – GAH John Reader, Ufford.**
- **Special (last) – a generous Dummett Copp, and a special prize for the only two ladies competing.**
- **Longest drive: Colin Hewitt.**
- **Nearest pin: Chris Green (Pretty's). ■**

ShelterBox Success

Words By Malcolm Reece

Pictures By Gordon Kember

What could be more satisfying on a spring day in May than hearing the merry tinkle of coins dropping into a bucket!

I refer, of course, to Orwell's International Committee-led fund-raiser and collection at the town's Asda store on Friday, 18th May, for Rotary International's ShelterBox scheme.



International Committee Chairman Gordon Kember collecting for the ShelterBox Appeal, assisted by wife Maggie

The day was, as you would expect, very successful, thanks to a large team of members, wives, friends and relatives standing for hours holding collecting boxes and buckets while trying to appear knowledgeable and intelligent about Rotary's wonderful ShelterBox scheme.



Brian Beason and daughter Deborah Canham raising funds for ShelterBox at ASDA Store

Later, after much-needed sleep and recuperation, committee chairman Gordon, with the assistance of Bob and Sonja, opened the collection boxes and tipped out the buckets and counted a total of £434.48. Gordon said all participants involved in reaching this excellent figure deserved our congratulations. He adds that his daughters and a personal friend offered personal donations, and these amounts together with several promises of further amounts will be sufficient to enable the club to purchase a ShelterBox.



Joannie Brown and Clare Bacon helped us to achieve a total collection of £434.48 at the ASDA Store

I would add at this point a personal word of thanks to Gordon, who spent many hours leading up to the collection, making sure that we had the loan of a ShelterBox for display at Asda and for using his considerable computer skills to create posters which explained in detail how a ShelterBox works when it is "put into action" in a world disaster area.

A full-equipped ShelterBox consists of a "multi purpose" 185 litre capacity rigid plastic container, (the box), which contains one new ten-person tent, ten new sleeping bags (family orientated), and useful ancillary equipment, including water purifying material, water carrying bags, cooking pots, rope, tools etc. All the equipment is new and purchased at favourable rates and designed for extended use in rigorous conditions – as already witnessed in several world disaster areas, including the Asian Tsunami, the earthquake in Pakistan and the refugee problems in Southern Sudan.

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FIND Quiz

Words By Malcolm Reece

Pictures By Gordon Kember

The recent annual FIND (Families in Need) Quiz at the Garrett Memorial Hall in Ipswich, was another resounding success evening, attended by over 200 people and raising a commendable £1,787 for the charity.



Philip Morgan, President of the Rotary Club of Ipswich Orwell (with the cheque) Nick Loose, Currys; Maureen Reynel, Chairman of F I N D (Families in Need); Bob Fox, Treasurer of Ipswich Orwell Rotary club and Adrian Lloyd of Bennetts

This amount was very quickly put to good use at Bennetts with the purchase of new washing machines and cookers – for families in need.

None of this would have been possible, of course, without the efforts of a large number of people. The joint Ipswich Orwell Rotary Club/FIND event was sponsored by 15 local businesses and individuals, plus an “army” of volunteers, who included 15 ladies from Ipswich Orwell Inner Wheel, St. Margaret’s Church and friends of FIND. In addition, a further 20 people from various quarters helped to put it all together.



Long in the tooth Rotarians such as me – and several other members of our club – remember the days some years ago when we struggled to fill a few old tea chests with a few bits of survival kit. A makeshift lid was then nailed to the top and these “Emergency Boxes” were then despatched to a distribution warehouse in the wilds of Norfolk.

Today, thanks originally to the efforts of Rotarians at the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, boxes to cope with major emergencies anywhere in the world are super efficient pieces of kit and more than worthy of the new century we are trying to live in.

Those who gave up their time to help us with the collection were:

Gordon & Maggie Kember and their friends, Tony and Jane Ferris; Brian Beason and Deborah Canham; John and Marie Field; Tony and Pam Hill; Malcolm Reece; Alan Swann; Richard and Joannie Brown; Clare Bacon; Peter Townley; Alan Lonsdale; Peter and Bobbie Hopper; and Philip and Susan Morgan. ■

One of the big bonuses from the evening – completely separate from the fact that it is a brilliant fund-raiser – is that lots of people have a fun night out trying to be a little brainier than their neighbours and, at the end of the evening feeling very good about it.

For the record, the winners of the quiz were “Tokenmale” , comprising five female and one male administrators and IT specialists, who received the FIND Shield and a case of bubbly. The team were one point ahead of last year’s winners, “Lost and FIND”.

And the message from FIND is: See you at next year’s quiz. ■



Quizmaster John Maplestone in action

Club Assembly

Words By Malcolm Reece

Pictures By Gordon Kember

Compared with many of our riotous events in years gone by, this year's Assembly at the Ipswich and Suffolk Club on 22nd May was a much more sober affair. But it was, nevertheless, a very enjoyable evening and quite interesting in many respects as we witnessed President Philip in "twilight" time and President-elect Alan in double time.



President Philip Morgan and President Elect Alan Page with Assistant District Governor Trevor Sayer principal guest at Club Assembly

As usual, "The Few" (our officers), worked extremely hard behind the scenes to make sure that those of us who did manage to make it for dinner could relax, enjoy the food and then enjoy listening to our incoming team rushing through their notes. Derek, who showed extreme gallantry by standing up for his turn, went through his notes in a remarkable 45 seconds. God knows what he said!

I shall now try to do similar, so those of you who take the trouble to read this will resist the temptation to yawn before reaching the fifth paragraph.

We start, of course, with President Philip, who has but a few hours remaining before retiring with grace to the back benches. He was, he said, almost at the end of a journey he started three years ago. His presidential year had included many highlights, including Shelter Box and Jaipur Limb fund-raising, efforts for Arthritis Care, cheque presentation at Bennetts to buy washing machines and dryers from money raised at the FIND quiz, and another successful (but wet and blustery) golf day at Purdis, from which a preliminary profit figure of £3,300 was announced. At least this amount will be

sent to the Institute of Cancer Research – one of RIBI's preferred charities.

President Philip expressed his thanks to "the rocks" in the club; secretary Martin, treasurer Bob, and all the members of council and committees, who had helped to make his year a success.

Then it was Alan's turn, and he survived extremely well in the face of a battery of initial comments. But, whether it's because we are getting older or still missing the wit and banter of Eric Dines, we seemed to let Alan off very lightly and, being an intelligent chap, he took full advantage. In the end he got through his bits and pieces with ease, introducing his team (more later), and informing us that although he was a little anxious about the coming year, he was reassured to have experienced members behind him.

SVP Alan mentioned several issues he was keen to address, including falling membership, which had been the most significant topic this year at District Assembly. It was also important, he said to remember that membership was not just about new people but also retaining people already on the books.

"We have got to make sure our projects are relevant to Rotary, and sell the idea to our colleagues that Rotary is fun. This is a real challenge without easy answers, but we will make a real effort to increase membership," he promised.

Alan added that his chosen charity was Suffolk Family Carers – based in Ipswich and aimed at people in families who cared for relatives and others.



Officers elected for 2007-2008. JVP Carol Lockett, President Alan Page, SVP Brian Beason

Alan said he was particularly encouraged at the start of his year to have the experience of past president Brian

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Beason as SVP, and Carole Lockett as JVP.
Committee chairs are: Membership Services, Brian Beason, Foundation, Peter Smith, Community Service, Derek Firmin, Vocational Service, Sandra Moore, International Service, Alan Lonsdale.



Committee Chairmen elect for 2007-2008, Derek Firmin, Sandra Moore, Alan Lonsdale and Peter Smith

Finally, Ipswich Orwell gave a traditional warm welcome to ADG Trevor Sayer, a member of Ipswich Wolsey and our District Governor's Representative for the evening.

Quoting the district theme for 2007-8, "Rotary Shares", Trevor said he was impressed with our presentations, and added: "Seeing how this club is working is excellent and needs to be encouraged".

P.S: Psst, don't tell Alan, but a dickie bird informed me that, during his excellent remarks, he forgot to call on Membership Services incoming chairman Brian Beason. And poor old Brian, being a person of such shy disposition, had a little weep on my shoulder. ■

WHAT'S THE CONTENTS OF A SHELTERBOX?

COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HELSTON-LIZARD

Each ShelterBox normally holds a 10-person tent and a range of other equipment, such as:

- Thermal blankets and insulated ground sheets
- Waterproof ponchos and bin bags
- A multi-fuel stove that can burn anything from diesel to old paint!
- Cooking pans, utensils, bowls and mugs
- Collapsible water containers and water purification tablets
- Basic tool kit –hammer, axe, saw, pliers, hoe head, trenching shovel, rope etc
- A small, children's pack containing drawing books, crayons, pens etc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

JUNE 2007

WEDNESDAY 13TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Peter Down, East Anglian Air Ambulance

MONDAY 18TH

Club Service

TUESDAY 19TH

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

WEDNESDAY 20TH

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

Kids Out, Thomas Wolsey School To Banham Zoo

WEDNESDAY 27TH

Handover, at Royal Harwich Yacht Club, Wolverstone.

Rotary International Photograph Competition

From Rotary International News

Hundreds of Rotarians entered the photo contest with shots that illustrated Rotary's motto, Service Above Self.

The Photo below is the winning entry. Other photos are available on Rotary International Web-site:

<http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/index.html>



First place: Dave Fowler, Ogallala RC, Nebraska, USA
Dr. Richard Siegel, from Hawaii, USA, heads into an operating room in Shenyang, China, to repair a baby's cleft lip. Siegel was part of a team of 32 medical volunteers who joined Alliance for Smiles, a non-profit organization formed by members of the Rotary Club of San Francisco. "He cares so deeply for the children on whom he operates," says Fowler. "Many times during the mission, I saw him hold children like this, talk to them, and comfort them."