

The Orwell Newsletter

The Rotary Club Of Ipswich Orwell, RIBI 1339

September 2006

From The President's Desk

The first two months of my year as Club President seem to have gone by so rapidly. We now have a number of projects at different stages of development and I expect the first two months will in fact prove to be the quietest period of the year. What we do in the next few weeks will determine the success of the Alton Water Challenge, so please do get behind this in anyway you can. Whilst any amount of goodwill and money raised is beneficial, let's make the most of our efforts.

I was recently especially pleased that Peter Townley agreed to take up the vacant post of JVP. The evening at Newbourne was I believe enjoyed by all who attended but perhaps that was more the relief showing, when I succeeded in not getting them lost in the nearby nature reserve. However for me the highlight so far of being President was attending Whitton Church and joining Andrew Dotchin at the end of term service for the local school. What we do locally as with Arthritic Care can be visibly the most rewarding.

Its been good in recent weeks that we have had visiting overseas Rotarians attending our regular weekly meetings but lets also look to having more guests who if they like the experience are our potential new members.

Yours in Rotary,

Philip ❖

District Governor Near Meltdown

Words By Malcolm Reece

Pictures By Gordon Kember

Orwell's history (so far) shows that we never do things by halves. So take as an example the annual visits to the club of 1080 District Governors. When Immediate PDG Bill Redmayne visited us at the Bistro several months ago, the rainstorm was so bad it blew his umbrella inside out.



District Governor Nigel Neville visited the club early in his term of office, on 19th July, and outlined his plans for the year 2006-2007. Sadly one unplanned event was the denting of his car on a bollard as he reversed on the Ipswich quayside

His successor Nigel Neville, had slightly better luck; it was so hot on Wednesday, 19th July (about 94f I think) that the poor chap nearly melted – and the rest of us along with him. I will not labour the point that our new DG didn't know where to park and slightly damaged his car on a bollard while trying to park half

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FUNNY FOOTNOTE

Taken from a book called "Disorder in the American Courts", these are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters.

LAWYER: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

LAWYER: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

LAWYER: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

LAWYER: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

LAWYER: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

LAWYER: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

LAWYER: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

LAWYER: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

LAWYER: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

WITNESS: We both do.

LAWYER: Voodoo?

WITNESS: We do.

LAWYER: You do?

WITNESS: Yes, voodoo.

LAWYER: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: Uh, he's twenty-one.

LAWYER: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Would you repeat the question?

LAWYER: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

LAWYER: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

LAWYER: Were there any girls?

on the pavement.

I think he will remember us – don't you?

However, we cooled him with a drink, gave him a warm welcome and by the time he left us he seemed quite relaxed and happy to have visited us. We were, incidentally, the DG's first club visit at the start of his year of office. We really, wish him well.

During a short address, DG Nigel recalled in brief his visit to San Diego as DG-elect and presented President Philip with a banner bearing the new "Lead The Way" slogan. Nigel is trying to lead the way, he says, to a year of fellowship and service.



President Philip Morgan receives from District Governor Nigel Neville the R.I. President's banner with the motto "Lead the Way". It raised a query. Had we arranged to lead the way could Nigel have been spared an unwelcome car insurance claim?

He plans during his year, for example, to encourage club presidents to listen to their members and to support their ideas. And, like his predecessors, he has willingly accepted the task of encouraging recruitment of new members. His wish during his year is to see each club achieve one net new member, and stressed that if this happened in Rotary world wide the result would be a staggering 32,000 new members. ■

LAWYER: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

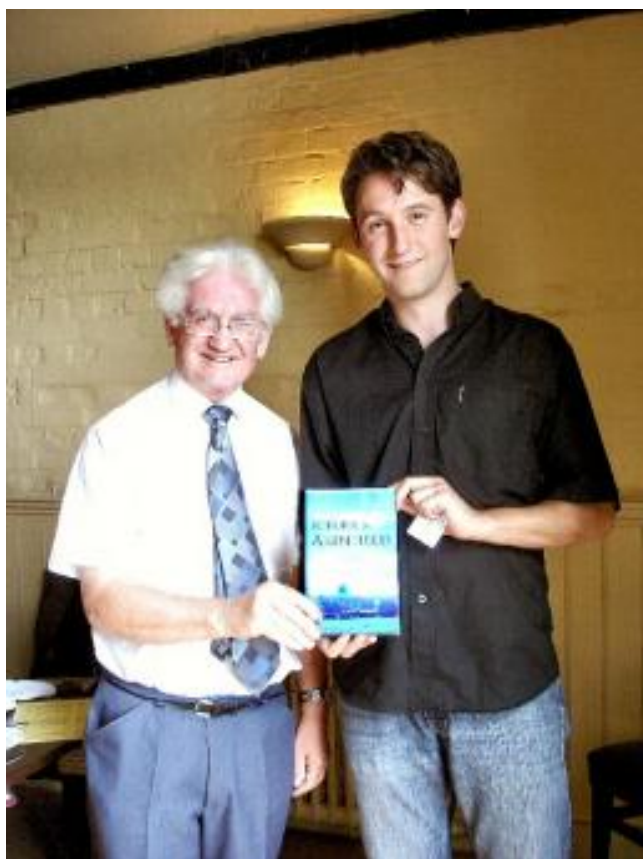
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Return To Akenfield

By Malcolm Reece

Very occasionally, a speaker visits our club whose personality and easy manner is so attractive to the eye and ear that you feel disappointed when the words stop and we are invited to ask our usual questions.

Such a rarity is Canadian Craig Taylor, author, playwright, journalist and a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, who has achieved the remarkable feat of writing a "Return to Akenfield" on the 35th anniversary of Ronald Blythe's world-famous book on the Suffolk village.



On 9th August Peter Hopper was pleased to meet our speaker Craig Taylor, a young Canadian who during his Rotary Scholarship in England became interested in the book and the film "Akenfield", made in East Anglia. Now a freelance journalist, Craig has published his own book "Return to Akenfield", reviewing with interviews the original Akenfield characters.

Craig's book, published earlier this year, has already achieved wide acclaim, and even a quick "dabble" through the pages makes you realise that the author has worked extremely hard to record the dramatic changes which have taken place in the lifestyle of rural Suffolk since Ronald Blythe's publication in 1969.

Many hours spent talking to and recording the thoughts of Ronald Blythe and other Suffolk locals make fascinating reading and, as Craig pointed out to us, Blythe's Akenfield has never been out of print.

Travelling to Suffolk from Canada in 2004 at the request of his editor, Craig was briefed to "speak to everyone" and find out how things had changed in the intervening years. The result is a widely acclaimed book which succeeds brilliantly because Craig plays down his Canadian background and allows the local people to do the talking – including the sadness because of changes in rural life and people moving in from London.

Local people who are now a bit longer in the tooth, admit that many aspects of the old way of life have gone forever, and many of the people who made Suffolk so special are no longer with us. But there's still a lot to be thankful for. As Craig points out in his book, it's still possible to cycle down a Suffolk lane at night, turn off the lights and see the stars. We know that the bright lights of many other parts of the country have made this simple pleasure impossible.

ROTARY CLUB OF IPSWICH ORWELL

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A PLEASANT RAMBLE OF 8 MILES AROUND
ALTON WATER RESERVOIR
NEAR STUTTON AND HOLBROOK

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR OWN CHARITY
AND HELP THE ROTARY CLUB OF IPSWICH ORWELL
SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER 2006

STARTING ANY TIME FROM 9:00 AM TO 12 NOON
AT ALTON WATER VISITORS CENTRE

- Easy ramble or challenging run
- Enter as individual, family, club or organisation
- Two thirds to your own charity or organisation
- One third to Rotary Charities
- Help Rotary to help others

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Inner Wheel Notes

By Pam Hill, Club Correspondent

Our July meeting was well attended and we enjoyed an interesting talk about Kentwell Hall given by Bobbie's grand-daughter. Hayley was visiting from Oregon where she is involved in historical re-enactments. At Kentwell every year, 700 volunteers are chosen to take part in a Re-Creation of Everyday Tudor Life and this summer the specific year was 1578.

Participants are transported back to Tudor times by use of speech, costumes and involvement in daily Tudor life. Hayley, for example, spent her days in the wool shed carding and spinning. Her modern name was changed to one more in keeping with the period - Anne - and help was given to make the costume authentic. It had to be handstitched and of a fabric as near as possible to what would have been worn at the time.



The Phillips family bought Kentwell Hall in 1970 and started extensive renovation. The first Tudor Re-Creation was in 1979. Kentwell Hall has gone from being rundown and neglected to having the largest schools programme of any historic house. It has won many awards including Heritage Building of the Year in 2001.

I hope everyone has had a nice summer (proper summer weather this year!!) and after our August break

will be back for our first meeting on Wednesday the 20th September. At our July meeting we were sad to say goodbye to Win Forton, who has decided to retire from Inner Wheel. However, she will be joining us occasionally. Anne Smith (682069) is attendance officer this year. Please let her know by Friday 15th September if you are not able to attend the meeting. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.ipswichorwellrotary.fsnet.co.uk/diary

SEPTEMBER 2006 NEW GENERATIONS MONTH

WEDNESDAY 13TH

12.55 pm Lunch, Bistro On The Quay + Speaker: Neil Cawthorne, "Hope House, and the hope this gives to handicapped children"

TUESDAY 19TH

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

WEDNESDAY 20TH

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

MONDAY 25TH

Club Service

WEDNESDAY 27TH

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

FRIDAY 29TH TO SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER

District Conference, Cambridge

OCTOBER 2006

WEDNESDAY 4TH

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

THURSDAY 5TH

King Pin Challenge

SUNDAY 8TH

Alton Water Challenge. See poster on previous page.

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

Calendar of Events, continued on page 5

The Noble & Ancient Art Of Bell Ringing

By Malcolm Reece

By the expressions on some of our members' faces at our lunch on 6th September, you could almost guess what they were thinking... "A talk on bell ringing? Oh dear!"

Well, how wrong can you be. George Pipe, long-serving ringer at St Mary Le Tower Church, gave us one of the most interesting and enlightening talks on this fascinating subject we are ever likely to hear. We soon discovered that George has been a bell ringer ever since he was old enough and strong enough to pull the rope. What is more, he is known for his bell-ringing skills in many parts of the world including Australia, where his influence was instrumental in the restoration of the ancient practice.

George described bell ringers as the "external choir of the church" and as "people largely unseen and a bit of the mystique". Bells were the oldest instrument known to man being introduced into churches in the 7th century. In East Anglia, he said, Suffolk and Norfolk had the highest density of churches in the world; most of them having bells.

George learnt the art of ringing in 1943 when the wartime ban on bells was lifted. He has since rung bells at 2,000 churches all over the world and has been "privy" to many special rings, including St Paul's Cathedral in 1969 to mark the investiture of the Prince of Wales; at Windsor, where he took part in a special peal to mark the Queen's 60th birthday; and at Westminster Abbey to mark the passing of the Duke of Windsor.

Yes, George not only vastly improved our knowledge of the subject in the short space of time we allowed him, but he entertained us as well. For which we sincerely thank him. ■

SUNDAY 22ND

Visit to Duxford

WEDNESDAY 25TH

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

November 2006 Rotary Foundation Month

FRIDAY 3RD

Charter Night at Fynn Valley Golf Club

THURSDAY 16TH

Inter-Schools Ten Pin Bowling Challenge, Kingpin, Martlesham Heath

WEDNESDAY 29TH

5th Wednesday event, Orwell Quiz Night.

Picture Gallery

By Gordon Kember



President Philip Morgan presents a cheque for £50 to his colleague Carmen Roof, who spoke on 12th July about her "Hand of Friendship" charity for orphaned children who are cared for and educated by nuns at Villa Emilia, Vera Cruz, Bolivia.

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The goal has been to create a place on the Internet where

each and every Rotary Club or Fellowship, from all across the globe can create and maintain their own Rotary Club Internet Portal, complete with social networking features and virtually unlimited media content storage entirely for free!

Have a look at the web-site:

<http://digaria.com/>