

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

November 2007

From The President's Desk

The efforts to collect all the sponsorship money following the Alton Water Challenge are underway and it is hoped that by the time the next Newsletter is published I may have a grand total for you. Although the "jury is still out" regarding the final balance of sponsorship raised, I understand that the relatively small band of walkers and cyclists received excellent support and I have no doubt that they will prove their efforts to be entirely worthwhile. More on this later...

Last month we held our Charter Night at Belstead Brook Hotel. As expected it was a fantastic evening and an occasion that I will remember for a very long time for all the right reasons. It was an evening which had clearly been well planned and organised by our Club members, ably led and directed by Alan Swann. Only the service provided by the Hotel (over which Alan and his merry men and women had no control) raised an eyebrow or two for all the wrong reasons!

Our guest speaker at Charter Night was great company and extremely entertaining. After watching the video I now think of the Dean of York in an entirely different light! I know that Keith was a big draw to the event and I don't think too many people (if anyone) left disappointed (but a few of you might have departed a little later than planned!). I am now looking forward to sitting back and waiting to see what Brian Beason's team will arrange

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Charter Night

Words By Malcolm Reece

If there was an "order of merit" for Ipswich Orwell's Charter Night celebrations over the years, then I would suggest that this year's 29th dinner at Belstead Brook Hotel would be high on the list.

It was a special occasion in so many ways; from the enormous amount of work put in behind the scenes, which resulted in many old friends and former club members joining us, to a nostalgic and hilarious audio visual presentation. And then the icing on the cake – our guest speaker, The Very Reverend Keith Jones MA, Dean of York Minster and former member of our club.



President Alan Page (right) with guest speaker Keith Jones (centre) and Senior VP Brian Beason (left)

A total of 145 of us enjoyed the meal and the occasion in the Willow Suite, and because we dug deeper than usual into our pockets for the raffle and other money-spinners, we can announce that a total of £1,600 was raised, which will be split between the restoration of York Minster and President Alan Page's chosen charity this year, Suffolk Carers.

"Racing" through the speeches so I can tell you more about Keith Jones, we had Junior Vice President Carol Lockett reading the Object of Rotary and welcoming visiting Rotarians; we had President Alan toasting Rotary International, followed by Rotarian

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next year in order to follow that.

I think the final thank you's for Charter Night must go to Brian Beason and Steve Canham. Sincere thanks to Brian for his work and support as MC and also to Steve for his work in publishing and printing a "special" of the Newsletter to be used on the night.

By the time you read this the fifth Wednesday event will have taken place at the Ipswich Golf Club. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this event as it clashed with my daughter's twenty first birthday party. Regretfully I was unable to persuade my daughter that attending the quiz with brain teasing testers under the glaring and watchful eyes of Quizmaster Smith would be an excellent opportunity to mark the notable occasion of her birthday. My daughter thought it better to empty my wallet on something far more shallow but at least she invited me along...

I hope the Quiz Night was a great success and no doubt I shall receive a full report from Chairman Smith in due course.

This month we can look forward to speakers organised by our Foundation Committee. We will hear speakers on Archaeology, Age Concern and we will hear from the District Foundation Chairman. We also have the Kingpin Challenge, the Asda Collection and the Suffolk Food Hall Christmas Party for the Hospice taking place. So lots going on!

Don't forget we still have to think about our chosen joint project to organise with our Hanau friends.

Yours in Rotary,

Alan ❖

FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE ORWELL NEWSLETTER

December 2007 - last date for articles will be Monday 3/12/07, scheduled for release on Wednesday 5/12/07

January/February 2008 - last date for articles will be Monday 4/2/08, scheduled for release on Wednesday 6/2/08

Barry Gibb, district extension officer, toasting our guests.

Then it was on to the audio visual presentation, cleverly put together by Tony Hill, which gave many of our newer members a glimpse of what we used to get up to in the past – including, of course, some of the hilarious antics of Keith Jones and the late Eric Dines.

The following half hour or so was spent being thoroughly entertained by Keith Jones, who as many of you know left the club to become Dean of Exeter Cathedral and later moved to Yorkshire to become Dean of York Minster, a sort of "Duodenal" he said. His "fame" in many ways has spread far and wide and we were thrilled and delighted to have him back in our company for a short while, not forgetting, of course, Viola who obviously enjoyed catching up with many of her old friends from Ipswich.

Keith said he was "moved" that part of our proceeds from the dinner would be donated to the Minster. He explained briefly that over the next six years they would be restoring the east front of the Minster, which included a stained glass window the size of a tennis court. This was a £20 million programme, with £10 million coming from the Heritage Fund and £7 million from fund-raising. He also mentioned how they were trying to give nationwide protection in the future to young men and women who wanted to work in the stained glass window and stone masonry fields. Keith was thanked by our newest member, Frank Ponniah

Finally, we must not forget the enormous amount of work done behind the scenes to make this year's Charter Dinner such a resounding success. This includes Past President and Senior Vice, Brian Beason, who in addition to his Master of Ceremonies duty spent many hours giving his experience and helping hands wherever needed.

Not forgetting, of course, our founder member Alan Swan, who with the help of his family and office staff, masterminded this year's event with a high degree of skill and ingenuity. It was mainly through Alan's efforts that we enjoyed the company this year of so many former members of the club, plus lots of guests. And there was a well-deserved round of applause for Sonia Fox, whose beautiful flower arrangements for our tables added a real touch of class to the occasion.

For next year's Charter celebration we will have the pleasure of Brian Beason in the presidential chair for a second time. It has been whispered that Brian plans to shock everyone by having a "scrum" in the Pizza Hut...but I'm afraid you will just have to wait and see! ■

Archaeology Speaker

By Peter Hopper

Keith Wade, Ipswich Archeological Services Manager, detailed reasons for the claim that Ipswich is one of the earliest English towns and may even have been founded by foreigners, when he spoke to members this month.

He told us that between 1974 and about 1990 there had been more than 30 archeological excavations around the town, some small ones and some extremely large ones, particularly either side of the Buttermarket and also either side of Foundation Street.

Thereafter excavations in the town centre virtually stopped, until the start of the massive new phase of development, in particular the Waterfront, but also elsewhere a couple of years ago.

Mr Wade explained that in the "dead" ten years since the 1990s, detailed analysis had been on going of the finds made since 1974, and these had confirmed that Ipswich was indeed one of the earliest towns. A cemetery had been found on the Buttermarket, in the earliest phase of excavations there, and it had taken 20 years for the analysis to be carried out.

"We found that the town had an early nucleus {of residents} which we assume that was probably 7th century, and we found that under the Novotel a long time ago," he said. "We actually found a couple of buildings, rubbish bits, associated with very early pottery which looked 7th century."

Then in the eighties they found the cemetery, and he was now able to confirm that the cemetery relates to that early settlement. In the 7th century the settlement covered the southern area of the town, and the burial ground spread across the Buttermarket but also east and west, on the higher ground on the heathland above.

The detailed study of that, which involved 20 or 30 radio carbon dates have confirmed that the cemetery started about 620 AD and ended about 680 or 690 AD. "More importantly really' is within that cemetery there are three burials that must be foreigners, said Mr Wade.

"They are from the Frankish Empire, from somewhere in the Rhineland or possibly Northern France - that sort of area. They are certainly foreigners, and they are elite foreigners from the way they are buried. And it seems quite clear that Ipswich was an important

international trading community right from the start, from the 7th century, and that's why these foreigners are there. There is no doubt that it was established by the kings buried at Sutton Hoo, the East Anglia Royal House.

Mr Wade said he could not say Ipswich was the earliest town, because the same pattern, they now knew, had been found elsewhere. Southampton similarly had a 7th century nucleus with foreigners in its cemetery and all the evidence of its trade, serving the whole of Wessex. London was the other place, serving various areas and eventually becoming the capital. In all three cases, 7th century settlement burial grounds had been found on the outskirts with foreigners in them.

"In fact, It may even be the case that these places were founded by Franks...by foreigners, we don't know,"

After questions, Mr Wade was thanked by John Field. ■

Quiz

Words By Malcolm Reece

A warm venue, friendly company with a superb bangers and mash supper; what more could you want on an autumn evening?

This was Orwell's annual Quiz Night at Purdis Golf Club, which was organised with precision and style by David Berridge, able supported by Peter Smith looking very superior because he had the answers to all the questions!

We had ten rounds of scintillating brain-teasers and at the end of the evening, by a narrow margin of a couple of points, John Field's team of Anglo Saxons came out top of the heap and fully deserved the prize of a bottle of champagne. But it was the taking part that mattered, said the rest of us who won nothing...

The real winners, of course, are the charities that benefit from our efforts, and this year the profit of £348 will go mainly to President Alan's chosen charity, Suffolk Carers.

See you next year? We certainly hope so.

■

Inner Wheel Notes

By Ann Orvis, Club Correspondent

In the absence of President Elizabeth our meeting on Wednesday 17th October was opened by Vice President Linda. Our speaker for the evening was Clare Lock from the Suffolk Hat Company. Clare gave us a talk on the history of hats and how they have evolved through the centuries. We were all interested to learn that the word millinery originates from Milan. Clare creates bespoke hats and fascinators for those who desire that special finishing touch to their outfit. It takes three full working days to make a hat. The materials used can be extremely expensive. Clare bought a number of beautiful hats and fascinators to display. Some of our members can be seen modelling them in the photographs. We particularly liked the design which used peacock feathers, and the aptly named Ascot hat.



Anne Smith, who is now recovering at home, sends her thanks for all the cards, good wishes and flowers sent

to her by members of Inner Wheel. We look forward to having Anne back with us.

Our next meeting on 21st November is a talk about helicopters flying to Afghanistan. Partners are welcome to attend this meeting. Please let Bobbie Hopper know by the Thursday prior to the meeting if you are able to attend or not. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ispwichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

NOVEMBER 2007 ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

THURSDAY 15TH

Club Service Committee

SATURDAY 17TH

Asda Collection for Hospice

TUESDAY 20TH

Club Council

WEDNESDAY 21ST

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Foundation

Speaker: Rtn Hugh Davies, District Foundation Chairman

WEDNESDAY 28TH

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

FRIDAY 30TH

Suffolk Food Hall Christmas Party for Hospice 6.30-8.00pm

DECEMBER 2007 FAMILY MONTH

WEDNESDAY 5TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Georgina Wilson & Danielle Whiting, "Work Experience at Madurai Hospital"

FRIDAY 7TH

7:00pm, Arthritis Care Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY 12TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + "Fifteen Minute Interview" with Rtn Leeburn

THURSDAY 13TH

Club Service Committee

FRIDAY 14TH

Provisional Rotary Carols at Whitton Church

SATURDAY 15TH

Christmas Dinner at Purdis Golf Club

SUNDAY 16TH

"Light up a light" service 3.00pm at St Mary le Tower Church

TUESDAY 18TH

Club Council Social

WEDNESDAY 19TH

12.55 pm. Christmas Lunch, Bistro On The Quay

WEDNESDAY 26TH

NO LUNCH - HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Recent Letters To The Club



Make each day count

24th September 2007

Mr Brian Beason
Rotary Club of Ipswich Orwell

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565 Foxhall Road
Ipswich Suffolk IP3 8LX
Telephone 01473 727776
Fax 01473 274717
www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk

Dear Mr Beason,

Thank you so much for your donation of £100.00, which was collected by my colleague Mandy Cunningham at your lunch last week. Every donation really does make a big difference and a vital contribution to our work.

Here at St Elizabeth Hospice we work extremely hard to provide patients and their families with the support they need. Often people are faced with having to make very difficult choices and decisions and our highly qualified and skilled staff are there to guide them every step of the way.

We are indebted to the local community for their energy, enthusiasm and commitment in continually supporting us whether this is through raising funds for us or volunteering their time.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely
Tracey Brand
Tracey Brand
Individuals Fundraiser



THE DEAN OF YORK
The Very Revd Keith Jones

YORK
MINSTER

Mr Alan Swann

25 October 2007

Dear Swanny,

Now I can thank you for two things! First for the cheque which has safely arrived and sent to its happy home in the development office, to be used for the Minster's fabric. Many thanks for that, and enabling it to come. Of course it's very useful in itself, but all the more pleasing to me personally because of where it's come from! We have such a bit task on to maintain this place, and the plans and the programmes for it are legion.

The other thing though is to say how very much Viola and I enjoyed the excuse to come back and meet old friends on the Charter Night. I am so glad you liked the frock coat and for saying it reminded you of the BBC at its best. I dread that I might look like a budget remake of Show Boat, but clearly I need not worry. Particular thanks to Tony Hill for the editing of the videos. I thought he had done it superbly, and I was astonished, really astonished, at the record of such hilarious events. I had quite forgotten the "This is your Life" bit, though the remembrance of the Blind date will be with me to the end...

So thank you for thinking of me, and letting us come to Ipswich again. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

And once more, thanks to everyone who contributed to the cheque for the Minster.

Yours ever

Keith

