

# The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

May 2006

## From The President's Desk

Last month's bumper newsletter was a splendid effort by all concerned and will be a hard act to follow, as a Club we do owe much to Malcolm Reece and Steve Canham for the professionalism they bring to producing the newsletters and maintaining the web site.

I would also like to pay tribute to those members who made a bid for the joint finding project. The exercise brought out some very interesting ideas and suggestions.

I was particularly impressed that virtually the entire membership became involved in the debate and the procedure adopted proved that democratic within the club is alive and well.

Our lunchtime speakers this month included Julian Evans on 'Advertisement Design'. Unfortunately I could not attend, but I am reliably informed that the slideshow was both interesting and informative.

Sarah Sanford told us of the work of the Ipswich Community Resource Centre and Alan Humphrey provided us with a very thought provoking and personal insight into the role of foster carers in our society.

On Saturday 6th May our next years Management Team were at Mildenhall for their induction training, the first major step to the big handover at the end of June – how time flies!

Yours in Rotary,

*Eddie* ❖

## Helping Hand For Socially Excluded

From Malcolm Reece

In Any community you will always find some people who are less fortunate than others and who quite often need our help. In Ipswich, one organisation which for many years has offered the hand of kindness is the Ipswich Community Resource Centre.

At our lunch on 19th April, Sarah Sanford from the Centre gave us a brief insight into the important work carried out by the organisation from its headquarters in Foundry Road.

Working under the umbrella of Ipswich Borough Council and also "tied in" with several voluntary organisations, the centre works tirelessly to support and improve the lives of unemployed and low-waged people, such as lending a friendly ear to personal problems, offering advice on debt or finance, and helping to get many people started with educational and training facilities.

Many more simple needs are included, such as access to donated furniture, household items, clothes and free food. Occasionally, there is a crèche for children while parents use the centre during school holidays.

Sarah explained that in the early days, between 1981-83, the centre was run by volunteers, but today as part of the Council's housing committee, it was on the borough's "pay roll". The main work now, she said, was advice on how to claim benefits.

"The centre helps to put a little jam on the bread by raising people's hopes beyond mere existence," she said.

And, on a lighter note, she told us: "Although we don't expect it and why it's such a pleasure, we sometimes receive well-meant gifts, such as a bunch of flowers for providing a bed; an Easter egg for preventing evictions; a packet of seeds to say 'thank-you'.

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## Ipswich East Venue Change

Please be aware that the Rotary Club of Ipswich East will be changing its regular Tuesday meeting venue, with effect from

Tuesday 2nd May 2006, (starting at 12.55pm) to :-

Greshams Sports and Social Club  
Tuddenham Road  
Ipswich  
Suffolk  
IP4 3QJ  
Telephone: 01473-250816

As before anyone planning to visit Ipswich East should always check on the 5th Tuesday in the month as this will be an evening meeting with varied venues.

The initial trial at Greshams was very successful with excellent food and very easy parking.

We look forward to receiving your members at our new venue, should they care to visit us.

Best wishes and kind regards

Keith Harris,  
Secretary,  
Rotary Club of Ipswich East

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

MAY 2006

TUESDAY 16TH

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 17TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Speaker: "Youth Speaks" – Westbourne School

WEDNESDAY 24TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro on the Quay + Business & AGM

Evening. Joint fellowship meeting of Ipswich Clubs at Belstead House.

WEDNESDAY 31ST

Breakfast Meeting @ Holbrook Compasses

JUNE 2006 ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> - SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

Visit to Hanau-Maintal RC

WEDNESDAY 7TH

NO MEETING

District Council at Mildenhall

THURSDAY 8TH

Evening meeting – Club Assembly at Ipswich & Suffolk Club

TUESDAY 13TH

Club Service

WEDNESDAY 14TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Karen Pickering, "Swimming for Ipswich"

TUESDAY 20TH

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 21ST

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Business/Fellowship

MONDAY 26TH

"Kids Out"

WEDNESDAY 28TH

No Lunch – evening meeting. "Presidential Handover" at the Coach House, Helmingham Hall

## Picture Gallery 1

Words & Pictures By Gordon Kember



*Sarah Sanford spoke at luncheon on 19th April about the Suffolk Resource Centre and the advice and practical assistance it offers to people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.*

## Cookers For FIND

By Tony Hill

The Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs of Ipswich Orwell recently joined forces with the local charity F I N D (Families in Need) to hold a social and fundraising evening designed to publicise the work of F I N D and to enable the purchase of household appliances for Suffolk people affected by homelessness or hardship. Two hundred people enjoyed a trivia quiz and sausage supper at St Margaret's Church Centre in Bolton Lane, Ipswich. Local firms John Grose and Woodward Markwell sponsored the event and, with the help of many other organisations and individuals, a grand total of £1600 was realised.

All parties expressed their delight when F I N D was able to purchase five cookers and five washing machines (on very favourable terms) from Currys and our photograph shows the transaction being finalised at their Copdock store.



Pictured from left to right are: Anne Smith, President of the Inner Wheel Club of Ipswich Orwell; Nick Loose, Currys; Eddie Marsh, President of the Rotary Club of Ipswich Orwell (with the cheque for £1600) and Maureen Reynel, Chairman of F I N D (Families in Need).

Maureen will shortly take delivery of the appliances and keep them in her charity's warehouse until the next call for help is received. A great example of local firms, societies and charities teaming up to good effect.

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## Inner Wheel Notes

By Pam Hill, Club Correspondent

At our April meeting we had an interesting speaker, Richard Watson, who is a volunteer for East Suffolk MIND. This is President Anne's main charity for her year in office. We were surprised to hear that about 1 in 4 people will suffer from mild depression or other mental illness in their lifetime. There is some government funding, but that is mainly for housing support. Much hard work is therefore done by the local group of volunteers to fund such things as a drop-in centre, a phone line, and an advice and information service. They try to be the light at the end of the tunnel for those in need. We have each been given an East Suffolk MIND pack with lots of information about various fundraising events which I am sure our members will try to support.



Our next meeting is the AGM on May 17th. We hope to see as many members as possible. The Ipswich & Suffolk Club have hinted that we need to have more people at our dinners for it to be profitable for them. This venue is very important to us and we need your support. Elizabeth needs to know numbers by Friday 12th May.

The Handover Dinner is on Wednesday 21st June. The menu will be "Salmon & Strawberries" and will cost £13.00. Cheques to be sent to Jacqui in early June, please. The dinner will be in the dining room and we look forward to welcoming husbands and guests that evening.

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## Picture Gallery 2

Words & Pictures By Tony Hill

Here are a few pictures from our joint event with the Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club, with whom we shared proceeds totalling approximately £1100. Around 100 people attended and all had a good time (they said!);



*Russell & Trudie - Winning Owner and Race Sponsor*



*Sponsor Adrian pleases Presidential winner;*



*Commodore Robert with lucky winner Jenny*



*Smoothie Peter wins best "Boaty" prize;*



*Second best "Racegoer";*



*Anne takes Owner's prize as President Eddy eats sour grape*



*Bob checks out the bar staff*

# Ipswich Furniture Project

By Malcolm Reece

Most of our members raised their hand at our club meeting on 10th May when they were asked whether they had heard of the Ipswich Furniture Project. But the majority later admitted that they were not aware of the vast amount of work done these days by this small town-based charity.

Nor were they aware, until trustee Fiona Loader explained, the large number of people living in our community who were on low incomes and often desperately needed help to acquire furniture and also white goods at an affordable price.

The project, which originated through the borough council more than 20 years ago, has been a registered charity since 1989. It is staffed by six full-time workers, plus volunteers, and its purpose is to provide an accessible source of furniture and white goods to people in the borough and surrounding area. Anything from a single item to a complete house full of furniture can be handled, and the charity can collect donated furniture and household items within Ipswich and a 15-mile radius.

Fiona said it was certainly not a "free" service. The project needed to pay its way and all items handled were sold on at an affordable price. A significant part of the annual income came from the amounts they charged, she said.

Bob Whitehead, who manages the project, said their main objective was relieving poverty in the community. Recently, they had forged relationships with several local businesses and through this route many items which were heading for the landfill tip were being redirected to them. He said they had entered into partnership arrangements to take back and re-use or recycle domestic goods from three major retailers in Ipswich, B & Q, the Co-op and Matthews Ltd. This was in addition to its white goods collection service for Ipswich Borough Council.

They were also piloting a scheme with Suffolk County Council to collect re-usable furniture items from the two household recycling centres in Ipswich and one in Bury St Edmunds. "A furniture re-use project in Bury St Edmunds will also be involved in this pilot, providing more re-usable goods for the disadvantaged in that area," he said. "We hope this is the start, with local authorities, to release thousands of additional re-usable furniture and appliances to those in need within

East Anglia as well as fulfilling both an environmental and statutory obligation."

The Ipswich Furniture Project operates from Hogarth Road, Ipswich, and can be contacted by phone: 01473 404004; by fax: 01473 408005; and e-mail: [ipswichfp@aol.com](mailto:ipswichfp@aol.com)

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## Picture Gallery 2 Continued



*A few familiar faces;*



*37 - Rotaract's Mark a Sponsor;*



*39 - Phil & Debbie work the IT.*