

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

October 2008

From The President's Desk

Doesn't time fly when you are having fun? Here we are at the end of October and already a third of the Rotary year has passed. But what a great start it has turned out to be, with a range of good speakers coupled with excellent attendances for the time of year.

It was good to have District Governor Peter Harris as our guest in September. I thought his talk was both informative and challenging. And he was obviously pleased to hear of Orwell's involvement with the various good causes we are supporting on a regular basis.

One of the privileges of being President is inducting a new member into the club, and this I was able to do at our September business meeting with Mark Ruse. Having been to lunch on several occasions, I think Mark is now well aware of what he has let himself in for. Hopefully his time in Rotary will be long, enjoyable and fulfilling.

Finally, I hope that those who attended our 30th Charter Dinner enjoyed the occasion as much as I did. It was rewarding to see so many members and guests creating such a happy atmosphere. To have the company of our four senior honorary members was also a great joy. A big thank-you to SVP Carol, who organised the evening, assisted by Bob Fox and Alan Swann. Also, thank-you to Sonja Fox for the beautiful flower arrangements. This was certainly a night that will live in my memory for a long time.

Yours in Rotary,

Brian ❖

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30th Charter Night

Words by Malcolm Reece

Photographs by Gordon Kember

Well, that's another successful Charter Night Dinner for Ipswich Orwell to enter into the record book. (Have we still got one?) The record will show that this was the first Charter to be held at the Claydon Country House Hotel, and, from general comments at the end of the evening, most of us were happy with the venue and the excellent food.



Charter Night Dinner at Claydon Country House Hotel on 10th October 2008. Vice president Carol Lockett announces prizewinners

This was our 30th anniversary, and it will be memorable for me for two specific reasons: because Brian Beason was President for the second time in his Rotary life; and, because we currently lack a Junior VP, Carole Lockett rolled up her sleeves and arranged one of the most enjoyable Charter evenings we've had for some time. Carole, thank-you.

Reporting-wise, there are not many points to make, but for the record Bob Fox reminded us of the Objects of Rotary and introduced the guests, President Brian led the toast to Rotary International and reminded us that many of our usual visitors from other clubs were not with us because our Charter clashed with District Conference.

And then it was time to sit back and listen to our

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The Truth About Asylum

Words by Malcolm Reece

Photographs by Gordon Kember

I suppose if we are honest very few of us have dealings in our daily lives with refugee and asylum seekers. So it was educational for the club at our lunch meeting on 15th October to hear first-hand how this system works in our local community.



Marie Weatherall of the Refugee Council was our speaker on 15th October, here with Lovemore Muzadzi from Zimbabwe and President Brian

Marie Weatherall, volunteer co-ordinator for the Refugee Council in Ipswich, who was accompanied by Lovemore Muzadzi, a refugee volunteer, told us, for example, that 16 million refugees currently exist worldwide, of which 16 million live in camps. In 2007, 27,000 people claimed asylum in the UK, but only a quarter of this number were given leave to remain. In addition, 55,000 were removed from the UK and 49 per cent were refused entry.

Startling statistics and, hands on hearts, none of us would have known these facts and figures until Marie visited us and pointed them out.

Lovemore Muzadzi is a refugee from the Mugabi regime in Zimbabwe, whose life was threatened because he had the audacity to express his political opinions. He was forced to flee the country, leaving his wife and children behind, and, having been in the UK for some time, he still fears for the lives of his family. One day he hopes to return to Zimbabwe, but not, he says, until the Mugabi regime is defeated and democracy returns to the country.

The current east of England situation for asylum

guest speaker, Stuart Bowell, a retired teacher from Stowmarket, who delved with great skill and humour into the history and background of Suffolk's unique dialects. For example, Suffolk folk went to church on Sundays and "sat in a poo". Then there was the word "squit", which could be something small and unimportant or it could mean: "Sorry, I couldn't come out last night because I had the squits!"



Guest speaker Ted Wheatley at the Charter Night Dinner on 10th October outlined the pleasures of the Suffolk dialect

It was "silly Suffolk" in many ways, he said, with some locals making statements and not realising what they were saying. Such as: "Well, look after yourself. The next time I see you you'll be gone."

Stuart said the important factor was that many of the old words and sayings were still going strong to this day. But will it continue to survive? "I think it will," said Stuart, who was thanked in fine style by Trevor Harris. And that, I think is about all I need to say. We had good food and wine in excellent company and we all went home happy with the thought that we had enjoyed a jolly good night out. ■

seekers is: Ipswich 70; Norwich 100, plus an estimated 300 fresh claims.

And the message Marie left with us was: "Tell others about the situation, make donations, reflect on your attitudes, join campaigns and become a volunteer". ■

Ipswich Mayor Opens Orwell Hanau Project

Words and Photographs By Peter Hopper

Steps leading down from Bridge Wood Orwell Country Park to the edge of the River Orwell foreshore, were officially re-opened last month, thanks to a project jointly financed by the Rotary Clubs of Ipswich Orwell and Hanau Maintal.



The Mayor of Ipswich, David Hale, prepares to cut the tape, opening the steps leading down to the River Orwell foreshore through Bridge Wood Orwell Country Park. He was accompanied by The Mayoress, Betty Baskett, and Ipswich Orwell Rotary Club President, Brian Beason.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the top of the steps was performed by the Mayor of Ipswich, David Hale, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, Betty Baskett, in the presence of four Orwell Rotarians, led by President Brian Beason and Senior Vice-President Carol Lockett. The Park Ranger, Richard Sharp, who supervised the renovation work, was also present.



A close-up of the plaque acknowledging the significance played by the twinned Rotary Clubs in the refurbishment of the steps

A permanent plaque in the Rotary colours of yellow

and blue acknowledges the contribution of the twinned clubs.



Ipswich Orwell Rotary Club President, Brian Beason, accompanies The Mayor of Ipswich, David Hale, and the Mayoress, Betty Baskett, for the brief re-opening ceremony in Bridge Wood Orwell Country Park.

The refurbishment of the steps and walkways in the wood, at a cost of some £2,800, was voted on by Ipswich Orwell members, and went ahead with the agreement of the Hanau Club as this year's shared project.



Celebrating the completion of a joint venture by the Rotary Clubs of Ipswich Orwell and Hanau Maintal, at the head of the new steps in The Orwell Country Park, left to right: Carol Lockett, Orwell Senior Vice-President; John Field, Orwell Past President; Richard Sharp, Park Ranger (at Rear); Betty Baskett, Mayoress; Brian Beason, Orwell President; and the Mayor of Ipswich, David Hale.

Bridge Wood, on the outskirts of the town, is ancient woodland that has been managed for more than 600 years. It provides pleasant sylvan walks and views of the river and the bridge through the trees.

Being so close to the town, the wood provides the

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Picture Gallery

Photographs By Gordon Kember



Ipswich Orwell's Vocational Chairman Malcolm Reece welcomed the District Vocational Chairman Paul McIntee who spoke on 1st October



District Governor Peter Harris visited the club on 24th September 2008

closest location where the residents of Ipswich can enjoy natural space for leisure activities. Children are free to play, walkers take the air and exercise their dogs, whilst birdwatchers and other naturalists can pursue their hobbies in relative peace.

However, further work on the steps down to the foreshore area will be necessary to make them safe and for the elderly and disabled to negotiate. The Park Ranger explained that erosion of soil on the steps had taken place because of months of inclement weather, and he promised that this would be put right.

Completion of the project will undoubtedly be worth the effort, for the beauty of the river area alongside the wood makes it understandable why famous children's author Arthur Ransome forsook his beloved Norfolk Broads for a while to make the area his home. ■

Inner Wheel Notes

Words By Ann Orvis, Club Correspondent

Photograph By Pam Hill

We welcomed 2 new members to our meeting on 15th October. Christina Ponniah and Val Hindes were presented with their badges by President Linda and we hope they enjoy their time with us.

Our speaker for the evening was a local potter, Leon Pettersson, of Ceramic Craft of Stowupland, Stowmarket. Leon and his wife Jenny set up their business 25 years ago after graduating from Canterbury College of Art. Over the years the business has become a successful and thriving concern. Keeping up with the demand for their products has become quite a balancing act.

Leon and Jenny have secured contracts with the National Trust, and provide various houses such as Ickworth House, Wimpole Hall, Sutton Hoo and Anglesea Abbey with exclusive items of pottery. They also take part in craft fairs, hold workshops for children and are open for the general public to view and purchase their beautiful pottery.

During his demonstration, Leon explained the various ways of creating pottery and set up a sales table with some fine examples of his work.

At our next meeting on 19th November we will have 2 speakers from Diabetes UK which is President Linda's chosen charity for the year. If you are unable to attend please let Elizabeth know by the Thursday prior to the meeting. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

OCTOBER 2008

WEDNESDAY 22ND

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

WEDNESDAY 29TH

5th Wednesday. Supper at Hintlesham Golf Club, Gary Egerton talk and slide show on the Tower of London.

NOVEMBER 2008

WEDNESDAY 5TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Ian Burnett. Citizens Advice Bureau – Introduced by Peter Smith

WEDNESDAY 12TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: James Hehir – Introduced by Alan Lonsdale

THURSDAY 13TH

6:00pm. Club service, Neptune Marina.

WEDNESDAY 19TH

12.55 pm. Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Rtn Hugh Davis, District Foundation Chairman 1080.

SATURDAY 22ND

Collection at ASDA.

TUESDAY 25TH

Quiz night at Purdis Heath Golf Club. £4 Rotarians, £12 others. Cottage Pie and Coffee.

WEDNESDAY 26TH

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

ROTARY CLUB OF IPSWICH
ORWELL

QUIZ NIGHT
WITH COTTAGE PIE
SUPPER

Tuesday 25th. November

7pm prompt

Ipswich Golf Club, Purdis Heath

Teams of Six (rotarian's £4) Guest's £12
Book your places (cheque to Rotary Club) to
David Berridge

New Member

Words By Peter Hopper

Photograph By Gordon Kember

The presence of 1080 District Governor Peter Harris made it particularly enjoyable for Club President Brian Beason to induct the first new member of his year of office at a September meeting.

Rotarian Marc Peter Ruse, who was introduced by his sponsor, SVR Carol Lockett, is a Financial Planning Consultant with Fiducia Wealth Management, of Dedham House Business Centre, Brook Street, Dedham, and his classification is Financial Planning (Active).



New member Marc Ruse, inducted on 24th September, was welcomed into Rotary by D. G. Peter Harris and President Brian Beason

Marc's wife is Christine, their daughter Louise is aged 24, and son Andrew is 22. They live at 1 Broom Way, Capel St Mary, IP9 2XN. Marc lists his interests as reading, keeping fit and beer making.

Carol said Marc indicated that he wanted to put something back into society and she was sure that his membership would really enhance the club.

Marc replied that it was a "privilege and honour" to be accepted for membership. He said he had been impressed at meetings by the fellowship and friendliness of those members he had been introduced to. ■