

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

October 2006

From The President's Desk

What a beautiful autumn day was this year enjoyed by a good band of supporters of the Alton Water Challenge. Numbers of participants exceeding the indications of the weeks before, no doubt some encouraged by the good outdoor conditions. After all the effort, I hope the hard work of our organising team led by Brian Beason will be rewarded by a worthwhile benefit to charities for whom funds were being raised.

In recent weeks we have also enjoyed some good speakers and a number of visiting Rotarians which is excellent. Charter Night now rapidly approaches, I hope we have a good turnout of members, partners and guests at Fynn Valley on Friday 3rd November. We have enjoyed some good Charter Nights in recent years and this will hopefully be no exception.

For those interested in matters further away, details of the following are available within the club.....

- 7 Ski Meeting - Rotarians World Championship at San Candido on 20 - 27 January 2007
- RIBI 82nd Conference in Bournemouth on 13 - 15 April 2007
- Rotary International 98th Annual Convention at Salt Lake City on 17 - 20 June 2007

If you cannot make these 3 events then be sure not to miss our 28th Charter Night on 3 November 2006!

Yours in Rotary, *Philip* ❖

An Entertaining Glimpse Into The Fire Prevention World

Words By Malcolm Reece

Picture By Gordon Kember

Dave Melton is an explosive kind of person, as he so ably demonstrated in the few minutes he was allowed when he spoke to the club on 4th October.

In fact, while he was entertaining us with stories of his almost disastrous schooldays, he managed to light a fire and then with a minimum of fuss extinguish it. Of course, we were all impressed, particularly when the flame was snuffed out by a gas following a quite startling bang.



The "extinguishing" bit is what Dave does for a living. As owner and managing director of Ipswich-based company, Firetrace, he has over several years built a successful business in the specialised field of automatic fire detection and extinguisher systems. The reward for those of us listening was not so much

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BILL'S TRAVELOGUE

FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Lead the Way — William B. Boyd, RI President — "In the coming Rotary year, I ask all of you to join me as we Lead the Way to a better Rotary and better communities."

1 September 2006 - Our travels in August were amazing. My wife, Lorna, and I began at RI headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA, and then visited Kenya, India, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda.

We saw more incredible projects than I have space to mention, but I hope by talking about a few of the projects I've seen that you may gain some idea of what Rotary is doing in those countries. For example, we saw literacy projects that provided libraries, equipped schools, and taught adults to read and write. These often were in conjunction with vocational training.

Health and hunger projects also are important projects to the places we visited in Africa and India. Some of the health projects we saw included the refurbishment of a dental school, blood banks, and ambulance, as well as a very special project that helps correct club feet in babies. In addition, we met people fitted with artificial legs and hands.

We visited three areas in India devastated by the tsunami and saw three different approaches to rehabilitating those areas. One focused on providing health and vocational and income-producing activities for the fisherman and their families. Another project involved building houses, a school, a meeting hall, and repairing the water supply. The third project also involved building houses, a school, an orphanage, and refurbishing a hospital. In addition, all these projects provided new boats and nets to local fishermen, and our Rotary wheel was obvious wherever we travelled.

We met so many amazing and diverse people. We visited District 3230 which encompasses India and Nepal, which has 186 clubs comprising of about 6,000 Rotarians. Then outside of Nairobi, Kenya, we visited the Mathare slum, where about 500,000 people live.

After Mathare, we met royalty and national leaders, including a queen, a deputy president, several state governors, two prime ministers, a speaker of a house of parliament and numerous ministers. Ministers of the crown came to airports to welcome and send us off. We sat through a 40-minute session of Uganda's House of Parliament, which "debated" a resolution to congratulate Rotary on its activities and to pledge support to us. The 11 speakers all supported the resolution, and it was carried unanimously. We learned there are at least 12 Rotarians in the Ugandan Parliament, including the speaker, prime minister, and attorney general. ■

learning how to effectively snuff out fires, but being thoroughly entertained by a person who knows his job and enjoys every minute.

Dave was a guest and speaker at our club about five years ago when we still enjoyed the grandeur of the Town Hall, and his performance on the 4th at the Bistro was no less impressive.

After skimming over his "disastrous" schooldays, he tried several jobs, including engineering and scrap metal, and admits it was not until he met and married "a wonderful lady" that he found his true vocation – putting out fires! He admitted that, with his wife virtually running the business and later his two sons becoming directors, he has been able to return to what he does best – dreaming.

Dave admits that in the days before faxes and e-mails, he was lucky enough to land a slot on the BBC's science programme "Tomorrow's World". This was in the period when the programme was broadcast live and Dave, who was described as an inventor, was able to demonstrate his fire extinguishing skills. The result of this TV exposure, he said, was an amazing 1,000 telephone calls in the following two weeks and a fair amount of orders.

We discovered about Dave Melton that he possessed an infectious sense of humour which seemed to float over the more serious side of his successful business. As he pointed out towards the end of his talk, a small fire is like being heavily pregnant; it will get a lot worse.

Thank-you, Dave, for entertaining us and, at the same time, telling us what to do if we catch fire... ■

RAISE FUNDS WHILST YOU SHOP

Do you shop online? If you do, do you use Harrods for your fashion items, or iTunes for your MP3 downloads? Well, you can shop online and raise funds for Rotary at the same time. Rotary International's CareClicks allows you to enjoy the convenience of 1-click access to 550+ merchants. Each transaction generates direct contributions to Rotary International. Happy Shopping!

Please have a look online for further details:

www.careclicks.com/group.php?groupID=684 ■

Hope House Bringing Comfort To The Severely Disadvantaged

By Malcolm Reece

Some people seem to be born courageous, others are not. Solicitor Neil Cawthorne slots easily into the first category as he so ably demonstrated when he spoke to us at our club meeting on 6th September.

Neil first of all told us about his son, Peter, who lived for 12 years. Peter, he said, never spoke, he could never see and he never walked. "But in that 12 years he transformed my life."

No-one would wish to have a disadvantaged child, he said, but added: "There are some mysteries beyond us and my son remains one of those. When you have something of that size in your life it is difficult to cope. As Peter grew, the problems grew."

Peter's expectancy of life was seven years, but because of technology he went on until he was 12, and the point of Neil's heart-wrenching talk to us was to bring to our attention the very positive outcome of Peter's tragic short life – Hope House.

Through his work as a lawyer and district councillor Neil came into contact with many people in the public sector, and it was through these contacts and a lot of help from many quarters that Hope House, based at Kesgrave, came into being and prospered. It is a purpose-built home designed around the complex care needs of young people with profound disabilities.

It is a bright cheerful house which has been up and running for four years, and is a home-from-home for the lifetime of these youngsters who receive sensitive and professional care 24 hours a day. Hope House was a joint project undertaken by Suffolk County Council Social Services, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Orbit Housing Association and the Hope House Suffolk Charity. It was recognised that the complex care needs of the children made it impossible for their families to care for them at home, but close family contact is still maintained.

Through the establishment of Friends of Hope House, Kesgrave, a registered charity was formed in 2003 by a group of people committed to raising funds. Although day to day running costs are provided for, fund-raising is needed for holidays, specialist equipment and other items for which limited funding is available. Recently,

over £40,000 was raised to buy a specially-adapted minibus. Future projects will include a sensory garden with a water feature and a wheelchair bicycle.

Neil said that one of the biggest challenges in the next few years would be dealing with "a tide of people" coming into our lives who were profoundly disabled. Hope House at Kesgrave is a superb example of how a small group of people are meeting these challenges head-on, and as Rotarians I hope we will do all we can to help. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

OCTOBER 2006

WEDNESDAY 11TH

12.55 pm Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Vocational Speaker: tba

TUESDAY 17TH

5.30 pm. Club Council Meeting, Jackaman, Smith and Mulley offices.

WEDNESDAY 18TH

12.55 pm Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Vocational Speaker: tba

SUNDAY 22ND

Visit to Duxford

WEDNESDAY 25TH

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

November 2006 Rotary Foundation Month

WEDNESDAY 1ST

NO LUNCH

FRIDAY 3RD

Charter Night at Fynn Valley Golf Club

WEDNESDAY 8TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Foundation Speaker: tba

WEDNESDAY 15TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Foundation Speaker: tba

THURSDAY 16TH

Kingpin Bowling Challenge, Kingpin, Martlesham Heath

SATURDAY 18TH

Collection for St Elizabeths Hospice at Asda (8am to 4pm)

Calendar of Events, continued on page 4

Inner Wheel Notes

By Ann Orvis, Club Correspondent

Bobbie Hopper welcomed us to the first meeting after the summer break on 20th September. We discussed many topics and made plans for the forthcoming year.

Our next meeting on October 18th will be an informal gathering where everyone has been encouraged to give a talk about their first job. This could even include speaking about doing chores at home as a child.

Please let Ann Smith know by Friday 13th October if you are unable to attend the meeting.

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Food For Thought

By Bob Fox

During the past 18 months we have been extremely fortunate with our lunch arrangements at the Bistro, in as much as we have only paid for the meals taken, and not the meals booked.

The Bistro have now decided, and rightly so, that we must pay for the numbers booked as they prepare a meal especially for us.

We have an excellent system by which members can phone their apologies to Alan Swann's office before 10-30 on the day of the meeting, and although there will be occasions when the unforeseen can happen we must keep these to the minimum.

We have seen our monthly subs reduced over the past two years from £47-50 to £36-00, and it would be a great pity to see this advantage eroded through thoughtlessness.

We recently had to pay for three meals not taken on one Wednesday alone, costing the Club £27-75 unnecessarily.

Please try and tender your apologies in time, and if you are on leave of absence, or bringing a guest let Alan know also. Getting the numbers to add up shouldn't be that difficult.

TELEPHONE 01473 215204

Treasurer

TUESDAY 21ST

5.30 pm. Club Council Meeting, Jackaman, Smith and Mulley offices.

WEDNESDAY 22ND

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

WEDNESDAY 29TH

5th Wednesday event, Orwell Quiz Night.

DECEMBER 2006 FAMILY MONTH

FRIDAY 1ST

Arthritis Care Christmas Party

FRIDAY 15TH

Annual MacMillan Christmas Carol Service Concert at Whitton Church

SATURDAY 16TH

Christmas dinner at Ipswich Golf Club

WEDNESDAY 20TH

12.55 pm. Christmas Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: tba

WEDNESDAY 27TH

NO MEETING

Picture Gallery

By Gordon Kember



Gordon Kember regrets that a shortage of speakers and his own absence on holiday in Italy have prevented him producing any photographs of club activities this month. However, he hopes that the holiday snap shown above will fill a small gap. "This is me enjoying my leaning tour of Pisa".