

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

May 2004

From The President's Desk

By the time, fellow Rotarians, you read this, the penultimate offering for this Rotary Year, I shall be in Normandy suitably ensconced a short distance from Pont l'Eveque where the Calvados and cheese will be vying for my attention après le diner. Do not, however, delude yourselves with the thought that this is a holiday. It is not. A telephone call from an ex Round Tabler, as well as a 41 Club Member and a Rotarian, requesting assistance in the creation of a bathroom in his recently acquired house in the area could not be refused. The installation of a shower to the roof void (now a couple of bedrooms) together with the accompanying power supply, drainage and also the necessity of a radiator plus the pipework and a few wall and ceiling boards will keep me more than occupied for a week or so. On the basis that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" my host has indicated there will be the odd moment for relaxation and a glass or two of refreshment. So, on the basis of "have tools – will travel" I shall set off on Tuesday 27 April and return on the 4 May to be home in time for Youth Speaks on 5th.

Your illustrious Senior Vice President will have, no doubt, impressed everyone with his handling of the meeting on the 28th April and any comments of a supportive nature will be published in the June edition of this article.

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Visit To Baden-Baden

Words By Peter Hopper,
Pictures By Gordon Kember

Day One

The temperature on our arrival at the edge of Germany's Black Forest was cool spring, but the warmth of the welcome given to us by our friends and partners from the Rotary Club of Hanau-Maintal was High Summer - starting with a rousing, late-night get-together in the bar of the Hotel Am Froschbachel at Buhl. It was marvellous that so many of Hanau's members and partners could accompany us on this visit.

Last minute health complications prevented three of the original Orwell party of 27 from boarding the coach for Stansted Airport; regretfully, we had to leave behind SVP Alan and Marjorie, and also Sandra Moore.

Our hotel was run by the Germany Red Cross, whose other services might have been needed by the writer had his full-length fall from some unlit steps inside the hotel not left him unscathed, not even a bruise!



The English and German parties in the grounds of the hotel

The following day, the first of the tour, provided us with a sight that left us all dumbfounded - the scene inside the Chrysler-Daimler's Mercedes Benz car factory at Rastatt, where the company assembles the small A-Class car. The vast majority of procedures on a six-mile assembly line was controlled by robots, many of which could be likened to mechanical dinosaurs, and

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We were graced by a visit of the Mayor, Cllr Penny Breakwell, at our meeting on the 14th April and it is more than fair comment to say her talk was amusing and informative. The ability to project the voice and to create the notion that you, amongst a gathering of some 25 people are being addressed personally, is not a gift to be found in all who stand up to give a speech.

Rtn Richard Spurgin, a fellow Rotarian from Harleston, gave us an insight into cardiomyopathy and shocked us all with the way in which he lost his daughter to the condition. His plea to us all was to carry a donor card – his daughter did so – and thereby was able to give life or improve it to some fifty-four other human beings. If only half of our number could follow her example, just think of the number of people we could help.

The month of May sees two of our major events coming to fruition – Youth Speaks on the 5th and our Golf Day on the 10th. A lot of work has already gone into both of these and I am grateful to Sandra and to Philip respectively for the efforts they and their Committees have made. Please make every effort to be at Orwell Park School on the 5th as it counts for attendance and Trudy will be creating a buffet for us. Remember also, that even if like me, you are absolutely hopeless with a golf club, it is another occasion for a social gathering with dinner at Purdis in the evening. The odd raffle prize would help the fund raising and a word with Philip to offer this support will be very welcome indeed.

We have our AGM on Wednesday 12th May when the incoming team for Alan's year in the Chair will be elected together with the other Officers. The following week is our Club Assembly – 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm at the Ipswich & Suffolk Club. Normally this is a very entertaining affair with the usual injection of Orwell humour whilst in the process of getting the serious business out of the way.

Our final Wednesday is given over to a talk by Dr. Michael Nicholas entitled "Tower Memorial Fund". This is a registered charity created in support of The Tower Choir and was inaugurated over twenty years ago by a tenor chorister, Tom Cotton, whose abilities included the skill to read music like most of us read the morning paper. More of this later.

Yours in Rotary,

Derek ❖

Paul Daniels Launches Bereavement CD-ROM

From RIBI News

Coping When Someone Has Died is the focus of a new CD-ROM in the Rotary 'Coping with Life' series, an RIBI initiative, launched by Paul Daniels at the annual Rotary conference in Bournemouth.

Death is the one certain thing for us all yet it is a great mystery to children and a taboo. A death in the family, the death of a friend, of a teacher or even a pet can have a traumatic effect on children. On average 40 children per day lose a parent through bereavement. This programme offers help and advice on how to cope. Many children have been involved with the production, offering their experiences as a help to others. Guidance is also available for teachers and families so that they can help children through the difficult times following a death.

The interactive CD-ROM has been backed by many organisations which advise on this issue. These include, The Association of Children's Hospices, Bereavement Care Standards UK, National Association of Funeral Directors, The Pet Bereavement Support Service, Compassionate Friends and many others.

The aim of the Rotary 'Coping with Life' series is to provide a Rotary Library of multimedia resources for every school in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Each programme tackles a different social issue with the aim of supporting children, parents and schools by providing information and advice on each subject area.

The bereavement CD-ROM is the fourth in the 'Coping with Life' series. The other three award winning CD-ROMs focus on bullying, family change, and citizenship. Rotary Clubs have distributed more than 75,000 CDs so far, and these are now available to over nine million students, their parents and teachers.

The project is the initiative of Rotary District 1030, which covers Cleveland, Co Durham, Northumberland and Tyne & Wear, and development work has been the responsibility of local Rotarian, Colin Sawyer.

Review copies of the CD ROM on Coping when someone has died and photographs are available on request from Colin.



two and a half days from starting to finish, completed vehicles were being disgorged every 80 seconds.

A woman guide gave us lots of information about the factory but also told us to leave our cameras behind in the coach. One person misunderstood, and when she spotted a flash, her calm demeanour changed immediately to fury as she stood over the offender while he obliterated the digital image. "You will get me into a lot of trouble," she said.

At this point, however, I offer on behalf of everyone of us our very grateful thanks to the Chrysler-Daimler executives, and our hosts, for their very considerable generosity throughout the three-day tour in providing comfortable coaches, guides, meals and Champagne receptions, at great expense.



Schloss Rastatt Castle

There were so many highlights in a packed programme of unforgettable moments that no report of mine could do justice to such hospitality. We had a guided tour of the beautiful and ornate Rastatt Castle, the male members of the party being utterly charmed by our charismatic female guide. A visit to a Schnapps distillery in the evening saw many of both parties letting their hair down in log-sawing competitions and a sort of butter-making type of dancing!

The beautiful spa city of Baden-Baden was visited the following day and there we sampled the spring water, which was surprisingly hot. The highlight of this tour was to see inside the city's famous Casino, once described by actress Marlene Dietrich as "the most beautiful casino in the world." It was morning and therefore closed to gamblers until early afternoon. Some 90 per cent of gross takings (about \$55 per year) are handed over to the State.



Presidents Gerhard Wussow and Derek Firmin tackle the two-handed cross-cut saw, supervised by Rudolph Spinner.

Day Two

During the evening of the second day, our hosts entertained us to a Gala Dinner, at which an official welcome and our thanks in reply were expressed by Presidents Gerhard Wussow and Derek Firmin, respectively.

The final day of the tour was taken up with a very extensive five-hour tour of the Black Forest, with frequent stops on the way to sample the culinary delights of the area.

The memorable visit to the Baden-Baden region left us breathless with admiration for the organisational abilities of our hosts - and also left us scratching our heads and wondering "How can we match that?" when our German friends again visit the Ipswich area again in the spring of 2005 - the centenary year of Rotary. ■

Note that we now have the dates for the return of our Hanau Friends next year. They plan to arrive on Thursday 12th May 2005 and depart on Sunday 15th May 2005.

A gallery of pictures from the trip are now available on the club web-site. Please let me know if you have any more that we could include.

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

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Centenary News

From RIBI News

To celebrate 100 years of Rotary International the Rotary Club of Newtownabbey has designed and produced an attractive commemorative envelope. The envelopes will be franked and posted from Chicago on 23 February 2005. The cost per envelope is £6.00 (or 9 euros).



This is a unique opportunity for all Rotarians and friends not only to participate in and celebrate 100 years of Rotary but also to support the Rotary Foundation to which all monies raised will be donated. Rotary Foundation is Rotary's corporate charity and is the world's largest private charity. Since 1947 The Rotary Foundation has made over \$1 billion in awards since 1947, and \$94.1 million in 2002-2003.

The envelopes contain a précis of the life of Rotary's Founder Paul Harris and messages from Rotary International President Elect Glenn Estess, Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland President Elect Gordon McNally and District Governor Crawford Wilson.

The envelopes may be ordered online at www.rotarycentennialenvelope.com, or by sending name and address (as will appear on the envelope) together with a cheque, made payable to the Rotary Club of Newtonabbey Trust Fund, to Martin Sayliss, 10 Glenshane Park Newtonabbey, Co Antrim, BT37 0QN Northern Ireland. All orders must be paid for at the time of ordering. Envelopes will not be posted out until 23 February 2005, the centennial anniversary of the founding of the first Rotary Club in Chicago. Ever since, Rotary's work has spanned the globe, with clubs in 166 countries and a membership of 1.2 million businessmen and women. ■

Funny Footnote

KIDS IN CHURCH

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

MAY 2004

TUESDAY 4TH

5.45 pm. Club Service Committee (Prettys).

WEDNESDAY 5TH

Evening, "Youth Speaks" at Orwell Park School

SATURDAY 8TH

Morning. District Assembly at Mildenhall

MONDAY 10TH

Afternoon. Golf Day at Purdis Heath.

TUESDAY 11TH

5.45 pm. Club Council at Ipswich & Suffolk Club

WEDNESDAY 12TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Business Meeting and Annual General Meeting

WEDNESDAY 19TH

7:00pm for 7:30pm. Club Assembly at Ipswich & Suffolk Club.

WEDNESDAY 26TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: Dr Michael Nicholas, "Tower Memorial Fund"

JUNE 2004 ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

WEDNESDAY 2ND

7.45 am. Holbrook Compasses Breakfast + Business Meeting.

TUESDAY 8TH

5.45 pm. Club Service Committee (Prettys).

WEDNESDAY 9TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker TBA + KIDS OUT

TUESDAY 15TH

5.45 pm. Club Council at Ipswich & Suffolk Club
Kids Out

WEDNESDAY 16TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: TBA

WEDNESDAY 23RD

12.55 p.m. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: TBA

WEDNESDAY 30TH

7:00pm for 7:30pm. Presidential Hand Over at The Compasses Inn, Holbrook.

Calendar Of Events, continued on page 5

April 2004 Message

From RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe

For only US\$100, you can help give the gift of hearing to a deaf child in Pakistan. Imagine the joy of hearing a parent's voice for the first time or the laughter of other children. Over the years,



The Rotary Foundation of RI has changed thousands of lives for the better. The Foundation is Rotary's vehicle for enabling dreams to become reality.

During the 2002-03 Rotary year, Rotarians contributed \$55.8 million to the Annual Programs Fund for humanitarian projects and educational programs. In my travels around the world, I have seen Rotarians construct low-cost shelters for the homeless, install water wells in remote communities, volunteer at club-sponsored AIDS clinics, and provide books for low-income youngsters. At these times, I am truly proud to call myself a Rotarian.

In January, I presided over the Presidential Celebration in Manila, Philippines, site of the first Rotary club established in Asia (1919). The Philippines is also the site of Rotary's first polio immunization project, which eventually led to our greatest service opportunity — the PolioPlus program. In tribute to the Filipino Rotarians, I am shown this month wearing a barong, a shirt donned on formal occasions.

Rotary's next century promises even greater opportunities for service. But we are also facing many challenges. In recent years, contributions to The Rotary Foundation have not kept pace with the steady growth in programs. This shortfall has resulted in scaling back Group Study Exchanges and approving fewer humanitarian grants.

Many Rotarians believe that their commitment ends once they contribute \$1,000 for Paul Harris Fellow Recognition. But that gesture of generosity should be just the beginning. It should serve as a springboard to a lifetime of continuous giving.

If every Rotarian were to donate \$100 or more every year, we would nearly double our efforts to help people around the world. The 2001 Council on Legislation unanimously passed a resolution approving the goal of \$100 per capita by 2005. I am counting on all Rotarians to rise to this challenge so that we can make a difference in the world.

Calendar Of Events, continued from page 4

AUGUST 2004

WEDNESDAY 4TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + District Governor's visit

SEPTEMBER 2004

SUNDAY 5TH

Afternoon. RYLA Open Afternoon at Grafton Water Centre

SUNDAY 12TH

Morning. Alton Water Challenge.

OCTOBER 2004

FRIDAY 1ST TO SUNDAY 3RD.

District Conference at Stratford on Avon

FRIDAY 8TH

Evening. Charter Night Dinner at Ipswich Golf Club

FEBRUARY 2005

SUNDAY 27TH

Centenary Service at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

MARCH 2005

Wednesday 30th TO THURSDAY 31ST.

RIBI President visits District 1080

MAY 2005

THURSDAY 12TH TO SUNDAY 15TH.

Rotary Club of Hanau-Maintal Visit To Ipswich

Your contribution makes an impact in very real human terms. For example, a \$100 gift to the Annual Programs Fund can help provide one of the following: four new wells for rural villages in Zimbabwe, three cataract eye operations in India, mosquito netting for 35 homes in Bangladesh, or nutrition for 20 severely undernourished children in the Philippines.

Each gift to The Rotary Foundation is a gift of hope to someone less fortunate. We can make a monumental difference with our Every Rotarian, Every Year effort. As journalist and former Ambassadorial Scholar Bill Moyers once said: "What we do is touch other people ... open the horizon to them ... and say 'You matter.'"

Rotarians can serve as the torchbearers of hope, ready to Lend a Hand. Please join me in contributing a gift of \$100 or more every year in support of the Annual Programs Fund. Together, we can successfully meet the challenges of Rotary's second century of service.

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