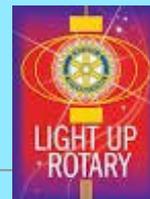




OBITER DICTA



President: Peter Hill

www.colchesterforum.co.uk

Club Meetings



March 2015

5th Cruising - Chris Hayman

VoT: Irene Kettle

12th Mayor & Mayoress of Colchester

VoT President Peter Hill

19th Running before Hurricane Sandy - Roger Walker

VoT Trevor Hunnaball

26th Business Meeting

Object of Rotary: Richard Porter

April 2015

2nd TBA

9th TBA

16th TBA

23rd Business Meeting

Object of Rotary

30th Driving Route 66 -

David London



President Peter presents a cheque for £2500 to CLIC Sargent's Karen Roberts

As we are all aware, each year our Forum President selects charities to benefit from our fundraising efforts throughout their year of office. Peter Hill has chosen CLIC Sargent. But, of course, this isn't the first time Forum has supported the charity. John Russell, the President in 2001/2, not only fundraised for CLIC Sargent but also set up the Colchester & Tendring Fundraising Group who still raise funds for CLIC Sargent. Over the years the Rotary Club members have walked, cycled, barbequed, stood in the cold with collection buckets, etc to name but a few things to help raise funds.

Karen Roberts, Area Fundraising Manager for East Anglia recently attending the club lunch and was delighted to receive a cheque from Peter for £2500 and there will still be more to come before the end of Peter's term of office.

Karen said "We are extremely grateful for the continued support of Colchester Forum Rotary members, to Peter for choosing to support CLIC Sargent and to their friends and family who make the events they organise such a great success."

(Picture above shows Karen receiving the cheque from President Peter)

EDITORIAL

Editors: Jo Portway
& Colin Bennett

Looking up at infinity, in the clear Norfolk night sky, I saw the usual brilliance of Venus, showing her dazzling presence above the Western horizon. But what was that dim red companion, sitting on her shoulder? Overlooking like an evil eye. Any guesses?

It was a conjunction. With the Goddess of love outshining the planet of war – Mars. When the two planets line up in our line of sight. It is not a rare occurrence on an astronomical scale. We'll see it again on October 5th 2017. Providing we are looking in the right place at the right time. And that it is not cloudy!!

An important event which is facing potential catastrophe – and we are not talking about asteroids wiping out the dinosaurs - is the Barn Dance at Copford Village Hall on 21st March which needs more support. Ideally there needs to be around 100 people and as of last Thursday, we are short of numbers. It is an evening which is guaranteed to be a lot of fun and *friends and relatives* are welcome. This really is a case of the more, the merrier!!

Please do what you can to give the ticket sales a bit of a boost.

See you in April!

CB

FORUM extends all good wishes to fellow Rotarians in Taiwan and we wish David Judge much success on his future trip there helping to introduce Taiwan to the wider Rotary world.

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

.....

Whilst February has been a relatively quiet month for me it was a pleasure to listen to Karen Roberts and the work of Clic Sargent as well as being able to give her a cheque for the excellent work they do in the field of children's cancer. We have also learn just how good Handelsbanken is from an interesting talk from Alan Barnard, a bank that to date seems untainted by the general malaise of others.

There is far more excitement in March starting this week when our Jamie Oliver trained cooks are back in action teaching another ten young careers a variety of menus. This project is expanding in leaps and bound as there is interest from other clubs within the district as well as others west of London. There is a generous donation from one of our Vice President's fellow Chelsea supporters and it is hoped to hold a short talk at the next district meeting as well as having a stall at the National Conference. This could be a major project all with Forum's name attached.

The evening meeting on Visioning planned for 10 March has been cancelled. It was to be a real opportunity for everyone to have a say in the future of Forum and where we could be going over the next few years.

The barn dance towards the end of the month is a different venture and with food and our own bar should be an enjoyable evening. Please bring as many family and friends – young and old - as you are able.

Have a good month.

Peter

^^

Diary Dates

March	7	District Leadership Training, Rayleigh
	14	RIBI Regional Assembly, London
	20	District Quiz, Marconi Club
	21	Barn Dance - Copford Village Hall in aid of Water Aid
April	10	RIBI Conference, Belfast
	24	40th Charter Night – Wivenhoe House
	30	Eve meet., Driving Route 66, David London
June	5-7	Weekend Away – Norfolk Broads
	6	World's Biggest Quiz (District 1240)

Editors Note: We can only publish dates we are given. Please send a written note of anything you want shown here and copy to David Priest for the website

42nd Street

Rotarians from the Colchester Clubs were welcomed to a reception at the The Old Court followed by a performance of 42nd Street at the Mercury Theatre on Friday 30th January. Thoroughly enjoyed by all, this was a Colchester Operatic Society production who set a very high standard. 42nd Street is set during The

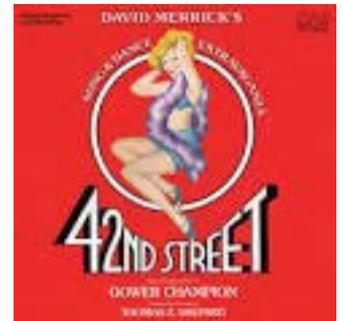


G r e a t
D e p r e s s i o n
a n d f o l l o w s a
B r o a d w a y
p r o d u c e r

putting on potentially his last show but has to replace the star with a chorus girl! It was a colourful, energetic musical which told the tale of Peggy Sawyer, a chorus girl, who became a star overnight when leading lady, Dorothy Brock broke her ankle and she stepped into the leading role. The score

included such classics as Lullaby of Broadway, We're In the Money, Dames, Shuffle Off To Buffalo and 42nd Street.

We are grateful to Bill Frame who organised the Forum presence and tickets in the absence of David London on holiday



Colchester Operatic Society are now rehearsing for a concert to be entitled "Come Fly With Me", with an around the world theme! The performance dates are 26th – 30th May (which is half term week) and will be at the Headgate Theatre, Colchester.

The next CO2 production in autumn 2015 will be "Legally Blonde" and in January 2016 COS will present "SISTER ACT"

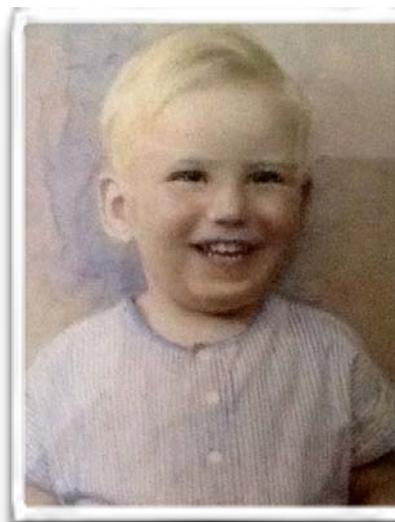
David Priest

Whose baby?

No one managed to guess the identity of the bonny baby in last month's issue. It was, of course, David Priest.



Before
and
after



And this month?
A big clue this time -
this one is legal.
Names to the editors
please by email or in
person.

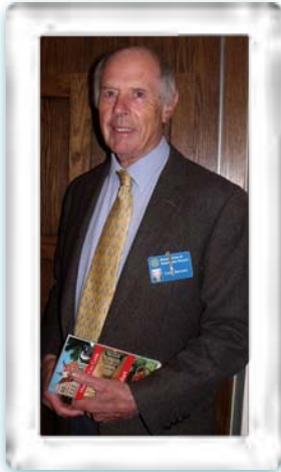
Don't forget the clocks go
FORWARD this
month! Spring is
nearly sprung.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why. Mark Twain

Meeting report - 5th February 2015

Report on Steinfurt - Munster Trip - 12-14th December '14 - Colin Bennett



Wet 'n windy! That's how it started out at 4.30am. The howling depression from the Atlantic was hitting Colchester and followed the Easterly track to Munster. The small propeller plane fluttered from Southend Airport and staggered onto the German runway 80 minutes later. Bedraggled Colin And Sue forgot the dampness when they were greeted by Gunther at Munster, holding aloft a very large WELCOME banner. The warmth of the greeting was maintained as they were greeted, fed and transported in a non stop tour, focusing on the wonderful Christmas markets. (There are 3 in Munster)

After shopping, Colin was intrigued to be taken and to see Michael and Heidi's 130 year old house in Steinfurt., (about 25 minutes from Munster). A substantial dinner was enjoyed. After an overnight stay in their Munster hotel, Colin took the train back to Stenfurt and Michael (the town's main solicitor), took him and Sue on an intriguing tour of the town,

embracing the history, the Duke's palace and the most unusual parklands and concert hall. Many of the buildings were Dutch baroque style and Colin was fascinated to be invited into a 17th Century timber framed house which gave insight into the past living style.



Christmas market

Gunther ferried Colin to Heinrick and Susanna's house which was modern, large and welcoming, with hunting trophies on display. Cocktails there were substantial! His daughter (who we

saw in Colchester) was away in Mexico but his sons were pleased to show the pheasant and mongoose which were the hunting bag of the day!



Typical house

Gunther's wife, Karla, a headmistress of a large Munster school, gave a very warm welcome in their home with afternoon tea, advent candles and a roaring log fire. They are a couple who seem to exude happiness and peace. They love the UK and spend much of their vacations touring our country. Munster was flattened in the war and has little surviving history so they find our country very interesting.



Duke's Palace

In Heiner's Porsche SUV, a very rapid drive into Munster was followed by dinner in the Museum, which was busy and where food and service were typical of a large town busily running up to the height of the Christmas season. Bedtime in the hotel was accompanied by a brass band outside playing Christmas tunes.



Munster University

After a fairly late night taking in the celebratory atmosphere of Munster, Colin & Sue met Gunther and Karla for a tour of the Munster university which must be one of the world's largest. (40,000 students) The main building was rebuilt faithfully from original plans after the war, and the gardens were rather like Kew. After coffee in the sailing centre by the lake, it was time to get the flight back to Southend..

Our German friends could not have done more to ensure such a wonderful warm and welcoming weekend..

Meeting report - 12th February 2015

Handelsbanken

Norfolk born Alan Barnard told us about Handelsbanken and showed his obvious delight at working with the company as its Colchester manager. *(Pictured here with President Peter)*



This 40 year old bank (started in Sweden in 1975) has been at the Octagon in Middleborough since Feb 2011. It now has 180 branches in the UK and a planned growth of 20-30 more each year. Their goal of higher profitability has been recorded every year for the past 40 years even though they do not have a huge marketing or advertising campaign in the UK.

Handelsbanken is one of Europe's 30 biggest banks by assets. It is different in several ways developing a model that could be used as a template for other banks who are seeking ways to recover customer confidence.

They are decentralised, which means that each customer belongs to a local branch who have the responsibility for their own customers meaning personal service and swift decisions.

Each branch manager has total control deciding how to help clients in their area.

They do not have impersonal call centres to drive you mad - you, as a customer, get the Manager's phone number! By giving their experienced branch teams everyday decision making power, they are able to serve each customer individually, with care and consistency.

They do not advertise, relying on word of mouth to recruit new customers. They have no sales targets and do not pay bonuses to staff in the UK. All staff get an equal share of profits every year which is paid into a foundation - and nobody can draw down their holding until they reach 60 when each employee is allocated the same amount regardless of rank.

Handelsbanken has welcomed news that its British individual and corporate banking customers have been rated far more satisfied than those of the UK's High Street banks. For the 6th year in a row, an independent survey has found customers of the locally rooted bank to be "head and shoulders" the most satisfied with their banking relationship, whilst the loyalty gap between Handelsbanken and its British banking competitors remains wider still.



They state their values are: Trust and respect, responsibility - t h i n k independently, courage, being a role model - practice what you learn and

long-term perspective. They believe a satisfied customer will be happy to return. All employees, regardless of role and position, share one objective - customer satisfaction and every employee and every step of the chain is equally important.

Sounds like a good deal to me JP

Meeting report - 19th February 2015

CLIC Sargent - Karen Roberts



Karen told us today that every day 10 children and young people have to cope with the devastating impact of a cancer diagnosis. Cancer treatment for children is often gruelling and can start immediately, last as long as three years and take place many miles from home.

In 2014 CLIC Sargent supported over 260 families in Essex alone.

CLIC Sargent aims to provide clinical, practical, emotional and financial support. CLIC Sargent is there from the point of diagnosis and helps the whole family cope with the impact of cancer and its treatment, life after treatment and, in some cases, bereavement.

CLIC Sargent aim to see a world where all children and young people with cancer live life to the full.

CLIC Sargent recognises that every child or young person with cancer has a different experience. A cancer diagnosis also affects the whole family in many different ways, so they take time to listen and understand. Their aim is to help ensure that the whole family receives the support which works best for them by providing clinical, practical and emotional support to children and young people with cancer, and their families giving financial support including grants and benefits information to children and young people with cancer to help deal with the financial impact of cancer; providing free 'Home from Home' accommodation close to specialist hospitals, so that families can be close to their children during treatment; offering free holidays and short breaks so that families can spend time together, with the support of care professionals, away from the everyday challenges of childhood cancer; campaigning and influencing others to raise awareness of the needs of children and young people with cancer and to improve the support they receive.

Karen wanted us to know that the support CLIC Sargent has received over the years from the Colchester Forum Rotary Club and its individual members is tremendous and they are truly grateful. And we want to Karen to know it's our pleasure and privilege!



To find out more about CLIC Sargent, visit their website at:
www.clicsargent.org.uk/

Meeting report - 26th February 2015

Business Meeting

Club Service

40th Anniversary book: Now well under way.

Programme: Suggested there be 2 'speaker finders' next year.

Communication: Web site almost up to date; Obiter Dicta: New web based version much admired. There was discussion on there being no vote for the change of system; PR: Way Ahead report still to come, one of the Youth Speaks had received coverage.

House and Fellowship: Lunch £15 from 1st March.

Entertainment and Social: Bill Frame thanked for his work on tickets for 42nd. Street. Next production is Legally Blonde. Evening visit on the 24th. March to the Radio Therapy unit at the District General, a board to be circulated.

Community Services

The Big Dinner - On 7th March 2015, 500 miles is holding the BIG dinner – an event which aims to raise over £500,000 in a single night. Every dinner will bring new life and hope to someone in Africa who needs an artificial limb or limb support, to help them achieve mobility or full body function.

On your bike for Prostate Cancer - This year Rotary will be officially kicking off the [Rotary Ride](#) where Rotarians will be invited to don their Lycra and get on their bikes for prostate cancer.

Stroke Awareness - A cheque will be raised by Kevin Sturdy for £100 for equipment being purchased by Lynn Belcher for Stroke Awareness.

Duck Race - President Peter has been in discussion with the Lions Club to discuss taking on their previously annual event of (plastic) duck racing in Colchester. Peter outlined the event and how we can become involved. Further discussion will be held with the rest of Forum.

CLIC Sargent event - Barry Donovan informed the committee of a CLIC Sargent event in Hopton on May 16th. He will be representing Forum and would appreciate a couple of other volunteers to assist him.

International & Foundation

Weekly Raffle: The weekly raffle is well supported, with positive feedback. To date £290

had been raised for Water Aid. For future games the King of Hearts would win the total pot as at present, any Queen would win half the pot and Jacks and the other Kings would win £10.

Barn Dance: 21 March 2015 at Copford Village Hall: Arrangements are well in hand, the risk assessment had been approved.

Steinfurt: Colin Bennett gave a report to the Club following his visit. A request had been made by Steinfurt for a family to host a 16 year old girl for 2 weeks. SP is hoping to arrange a visit to the 2015 Christmas market.

AOB: SP proposed support for the 500 Miles Big Dinner. It was agreed to recommend to Council that a donation of £200 be made from the Club Charity Fund in support of the project.

Youth & Vocational Services.

Literacy – Ramsden Heath: Richard Porter is liaising with the school - contact is through him.

The Way Ahead - John Russell had submitted a written report confirming the successful January careers presentations at St. Benedict's Catholic College.

Careers Talks - In addition to Layer and Kingsford we will now be arranging talks at Ardleigh St Mary's.

Youth Speaks - The Youth Speaks competitions had gone well again this year.

Mock Job Interviews - Thanks to Cas Morehan these had all been completed satisfactorily so far.

Purple Pinkie Day - A letter has been sent to each of the ten schools that had taken part in Youth Speaks thanking them for taking part in that and inviting them to participate in Purple Pinkie Day.

RYLA - Details forwarded to Stanway.

Youth Choir Project - The project going extremely well for this year and we were likely to have even more schools participating.

Ministry of Food – This appears now to sit with a separate sub committee.

Full Minutes are available from Committee Chairmen (already circulated to all by Club Secretary).

Did you know?

This week marks 110 years since Paul P. Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram E. Shorey gathered in Loehr's office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago for what would become known as the first Rotary club meeting. It also is 30 years since Rotary launched its campaign to rid the world of polio. From small beginnings

PARISH NOTICES



1. Just a note to say a big “thank you” for the many messages and acts of generosity I have received from the “Rotary Family” since my accident. The tokens of support and good wishes have been quite overwhelming and humbling. If I could mention just 2 names of many from the day – Nancy Dean who caught me and stopped me falling to the bottom of the stairs and Jill Parsonson who travelled with me to the hospital and for her many kindnesses since. My left leg is looking really good but the right leg just needs time. Heartfelt thanks to you all. **Pauline Jones**

2. We had good and sad news this month - member **John Guest** is retiring from work (the good bit) but is leaving us to return to Canada in May (the sad bit). However, he’s doing his best to keep up our numbers as he is recruiting his business partner to Forum (another good bit!). All our very best wishes (and some envy) and good luck go with John and his wife Helene for a very happy future. Stay in touch!



3. And we received a lovely letter from **Doris Fleury** to thank us for sending her monthly copies of OD. All our good wishes go to 93 year old Doris.

4. David attended his first Jamie's Ministry of Food session recently: to do the washing up! He’s available to all Forum members for similar duties - at a large cost!



The 500 Miles Charity - The Big Dinner

David & Christine Judge will be hosting a meal for the 500 Miles charity. A Fish & Chips Lunch for a Fiver (or whatever you like to donate to 500 Miles) on 7th March, 12-12pm Old Heath Congregational Church CO2 8DZ. Contact David for more information.

Can you dance?
Nor can we but
that won't stop us
going to the
Forum Barn
Dance on 21st
March. Yee ha!



FORUM FREEWHEELERS

Just as schools have a half-term in February, so Freewheelers opted this year to do likewise. We will not meet up again until the lunch and Fashion Show at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club on March 26th. This break has enabled two of our number to recover, Viv from illness and Pauline from the nasty accident on the stairs at Tymperleys. Viv was well enough to visit Weston Homes Community Stadium to watch Colchester United play against MK Dons. Hopefully the result did not cause a relapse! Pauline was well enough to attend a talk by Bill Ward at Layer Ladies Group but is still feeling the effects of her bad fall. We hope she continues to recover and that we see her at our next meeting. Another casualty has been Jane Thorp who sustained a nasty scalp wound in a fall while on holiday in Thailand. Fortunately she received good medical care and is now back home. We also wish her a rapid return to full health.

A ROTARY FOUNDATION SCHOLAR REVISITS COLCHESTER



Masumi in front of her first Essex Uni accommodation

As many of you know, Bill and I have welcomed many Rotary Foundation Scholars over the years and several have returned to England and paid us a visit. The latest was Masumi Ono, now Doctor Masumi Ono, who having studied for an M.A. during her scholarship year, extended her stay for a further three years to study for a Ph.D. in Linguistics. Since receiving her doctorate, she has been working at two Universities in Tokyo to gain experience. In the new academic year, she will take up a new post as Assistant Professor in English at Aeo private university in Tokyo where she now has the eagerly sought “tenure” in her position.

While here this time she spent four days of intensive study with her former tutor at Essex



Counsellor Bill Ward & Scholar Masumi

University where she was also able to meet up unexpectedly with old friends on campus. Always ready for new experiences, she suffered the cold evening air by accompanying me to watch Colchester United play. I hasten to say it was her choice to go with me.

She is a very happy gregarious young woman but also ambitious and takes every opportunity to travel to international conferences to exchange ideas with her colleagues. It was delightful to have her company for several days and to see how well she is progressing in her chosen career. **Marilyn Ward**

Birthdays

March	9	Gill Crayston
	12	Marilyn Ward
	18	Viv Juniper
April	4	Geraldine Russell
	6	Di Rawlinson



Coming Events

Thurs 26 March	Lunch and fashion show at Stoke-by-Nayland golf club, 12 for 12.30
Thurs Apr 23	Lunch at Lexden Crown to be confirmed by Sandra Putt.
May	Munning’s Museum, Dedham – Jill Crayston to arrange.
Thurs June 25	Jenny Pilgrim to arrange
Thurs July 23	Hall Farm, Stratford St Mary, Rachel Hills to arrange

Progress? I don't think so

Anne has finally bought an I-pad, thus she has succumbed to peer pressure; the learning process, a month on to even half master it is ongoing. The other evening she pressed a button and there was number one son smiling at her and wanting to start a conversation!



Where did this suddenly come from? We have friends who Skype regularly to relatives across "the pond", before hand they smarten themselves up, put on their Sunday best - no just kidding about

that bit - I think. I am not against the ever advancing pace of technology, On behalf of Hatfields I was in the forefront of computerisation back in the late 1970's. Heaven forbid I addressed a national conference, in the centre of London, to fellow furniture retailers on the subject at 10.30 on a Sunday morning! It is just that the whole fast advancing pace whilst presumably aimed at making life easier seems to be having the reverse effect. Mind you I am twice the age now as I was then so probably that has some significance.

My television controller has a button, amongst the many, that enables me to watch another programme - on a little picture - on whatever corner of the screen I want to watch it. So whilst watching Eggheads (And then here is an unrelated thought - Why don't we enter a team?) I can make sure I don't miss a story on the news, the fun starts when that story does come up and I want to move over from Eggheads! I've mastered recording two programmes at the same time whilst watching a third but that only came by studying a manual the size of a small novel. And - ignoring the adage of never starting a sentence with a preposition - a book is so much more pleasant to hold in your hand than a lump of plastic. If the book has been around awhile it even has character.

By contrast unless I download it from the web the I-pad came with 8 pages of instructions most of which dealt with things Anne has no intention/need to undertake. Then there is the I-pad brigade, who walk around taking the views by holding said pad in front of them. One of them was very lucky he did not go over Dubrovnik's wall last year and no, tempting as it was, I did not push him! On holiday recently there was a strange desire for people to be photographed with the admittedly very colourful setting sun in the background. Holding up their phones they were mystified when the folks in the foreground were dark, I explained they needed to use the flash. They either did not believe me or did not know there was a flash or how to force it to work. When I politely pointed out that for photographs why not try a camera they sadly shook their heads.

I do have a mobile phone, vintage probably 1990's, but it is never on, albeit it is always charged. I don't know its number, but, if I foresee a situation when it would be handy to have I take it. I did get it wrong once when there was Spitfire at Earls Colne and I did not associate my phone - in the car - with my muttering about not having my camera with me. Had it dawned on me would I have known how to take the desired picture? I get mildly excited (!) when filling in a form asking for my mobile number, the person then points to the blank space to which I, politely say, "Oh I didn't know it is compulsory to have one." I recently read an article in a motoring magazine about police officers stopping drivers of a certain car (Evoque) and asking the lady drivers to explain what the various buttons did.

There is far too much reliance on the assumption that everyone is on the web all the time, if something is urgent what is wrong with the telephone? It is also worth remembering all these devices have an off switch, it just seems such a pity many people do not seem to know where it is and when it would be polite to turn it off! **David London**