



# OBITER DICTA

The Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Colchester Forum

President: Andrew Crayston

AUGUST 2012

[www.colchesterforum.co.uk](http://www.colchesterforum.co.uk)



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR IAN McMEEKAN VISIT FORUM

The visit of District Governor Ian McMeekan to Forum on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July was very much the return of an old friend.

Tom Ford thought he gave an excellent presentation.

“He really knows how to use a microphone properly and I heard every word he said.”

An accolade Tom very seldom bestows!!

### DAVID AND PAULINE IN THEIR OLYMPIC UNIFORMS



David and Pauline Jones are volunteers at Stratford where they are working as greeters for the important guests in the stadium.

### ALAN RUSTAGE GREETES LORD COE



Another Olympic volunteer from Forum is Alan Rustage who is seen here in a picture from ITV News greeting Sebastian Coe at London Airport.

### OLYMPIC TORCH COMES THROUGH COLCHESTER



A large crowd watched the Olympic Flame pass through Colchester on 6 July. Heavy rain did not dampen the cheerful spirits of the spectators.

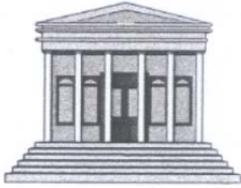
#### CLUB MEETINGS –August 2012

- 2<sup>nd</sup> HIGH SHERIFF OF ESSEX– Lady Ruggles-Brice  
*Vote of Thanks:* Brian Gant  
**Partners welcome to this meeting**
- 9<sup>th</sup> MY JOB , Part 2 – Nigel Offen  
*Vote of Thanks:* The President
- 16<sup>th</sup> PIONEERING LADY DOCTORS OF COLCHESTER  
Dr. Liz Hall  
*Vote of Thanks:* Bill Ward
- 23<sup>rd</sup> BUSINESS MEETING  
*Objects of Rotary:* David Judge
- 30<sup>th</sup> Evening meeting – Masonic Hall

#### CLUB MEETINGS –September 2012

- 6<sup>th</sup> WORK OF THE PERSONAL RECOVERY CENTRE  
Major Rob Thomas  
*Vote of Thanks:* Mike Aldir
- 13<sup>th</sup> LIVABILITY – Rose Dutch  
*Vote of Thanks:* Terry Belcher
- 20<sup>th</sup> STREET PASTORS AT WORK – Vivienne Wiggins  
*Vote of Thanks:* Barry Donovan
- 27<sup>th</sup> BUSINESS MEETING  
*Objects of Rotary:* John Williams

## EDITORIAL



Editor: **Bill Ward**

It has been very much a last minute rush with this month's issue. Contributions are arriving as I write this so that it has been a matter of juggling things to try to fit everything in. I usually like to start the formatting of Obiter Dicta in advance. This weekend has been busy at home with the family visiting and arranging for various members to attend Olympic events. If you are going to any event could you do some photos or even – surprise, surprise – write something about your experience. I am sure there are other club members who would like to hear of your adventures, travel problems and the high price of refreshments. Try to get them in in plenty of time though.

Please remember – Word Document (not DocX) Times New Roman and font size 11.

**Bill Ward**

## PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

I must start by once again thanking David Jones for steering us through a super and successful year for Colchester Forum. We will all take forward many treasured memories from that time. I am proud to have been asked to take Forum forward for the coming year.

I first joined Rotary some 37 years ago and throughout that time have seen the talents of individuals working together within the Rotary movement to produce outstanding results on an international, national and local scene. Results that no one individual could achieve on their own, but pooling the resources we have, being able to achieve so much more. And alongside it, enjoy and build deep rooted fellowship, making us much stronger as one body.

I am extremely lucky to have strong committees in all the areas of service with several new faces as chair of committee who I am sure can rely upon assistance from elder statesmen in taking their projects forward. We have exciting projects in the pipeline so let us all help to fulfil ambitions.

Two particular things are coming together at the moment. First, the Twilight Christmas Concert at Wivenhoe Church on 8<sup>th</sup> December. This is to begin at 4.30pm with an inspirational programme by Ian Dewis which should finish at a time when we can either stay in Wivenhoe for a drink or two, or allow people to go on to other evening arrangements. I am delighted that this has been able to progress. Secondly, the matter which seems to be taking shape at a pace, is the Cycling Week and I must stress the need for Rotarians and their partners to think hard about whether they are able to be involved in some form, and get this information across to John Lloyd so that he can take forward the planning of this event.

There are lots of other things taking shape and it is only when you take over as President that you realise the full extent of involvement that so many Rotarians have, to make our club so strong and I very much thank you all for it.

**Andrew Crayston**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>August</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gliding Visit – 3.30pm. Lunch with Partners – Lady Rosemary Ruggles-Brice – “My time as High Sheriff”
<b>September</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday - Car treasure Hunt – 2 for 2.30pm Friday. “Guys and Dolls” – Mercury Theatre CO2 production Colchester Club 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<b>October</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	Peldon Wine Night – In aid of Jaipur Limbs Project
<b>Dec</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> 17,18,19 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup>	Twilight Christmas Concert – Wivenhoe Church, 4.30pm Station Collections 20 <sup>th</sup> Visit to Thursford

There is also a visit to Steinfurt Rotary Club in Germany to be arranged.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012**  
**MY JOB TALK**  
**Peter Powell**



Peter Powell

Peter began by saying that a solicitor is not the most popular profession. His work is in Commercial Conveyancing – selling, buying and leasing commercial properties all over England & Wales

**Biography**

He is aged 65 and has 4 children and 4 grandchildren. His wife died 12 year ago and he now has a new partner, Francesca.

**Time with Colchester United**

He was asked to become a director of Colchester United by Peter Heard. He saw them go down to the Conference, win the league and go to Wembly and then go up to League One and the Championship. His first manager was Roy McDonagh. He had been a long-term player who had been presented with a silver plaque for 150 games for Colchester United but he had a problem transferring to the mind-set of a manager. He helped appoint George Burley who only stopped 6 months and went to Ipswich. It took three years of litigation to get the compensation for his move. They then had Steve Wignall, Mark Underwood and Steve Witton. After Steve both Geraint Williams, the assistant manager, and Phil Parkinson applied for the job and the board decided on Parkinson. The next day he was told by the chairman to explain to Geraint that he hadn't got the job. Parkinson soon went to Hull and he then took out an injunction against Hull to make them pay up promptly – the first time a football club had ever done this. Geraint and O'Driscoll applied for the job and O'Driscoll was appointed but changed his mind and Geraint Williams was told he had the job but only after Peter had told him he hadn't got it again.

**Director of the Football League**

He was appointed to this post three years ago. The League is a big group of 150 people. At his first meeting, in Torquay, he was put on the FA Cup Committee so got to sit in the front row of the Royal Box at the Cup Final. He is also on the Football Regulatory Committee and the FA Disciplinary Committee hearing cases and appeals.

The Income of the FA is divided very unequally, 80% to the Championship, 12% to League One and 8% to League Two.

**W.W.**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012**  
**THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR**  
**Ian McMeekan**



Ian said how he found it really nice to be with us again and feel himself to be amongst old friends. He brought us the greetings of the Presidents of RI and RIBI

A District Governor is very carefully trained. The training starts in his home country and then in the January before his appointment he goes to San Diego with 1500 other District Governor Elects. It is a very hard and well organised time working from 9am to 9pm every day.

The first question everyone asks is "What colour is the blazer?" It is navy blue.

The RI President's Theme is "Peace through Service." His aim is to help all people have a fuller life.

The first club he visited was Brightlingsea when they inducted five new members. His challenge to every club in District 1240 is to get (and keep) 4 new members in his year. He has seen the Olympic Torch on Ipswich Road with Centurion and enjoyed a very good meal at the *White Hart* with Braintree and Bocking.

**Colchester Forum**

You do a lot in your club and I do encourage you to get involved in District affairs. Please carry on supporting Rotary Foundation, which is our own charity and has no deductions from donations for administration. Polio Eradication is now very close. There were only 648 cases last year and India is now clear of endemic polio. Only 84 cases occurred in the last half year. The programme needs to be kept up for at least three years to be sure of total elimination of the disease.

I do enjoy reading your Bulletin. (Someone who actually reads *Obiter Dicta!!* Ed.)

**District Conference**

The District Conference is on the last weekend in September. On Saturday 6 October I will need 10 stewards from Forum for the second phase of the Conference.

**W.W.**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012**  
**PROSTATE CANCER CHARITY**  
**Caitlinn O'Neill**



Caitlinn told us that prostate cancer is the most common male cancer. 1 man dies of it every hour in the UK making 10,000 dying every year. It is commoner than breast cancer in women. The Prostate Cancer Charity offers help in three ways.

1. With support for sufferers
2. Funding research into the condition
3. Changing awareness to speed diagnosis

The charity provided free information and services in a UK wide. It offers one-to-one telephone support by fellow sufferers. It has an on-line community and message board.

They help in explaining to newly diagnosed men the different sorts of treatment available. They also explain that there are now many effective forms of treatment.

The charity funds research into causes and treatment. Some £12 million has been given since 1956. At present they are working on projects about predicting sufferers and identifying the most aggressive forms of the disease.

They wish to raise men's awareness of the condition and campaign for more services from government for men's diseases. Afro-Caribbean men are three times more likely to get prostate cancer.

President Andrew then presented Caitlinn with a cheque for £412. 50 which was half the proceeds from the Grand National Draw.

**W.W.**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012**  
**BUSINESS MEETING**



President Andrew, acting for David Jones, presents the Hugh Markham Trophy (given by the President to the person he thinks has done the most in his year) to Ian Dewis.

**President:**

Ray Cole has family problems and has asked for leave of absence. Ron Jervis has complained to the President that he was unhappy about being put on the Club Service Committee. Irene had said she wished to have him there as she needed his experience.

**Club Service:**

Alan Tindall is organising a trip to Canterbury in November. Twelve volunteers are needed by the District Governor for stewards at the next District Assembly on 6 October.

**International:**

They are keen to try to arrange a trip to Steinfurt soon. The cycle ride is well supported and they have had approaches from other local clubs for members to join us. The matched funding for Africa has been approved

**Community Service:**

The committee wants to actively support four good causes locally this year and is seeking suggestions for suitable organisations.

**New Generations:**

Funding from Danny Clough and Trevor Hunnaball means that the costs of our committee will be covered by their sponsorship. Jo Portway is still trying to sell stuff on e-bay and has raised £125 to date.

**A.O.B.**

David London is organising a party for the production of Guys and Dolls on 21 September.

Tom Ford wishes to say he is still collecting old spectacles (not bifocals).

Volunteer attendants are sought for the Chinese Exhibition at Colchester castle.

**W.W.**

# Forum Freewheelers

## HAPPY 2 BIRTHDAY

It is two years since Forum Freewheelers came into existence and the fellowship and friendship has helped us through some sad times. Firstly we were saddened by the death of Mary Yates in October 2011 and then shocked by the sudden death of Carol Priest in January 2012, both stalwart members.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July did not seem the most propitious date on which to celebrate our second birthday but we need not have worried. Geraldine and Jill had arranged a splendid evening at the *Yew Tree* restaurant, much enjoyed by all present. We were delighted that David Priest accepted our invitation to join us and our husbands for the evening. We were also very happy to see Liz up and about again although in a limited capacity. In the past year we have met once a month and we must express our thanks to all those who have arranged events. Viv Juniper is offering a new venture by holding an evening meeting at her home (See forthcoming events) and we hope as many as possible will attend as we look forward to another successful year.



Liz smiling in adversity



Good friends have a laugh



I think I 've heard that one before, Bob!

## OLYMPIC GAMES 2012

As we await the inside stories from the volunteer helpers at the Olympics – Pauline and David, Rita and Alan, here are a few of my thoughts on attending an Olympic event.

Together with my son William and his family I visited Old Trafford to watch a double-header football evening with UAE v Uruguay and GB v Senegal. Outside the ground there was a mingling of different nationalities – some very colourful - chatting and posing for photos together. Inside the atmosphere was amazing. Union Jacks were much in evidence and with Mexican waves and cheering and booing (friendly?) one was reminded of a visit to the pantomime. The results seemed almost immaterial but obviously there was great delight at the Team-GB goal. The main saga of the evening was attempting to get back to our hotel at Cheadle through 72,000 fans, a lot more than for CUFC! After a long wait for a tram we missed the last train and bus. Another bus had to be laid on with a friendly driver who had to rely on the passengers to guide him to their destinations. All this at 1 am. Amazingly, good nature prevailed throughout. All in all a good experience.

### Future Events

- Thurs Aug 23** Lunch at Rosemary Ireland's  
**Thurs Sep 20** Evening meeting with speaker at Hillcrest,  
 61 Parson's Heath  
 "Walking disasters" - Speaker Geraldine Russell  
**Nov TBA** Lunch at Thatcher's Arms, Mount Bures  
 Contact Rachel Hills  
**Wed Dec 12** Christmas Celebration - Library at Milsom's

Any offers please to arrange an event in October?

### Our best wishes for a Happy Birthday

- August 3<sup>rd</sup>** Liz Threlfall  
**Sept 9<sup>th</sup>** Carla Tindall  
**Sept 26<sup>th</sup>** Dawn Frame  
**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** Ann Stedman  
**Oct 6<sup>th</sup>** Sandra Putt

## FOUNDATION GRANT APPROVED

Excellent news from District Foundation Committee, in support of the Meerhof School Project (to add to the email from Brits). The project is to provide accessible washrooms for the senior girls, refurbish outdoor tennis and netball courts to make them suitable for wheelchair users and the provision of a commercial dishwasher to release staff to spend more time with the children. Brits are donating 75,000 rand and providing physical help, Forum 44,000 rand and District 44,000 rand (£4,000). Meerhof is a school for 270 children with physical disabilities, many of them are reliant on wheelchairs.

**John Lloyd**

## Careers Talks - A Great Success!

Once again (during July) Forum NGVS Committee organised Careers talks for Year 6 Layer Primary School - and again the speakers were enthusiastically received by the youngsters. Organiser John Russell arranged for six guest speakers to attend the school and tell the students about their careers, its ups and downs, the good and bad bits. The questions they posed were well thought out and it seems the speakers enjoyed the event as much as the students. Our especial thanks go to Ashton (Fisher Jones Greenwood on legal), Irene Kettle (PR), Jane Bacon (IT Colchester Institute), Andrew Crayston (Estate Agency/Surveying), Stephen Penrose (Vet) and by no means last, Dr Bill Ward (Medical).

Elaine Lazell of Layer Primary wrote:

I spoke with the children about the careers talks you so kindly arranged for them and you'll be pleased to know that their reactions were positive with the majority enjoying the talks and taking something from them.

Some said they had expected it to be about just one thing and had thought it would be boring, so they were pleasantly surprised to find a range of jobs discussed. They thought that all of the speakers tried hard to make their job sound as interesting as possible and generally gave them much more than they had expected. The IT went down well, with a range of comments from 'I thought computers would be boring but it was much more than that' to 'It has helped me to understand my Dad's job.' At least one girl has decided that it might be a career worth thinking about as it sounded so varied. It was good that Jayne Bacon came, as many of them saw IT as a 'man's job' - another door opened!

They liked the solicitor because Ashton told them he had wanted to be a footballer but realised he wasn't good enough so became a solicitor, and this made them think he was just like them so they needed to think of a job as well. They also had a lot of fun with the bandanas he left them - I've never seen such a variety of headwear in one classroom!!

Being a surveyor was a new idea for a job for many. Most of them had thought it was an office job, but they liked the idea of every day being different and never knowing what you might find when you go to a house; they also like the fact that Andrew told them he earned good money!! The other job that they hadn't realised involved going into the community was being a GP. For the majority, their experience is going to the surgery, so they thought that is where a doctor works and hadn't appreciated it is actually so much more to do with people, caring for them and getting involved, and so were interested in the experiences Dr Bill shared with them.

Journalism was popular. Irene made them think about getting out and about and involved in the action as well as about writing. They were impressed with her shorthand and some want to learn it themselves now! Interestingly, some of the children's comments were about mistakes - one girl said she now realised how important it is to check your work having seen the mistakes that Irene shared with them.

Animals were also popular, particularly the range of animals that Stephen explained vets can work with. The range of specialisms available was something not many had considered before and the variety of choice appealed even if the time taken to qualify was a bit daunting!

So a successful morning, thank you very much, with lots of food for thought. All of the speakers were lovely, so friendly and easy to talk to. It has started the children thinking, which after all is the object of the exercise. Thank you once again for organising this for us.

**Jo Portway**

## THE 10% RULE

Over the last couple of years or so, a few members have wanted the Club to drop the “10% Rule.” More recently the move has appeared to gain more momentum and it has even been inferred that adopting such a rule is “illegal.”

For the benefit of newer members, the “10% Rule” was introduced by me, when I was Community Service Chairman in 1978/80, initially for a ‘reserve’ in case we lost money on any of the functions we ran, and a ‘fund’ for any emergencies that should arise. With the separating of the Club Fund and Charity Fund, this ‘fund,’ quite rightly, became solely a Charity fund for use in emergencies or, to supply immediate support for donations. or the purchase of items.. When originally adopted it was agreed that 10% of any surplus (profit) of any function or collection should be placed in this fund, which in turn became the ‘Contingency Fund.’ So as not to infringe legal or moral ethics it was agreed that the words ‘and other Rotary Charities’ should follow the name of the prime beneficiary on all details. This therefore has been the case for the last 30+ years. I am not saying, that because it has been like this for so long it should stay in place, but more to the point, because it has worked over all this time and allowed the Club the flexibility to act quickly in any emergency or to provide instant help when needed, it should remain the status quo.

Over the years it has been the policy of our Club, for the incoming President to choose the main charities he wishes the Club to support during his year of office. Sometimes this amounts to purchasing specific items for a charity and sometimes giving financial support. Therefore, during the year, functions, events and collections are planned with the aim of raising funds for these charities. However, during the year, certain other charities may have good cause to request emergency funding or a disaster may occur somewhere in the world that needs immediate support. This would mean that if the club is to be able to act it must have funds available, hence the need for a ‘Contingency Fund.’ The alternative would be that every time a need should arise, the club would have to ask its members to dig deep in their own pockets and I do not believe that this is what the majority of our members want or that it represents the ethos of either Forum or Rotary generally.

I have strong views that this rule should remain, so as to provide the club with the flexibility it has enjoyed over the years, but I know that others have equally strong views to the contrary. A view has been expressed, that should a member ask for sponsorship in their quest to support a charity, it would be morally wrong for the club to deduct 10% for another charity. I agree it would be if the Just Giving website or Sponsorship Form did not include the wording ‘and other Rotary charities.’ There have been a number of events or collections over past years where Council had agreed to waive the 10% rule, where for example, we have been asked to collect for a certain organisation such as ABF. In certain cases a special request for dispensation has been made to Council before the event takes place. This I propose, shows that Council has, and can show empathy and can adopt a flexible attitude towards the Club ‘Rules’ when required.

I hope this has provided some background to the situation and provoked some thoughts on what, no doubt, will be a continuing debate.

**Louis Thorp**

### PLUS ÇA CHANGE, PLUS C’EST LA MÊME CHOSE

(The more things change the more they stay the same)

Your editor was recently reading again the *Natural History of Selbourne* by the Rev Gilbert White, published in 1789 when his attention was caught by this little post-script to a letter written on 20 December 1770.

“P.S. There fell in the county of *Rutland*, in three weeks of this present very wet weather, seven inches and a half of rain, which is more than has fallen in any three weeks for these thirty years past in that part of the world. A mean quantity in that county for one year is twenty inches and a half.”

## READING SUPPORT PROGRAMME AT KING'S FORD SCHOOL



For some years members of Forum have been assisting at Kingsford Junior School with hearing children read on a One-to-one basis. The club has been giving Rotary dictionaries to each of the form 6 students who are leaving this year. These have been paid for by Quality Solicitors FJG and Sam Hales from the firm is seen above giving the dictionaries to the children on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July at the school assembly.

This year the progress made by all the students was considerable at the SATS tests gave them an “exceptional” rating for reading. To get this rating the school must progress by at least 6 stages. The usual yearly progress expected in a year is two stages. We thought we would mark this by giving certificates and book token prizes to those children the teachers thought had made the most effort. Below are photos of the prize-winners.



## CROQUET EVENING



A fine evening for croquet



Some took it more seriously than others.



Robin was the winner (he added up his own score)

A lucky break in the weather meant that all those who went to the croquet evening on 17 July were able to enjoy playing uninterrupted by rain. This year Robert Jacklin insisted we played to the rules and kept score. The winner was Robin Twinn. Many thanks to Robert and Penny Jacklin and Kit and Mary Hughes for their hard work in planning the evening and supplying the food as well as manning the bar.