

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

November 2004

From The President's Desk

They say that variety is the spice of life, and that can be said for the social events held during October. My thanks to all those who helped to run the Charter Night so smoothly, with a special thank you to Alan Page who stepped in to the breach at such short notice.

We only learnt of the murder of Ken Bigley when we arrived at the venue and consequently Geoff Wood changed his presentation considerably as he did not think it appropriate to dwell upon some of the unreported atrocities taking place in his previous country.

Before leaving us on the Monday Geoff sent his best wishes to all the members of the Club and thanked them for the kind reception.

Our annual ten pin-bowling match versus Manningtree took place at Kingpin. Backed by a strong team including two 'professional' players, our opponents again proved too strong for us. However, all was not lost as Eddie Marsh and Peter Smith both received awards for their respective scores.

Thanks go to Bob Bacon and Richard Brown for making it such an enjoyable evening.

Our last social event takes me back to the first line of this report, where thanks to Tony Hill and Peter Smith an evening was spent at the Spice restaurant.

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Spice Night

By Tony Hill

36 members and friends enjoyed the demonstration of "Malaysian Fusion" cooking given by chef Vernon Blackmore and his partner Victoria Shelley at the Woodbridge restaurant recently. Vernon was the last speaker of our Vocational Month and the evening was also used as an opportunity to raise some money (almost £300) for people in the Somersham ward of Ipswich Hospital suffering from myeloma cancer. An excellent dinner followed the demonstration and a good time was had by all.



More pictures available on the club web-site at <http://www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/news> ■

A demonstration of the preparation of Thai food was given by Vernon Blackmore, which in turn was followed by a Thai meal. Victoria Shelley gave an impassioned presentation on the Friends of the Somersham Ward.

It was a Rotarian evening, a mixture of good fellowship, and fundraising, again proving we are not a cheque book club.

During the month we had two excellent speakers, Rob Smith the Manager of the Port of Ipswich and Mike Atkinson from Martin and Newby. Both organisations have a long history with the town of Ipswich but with different outcomes. The Port has weathered the storm and is going from strength to strength, whereas Martin and Newby has finally succumbed to the pressure of the market place, much to the disappointment expressed by the members present.

I believe that Napoleon once said that we were a nation of shopkeepers. Little did he know of the likes of B&Q.

As the end of the year draws to a close, the short list for a new venue has been narrowed to two possibilities. Following the next Council meeting a recommendation will be put to the Club. I know that whatever is decided it will not please everybody, but that's life.

Once again thank you for your continuing support.

Yours in Rotary,

Alan ❖

Funny Footnote

A local policeman had just finished his shift one cold November evening and was at home with his wife.

"You just won't believe what happened this evening, in all my years on the force I've never seen anything like it."

"Oh yes dear, what happened?"

"I came across two guys down by the canal, one of them was drinking battery acid and the other was eating fireworks."

"Drinking battery acid and eating fireworks!! What did you do with them?"

"Oh that was easy, I charged one and let the other off."

■

Centennial News

From Rotary News
Poster Contest

As part of the centennial celebrations, Rotary clubs organised children's poster contests, inviting children ages 10-13 to participate. Children were asked to choose from a variety of media - chalk, charcoal, crayon, paint, pastel, pen, or pencil - to express the theme of providing service to others in the community and in the world.

Club and district competitions were held, and one winner from each district competition was entered into one of 34 zone competitions. One winner from each zone competition competed in the international competition. The winner and four runners-up of the international competition will be announced in February 2005 and will receive a cash prize and a memento.

The Zone 18 winning entry is shown below.



Zen Severn, 11, Rotary Club of Holbeach, Lincolnshire,
England, District 1070, Zone 18 ■

DON'T FORGET!

This years Christmas Dinner is being at Ipswich Golf Club, Purdis Heath on the evening of Saturday 18th December.

INNER WHEEL NOTES

BY PAM HILL, CLUB CORRESPONDENT



At our September and October meetings, we inducted 3 new members. Pictured left is Jane Ferris, an honorary member, Linda Trower, in the middle, is welcomed back as a returning member and on the right is Anne Orvis, another honorary member.

We are delighted to have them join us. Our membership stands at 22 now.

On October 20th, our speaker was the Reverend Joyce Willis. She is a person of small stature and her life has certainly been, and still is, a challenge. She was able to attend mainstream schools and was encouraged by her parents to be self-reliant. She has an engaging personality and told us many tales of adjustments (e.g. to the pulpit) that have allowed her to lead as normal a life as possible. Joyce has a specially adapted car, which enables her to be independent, and we were all impressed with her positive outlook on life. The club has made a small donation to the St Elizabeth Hospice on her behalf, as she waived any speaker's fee.

Jenny Towell is having a pre-Christmas shopping evening on Thursday, 11th November starting at 6.30 pm. A glass of wine will add to the festivities and 10% of all purchases made will be kindly donated by Jenny to our club charity account. Dinner afterwards at Ask is planned. Please contact Rita Marsh or Sue Morgan if you wish to come along for the meal...otherwise, just turn up for the shopping!

The November 17th speaker will be our Inner Wheel member Win Forton talking about "War Years and After". Any Rotary wives who would like to attend please let me know by Sunday the 14th.

Programme details are on the web site
www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/innerwhl.htm ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

NOVEMBER 2004 ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

WEDNESDAY 10TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: Iain Livingstone, GSE officer, "Argentinians visit"

TUESDAY 16TH

5.45pm. Club Council meeting

WEDNESDAY 17TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: Brian Baxter, Foundation District Chairman

WEDNESDAY 24TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: Carlyne Morey, Disability Care Enterprise

DECEMBER 2004

WEDNESDAY 1ST

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: Ken Seagar, Acting Chief Fire Officer

WEDNESDAY 8TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: Neil Watts, Head of Northgate High School

TUESDAY 14TH

5.45pm. Club Council meeting

WEDNESDAY 15TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall. Business meeting.

SATURDAY 18TH

Evening Christmas Dinner at Ipswich Golf Club, Purdis Heath.

WEDNESDAY 22ND

12.55pm Town Hall Christmas Lunch, Speaker: Reverend Aidan Platten - Assistant Curate at St. Mary's, Woodbridge

WEDNESDAY 29TH

No Meeting

JANUARY 2005

WEDNESDAY 5TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: The Mayor of Ipswich, Cllr Roger Fern

TUESDAY 11TH

5.45pm. Club Council meeting

WEDNESDAY 12TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: TBA

Calendar Of Events, continued on page 4

26th Charter Night

Friday 8th October

This years Charter Night was held at the Ipswich Golf Club, Purdis Heath. An excellent meal of Chorizo Salad, Rack of Lamb and Chocolate delice was enjoyed by Club members, fellow Rotarians and guests.

Rotarian Barry Gibbs, Assistant Governor South, spoke of the forthcoming centenary as our opportunity to 'blow our trumpets' and take this chance to promote Rotary, Ipswich Orwell and it's causes.



President Alan Lonsdale

In Response, President Alan Lonsdale mentioned a number of highlights in the history of Rotary:

- 1907 – Rotary installed a public toilet as the first public service project;
- 1917 – Foundation established with \$26.50 as first contribution;
- 2001 - \$2M raised by Rotary for the victims of 9/11.

Rotary was originally only 4 members and now has over 1 million members. As Alan said, Paul Harris is probably looking down and pondering, "What do I think of it so far – far from rubbish".



Geoff Wood, Guest Speaker

Calendar Of Events, continued from page 3

JANUARY 2005 (CONTINUED)

WEDNESDAY 19TH

12.55 pm. Business Meeting

WEDNESDAY 26TH

12.55 pm. Town Hall Lunch + Speaker: TBA

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

SATURDAY 7TH

District Assembly

THURSDAY 12TH TO SUNDAY 15TH.

Rotary Club of Hanau-Maintal Visit To Ipswich

Geoff Wood, the principle speaker, said that he and president Alan were the "2 best bookends" during their early banking days. He went on to describe the highs and more recently the lows of his 46 years in Rhodesia, or Zimbabwe as it is known today. Geoff spoke of a previous president of Zimbabwe, Canaan Banana, who would visit the bank regularly with his motor cavalcade. Life in the country soon changed when Banana was ousted as president by Robert Mugabe. After banking, Geoff moved into farming and created a 10.5 acre rose farm, giving jobs to many local people. However, the farm was taken by local government officials, was stripped and ultimately left to return back to virgin bush. Something that must have been very painful to witness.

As Geoff said, what has happened to Zimbabwe is a "Paradise Lost". Inflation is now at 700%. The price of a loaf of bread has risen from Zim\$800 in March 2004 to Zim\$3000 now. After 46 years, Geoff and his wife moved to Ireland and despair for their friends who are left in what was once regarded as the breadbasket of Africa.

Alan Page thanked Geoff for his enlightening speech and commiserated with him that he has been associated with our President for over 25 years.

Another successful Charter Night was over and had been enjoyed by all those present. ■