

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

May 2008

From The President's Desk

I can't believe how the time flies... it must be something to do with my age! It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting down to prepare a few words for our Newsletter Team, and here I am again, but it is now a month later! In another month I shall be very close to the end of my Presidential year and I shall be wondering where the last year has gone!

I am very pleased to report that the last month has been very busy for our Club. On 11th April we hosted a Race Night at Waldringfield Golf Club in aid of the Willow Foundation and the President's Charity (Suffolk Voluntary Family Carers). The evening was very well supported and a great success thanks to the organisers, consisting of Alan Lonsdale's Committee and Tony Hill. In fact it would not be an overstatement to say that it was one of the most successful events we have held recently and certainly enjoyed by all those attending. Hopefully we shall be able to repeat the event on a future date.

On 30th April we held our Fifth Wednesday event at the Sanctuary Restaurant in Ipswich. There was a good turnout of Rotarians and their friends. We were treated to good food and a good speaker in the form of Judge Stephanie Thew.

On 1st May the Club held the annual Golf Day at Purdis Heath. The event is always well supported and we were not disappointed this year. In fact the weather was a lot kinder this year which was very much welcomed by all those taking part. Thanks must go to David Berridge and his team of merry men who organised this event.

At the time of writing this brief note, our Club is visiting our twinned Rotary Club of Hanau in Germany. I have no doubt that those involved will be treated to a busy

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Race Night

Words By Malcolm Reece

Have you ever seen David Berridge in a bowler hat? Or Tony Hill sporting a Pork Pie tiffer two sizes too small? Or even Bob Bacon sitting at a table and handing out money? Well, we did, at the resoundingly successful Charity Racenight at Waldringfield Golf Club on 11th April.

Lots of people dressed for the occasion, including the aforementioned, to get us all in the mood for a riotous night of racing, bets, booze and bangers – but with the serious intent of making loads of money for two worthy causes.

Early indications are that around £2,000 will be raised (subject to any updates), with the proceeds being split equally between The Willow Foundation and Rotary's Filtastraw Project.

The Willow Foundation was set up in 1999 by former Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper, Bob Wilson, in memory of his daughter who died prematurely from cancer. The Foundation organises and funds "special days" for young adults living with life-threatening conditions, which are designed to help them escape the pressures of their daily routine and share quality time with family and friends. More details are available at www.willowfoundation.org.uk

The Rotary project provides a low-cost personal source of safe drinking water for people in areas of the world without access to this basic human right. It is being achieved by the purchase and distribution of the "Filtastraw", a personal mobile water purification tool designed to turn surface water into safe drinking water. Small and easy to use, the Filtastraw costs just over £3 when purchased in bulk and each device supplies enough safe water to last an adult a year and a child two years. Check it out on:

www.filtastraw.org.uk

Having established why we were there, and why so many generous folk spent lots of money, you need to understand that this successful event would not have happened without a great deal of hard work and late night candle-burning by both Rotarians and Willow

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itinerary together with excellent hospitality and fellowship from our German friends. Unfortunately, due to business commitments I was unable to travel to Germany this year and I would like to thank Carol Lockett, our Junior Vice President, for leading our Team. I would also like to thank Bob Fox for all the hard work and many hours he put into the organisation of the trip. I look forward to hearing all about the trip at our next lunch.

Yours in Rotary,

Alan ❖

Picture Gallery

Photographs By Gordon Kember



Eddie King (left), fourth time President of the Ipswich Lions Club, brought us news on 23rd April 2008 about local Lions Club projects



Chris Cumberbatch, a solicitor with Prettys, seen here with his colleague Rotarian Carol Lockett, spoke to the club on 2nd April 2008 about his work with the Ipswich Council for Racial Equality, of which he is a trustee, in integrating and assisting immigrants in Ipswich

Foundation supporters. Plus, of course, the generosity of those who sponsored the races at £25 a race, and bought horses for a fiver each. We owe them all our gratitude and thanks, and I shall now take the risk of walking through the "minefield" and naming them. If I missed anyone, my humble apologies.

On the Rotary side, we had Tony Hill, whose tireless efforts for the club are becoming a legend, MC David Berridge (I think it was him under that bowler!), bookie, Honest Bob Bacon, cashier, Bob Fox, and International Committee chairman Alan Lonsdale, who I understand has a secret cache of signed Ipswich Town football shirts hidden by Liverpool FC programmes. JVP Carole Lockett welcomed guests on behalf of the Rotary Club and Willow Foundation.

For the Willow Foundation, we had Anne Smith, Ank Askew, Jemma Hale, Jenny Askew, Nicola Crockley, Amy Dobrucki, plus tote sellers – Joanna Haste, Vicki Perrins, Charlotte Tuck and Jessica Bank-Gomack. Also working hard was our expert in charge of audio/visuals, Richard Garrett.

Not forgetting our sponsors – Jill & George Burley; Richard Brown; Suffolk Lettings; Harris Commercial Surveyors; Robert Forsdike Ltd; Kirton Windows; Canon Consulting Engineers; and Jane Forsdike.

Finally, a big vote of thanks to Waldringfield Golf Club for providing the venue free of charge; it made the bangers and mash supper that little bit more enjoyable! And, to those who missed out....there's always next year! ■



Janet Bayliss, Information Development Librarian with Suffolk Libraries, seen with secretary Martin Hough, gave an enthusiastic and stimulating talk on 9th April 2008 on the educational and social pleasures afforded in the community by local book groups. She also publicised some of the literary services available locally through the Suffolk Book League during the 2008 National Year of Reading

St. Elizabeth Hospice

Words By Malcolm Reece

Photograph By Gordon Kember

Bob Harvey, a trustee for the past 10 years with the St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich, joined us for lunch on 7th May and gave us a useful update on the changes taking place at the moment and how some of the money raised was being spent.



Bob Harvey (left), here with Vice President Brian Beason, spoke on 7th May 2008 about the continuing services and new developments at the Saint Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich

Nothing would happen, of course, without the tireless work of volunteers, and Bob emphasised once again the importance of this vital voluntary aspect of hospice work.

Improvements were being made all the time, such as new and better facilities in the day centre, which had got rid of the old people's home image; and four-bed wards being changed into two-bedded facilities.

Bob said one of the biggest improvements was providing facilities for people to return home and to continue to receive care and treatment from trained nurses and other carers. The doctor-patient ratio had also been improved. "Once stabilised, patients can now go home with our support facilities, such as Macmillan Nurses and support carers, going out to them, he said. "This is the way we see services in the future".

Moneywise, the hospice is currently taking about £2.5 million a year to maintain, of which about £1 million comes from grants and the rest generated through various forms of fund-raising and legacies. Again, Bob stresses that these amounts are needed just to run the hospice. On top of this is the cost of upkeep and

ROTARY RELIEF REACHES CYCLONE RAVAGED MYANMAR

From RIBI News

Shelterbox, a grassroots disaster relief organization set up by Rotary members in the UK, was among the first charities to reach the affected area of cyclone ravaged Myanmar, as other agencies continue to struggle to gain access.

More than 1,000 ShelterBoxes were flown out to Myanmar on Wednesday 14th May, thanks to the generous donations from Rotary members.

ShelterBox chartered the DC 10 aid flight from East Midlands Airport in Birmingham, and packed it with 1,050 boxes destined to help thousands of cyclone survivors.

Patrick Olson a USA ShelterBox Relief Team (SRT) member accompanied the boxes and will be joining the existing four specially trained volunteers who have been on the ground in Yangon since last Thursday (May 8th). David Eby, another US SRT member, will join them shortly.

ShelterBox, the first UK based relief team to have landed in Myanmar, have already organised the distribution of 400 boxes to cyclone victims. The boxes were transported by local authorities to the Delta region using trucks and boats and tents were set up with the help of local fire services, trained by the ShelterBox response team in Yangon.

UK ShelterBox Response Team Leader Ian Neal, on the ground in the capital city Yangon, said: "All teams in Yangon have now been trained on the ShelterBox contents and setting up of tents. We plan to distribute 500 boxes plus 50 blue boxes to Ngaputaw in the South West Delta region, 250 boxes to Labutta Delta, and 250 to Bogale. The boxes will be transported straight off the aircraft onto trucks and then into affected areas with the local staff in field."

Shelterbox founder and Rotary club member Tom Henderson from Cornwall says: "Our team of volunteers are working in cooperation with local groups in Myanmar to line up transportation and determine where the shelters will do the most good amid the massive devastation.

"We have received tremendous support from Rotarians and would like to extend our thanks. Without the support of our Rotary friends we would not be able to carry out this essential work."

Up to 100,000 people are estimated to have died in the cyclone and 70,000 people are still missing, and the destruction of entire communities has left tens of thousands of people homeless.

continuing improvements. And, as we in Rotary know only too well, this battle for funds continues. ■

Inner Wheel Notes

Words By Ann Orvis, Club Correspondent

Photograph By Pam Hill

The speaker for our April meeting was Jacqui Martin from Suffolk Carers. There are 64 people employed by Suffolk Carers. They have various projects and carry out lots of outreach work.

The Princess Anne Trust for Young Carers is President Elizabeth's chosen charity this year. Suffolk Young Carers started 15 years ago and Princess Anne is an excellent patron.



President Elizabeth (Right) with Jacqui Martin from Suffolk Carers

A young carer is usually someone aged between 9 and 16 whose life is restricted because they are looking after a relative who cannot manage without help, due to illness or physical disability. There are over 4000 young carers in Suffolk. The Trust arranges respite care and provides a great deal of support, helping these young people to be themselves and enabling them to gain the confidence to go forward with their own lives, especially those in socially isolating situations.

Some funding comes from the Government and some is raised independently. All their services are free. They work in partnership with teachers and Education Welfare Officers providing support for the whole family, guiding them towards getting the appropriate help.

Suffolk Carers also do key work with the Fire Service and have developed a scheme in partnership with them. This includes a home safety visit.

Jacqui is passionate and enthusiastic about her work and told us some very touching stories of how the trust has been able to offer lots of positive support. Various projects have provided 6000 hours of respite for young

carers during the past 18 months. The trust has also provided bikes and driving services for those in need of help with transport.

Finally, a note of thanks has been received from Tony Hill regarding the help from Inner Wheel with the FIND quiz. It was a really fun evening and a very profitable one for FIND. Tony thanked us for our continuing support.

Our next meeting on 21st May will be our AGM. Apologies to Bobbie Hopper on 01473 685968 by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

MAY 2008

TUESDAY 20TH

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 21ST

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

WEDNESDAY 26TH

NO LUNCH - Breakfast Meeting Fellowship at Holbrook Compasses

JUNE 2008 ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

WEDNESDAY 4TH

NO LUNCH - Evening Club Assembly, Ipswich and Suffolk Club

WEDNESDAY 11TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Matthew Brackenberry – "Thomas Wolsey School"

THURSDAY 12TH

Club Service

TUESDAY 17TH

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 18TH

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

WEDNESDAY 25TH

NO LUNCH – Evening Presidential Handover

THURSDAY 27TH

Northampton Golf Match (away fixture)