



OBITER DICTA

The Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Colchester Forum

President: Andrew Crayston

www.colchesterforum.co.uk

DECEMBER 2012



FORUM FIRST IN DISTRICT

District Governor Ian McMeekan came to our club lunch on 15th November to award us a banner inscribed "1st in District" for being the top club in District 1240 with our contributions to Foundation in 2010/11.

He is seen here with last year's President David Jones, Foundation officer Robert Jacklin and President Andrew Crayston.

A VISITOR FROM CANADA
Hadi Mortada
President Elect West Ottawa RC



Hadi and Andrew exchange banners at our meeting on 22nd November

MERRY CHRISTMAS



**AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS**

**KINGSFORD SCHOOL
BOOK COLLECTION
CONTINUES TO GROW**



The school have set aside a book case to house the books we have donated. There are already many more added since I took this photo. Watch this space!!

CLUB MEETINGS –December 2012

- 6th E.G.M.
MY JOB TALK – Colin Bennett
Vote of Thanks: The President
- 13th CHRISTMAS LUNCH WITH PARTNERS
- 20th FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
- 27th NO MEETING



CLUB MEETINGS –January 2013

- 3rd FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN COLCHESTER
Karen Syrett.
Vote of Thanks: David Boyden
- 10th MEDICAL PROVISION IN COLCHESTER
Dr Hasan Chowhan
Vote of Thanks: Nigel Offen
- 17th CRUCIAL CRE – Richard Kemsley
Vote of Thanks: Brian Gant
- 24th BUSINESS MEETING
Object of Rotary: Bill Frame
- 31st T.B.A.

EDITORIAL



Editor: Bill Ward

This month brings a bumper Christmas edition with ten pages of articles. These have come from you, the members of the club and you have also sent photos to illustrate the written word. This makes the job of production so much easier.

I hope that this does not mean a dearth of material in the New Year so while you are recovering from your holiday excess please think about whether you have anything to tell us.

Our club has done a lot of good works in many different fields over the past few months, especially in the area of youth service. The mock interviews have been successful and we have the Youth Speaks to come. The book collection for Kingsford School has been extremely successful and the books are still coming in. They are much appreciated by the young students.

Bill Ward

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

Many thanks to our Olympics Game makers and Ambassador for a great evening meeting last Thursday. Pauline, Rita, Alan, David and Ian all had a different part of the tale to relive and brought back great memories for us all and really did show how complicated the whole event was. Such an amazing achievement only made possible by volunteer back-up. During the evening I did mention how we all do depend so much on help from others.

Some clubs have an evening meeting every month and it does give more time, not only to benefit and share good speakers but also to share fellowship with our wives, partners and husbands.

Bill and Marilyn brought Dr Masumi Ono along with them. She was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at Essex University and now leaves us to go back home to Japan. I mention this to give particular thanks to Bill and Marilyn for looking after Masumi during her stay.

Earlier in the week we had a new members evening from which we hope to introduce new faces to the club. I must mention and thank those who came to help but in particular the presentation prepared by Brian Gant and David Priest was brilliant and really brought home how many different strands there are of what we do. If we have a gap in our lunch time speaker programme I think we should all see their presentation.

Our next event is the Wivenhoe Christmas Celebration on Saturday 8th December, and in the run up to Christmas there is Thursford and the Christmas Station Collection. Busy times again.

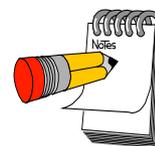
Please however, put in a diary date for the Sunday 13th January for a Fellowship walk and lunch with Gill and myself at Langenhoe.

May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andrew Crayston

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec	8 th 17, 18, 19 th 20 th	Saturday, Twilight Christmas Concert – St Mary's Church Wivenhoe, 4.30pm Station Collections Visit to Thursford
January 2013	13 th 23 rd 30 th 30 th	Sunday, Walk followed by Lunch at Gill and Andrew's Intermediate Youth Speaks – Town Hall Colchester – 6pm Senior Youth Speaks – Town Hall Colchester – 6pm The Way Ahead – St Benedict's College
February	1 st	"Sweet Charity" Mercury Theatre plus reception beforehand.
March	2 nd 14 th 19 th	Peldon Wine Night – Peldon Village Hall (In aid of Jaipur Limb Project) The Way Ahead – Alderman Blaxill School Junior Youth Speaks – Town Hall Colchester
May	18 – 27 th	Cycling Watling Street. – In aid of End Polio Now.
June	23-26 th 29 th	RI Convention – Lisbon Epsom and Ewell Silver Band Concert – St Botolph's Church – 7.30pm



**Thursday 1st September 2012
COLCHESTER WALLS PROJECT
Karen Turnbull**



Karen is the Enterprise and Tourism manager for Colchester Council. She came to talk to us about celebrating Colchester in a new and distinctive way.

The idea is based on a scheme introduced in Norwich seven years ago. Towns all over the world now look the same. Street furniture is made by a few big companies who sell their products everywhere. The same store chains are in every High Street.

They decided to analyse a set of streets in the town with special functions. Colchester is the only town in Britain with shops on top of the Roman wall. These shops need to be owned by independent retailers who can co-operate in an association to share promotions and facilities. Among suggested promotions are late night shopping and festivals.

Colchester is weak in tourist promotion.

The town has the longest remaining Roman walls in the country 1¼ miles long with the largest remaining Roman gateway.. It needs better interpretation with plaques, information boards and podcast connections. Then tourists can be told the stories of Boudicca, the Emperor Claudius, William Gilberd, Trinity Church, Daniel Defoe and the Dutch quarter. We also need new street signs to tell the history of a road. The first interpretive board will be at the top of Scheregate steps which will become part of the town trail. We need re-enactors to do historical reconstructions.

Funding a big problem

In these difficult times money is tight. Applications have been made to the EU and the National Lottery Fund. They have broken down the project into sub-sets to try to get money for improvement stage by stage.

A Pride in the Town

Do shopkeepers maintain their shop fronts? Could they reduce the clutter of advertising boards on the pavements? **W.W.**

**Thursday 8th September 2012
FOUNDATION – FUTURE VISION
Len Nieuwenhuis**



This meeting was a frugal lunch. The meal of soup and roll was donated by the *Rose and Crown*. Members paid the usual price and (with Gift Aid) a total of £700 was raised for Mary's Meals Charity.

Len is the District Foundation Chairman.. He said that in coming to talk to Forum he was preaching to the converted as in 2011/12 we gave an average of \$188 per member, well ahead of any club in District. This wins us the Graham Thornton Silver Salver, prize for the club with the best total. Our club has also benefited a great deal from grants for our projects.

He has been on the committee for two years and he told us of changes coming to the model which deals with grants for projects.

Foundation is Rotary's Own Charity

What does this mean? It means clean water, education, school materials, hygienic toilets, health care and vaccination programmes for millions of people world-wide. Donations to foundation since 1916 add up to \$852.5 million.

Matching grants are now for sums from \$5,000 to \$200,000. They must be in co-operation with another club in another country. \$2,500 raised by a club would become \$11,300 by the time all the matching grants have been added.

In future the minimum grant will be \$15,000. District Grants will be for small projects anywhere (\$5,000 minimum).

Donations are invested for three years so that the income earned covers the administrative costs and the whole capital can then be split between District and World Funds.

Educational Programmes

International studies in Peace Programmes are 2 year MA degree courses at six universities (Bradford in UK).

Ambassadorial scholarships will still be given. District has two at Essex University this year. GSE teams will be replaced by vocational training schemes.

In this district in 2009/10 we gave \$92,986 and after three years \$46,493 was returned.

W.W.

**Thursday 15th September 2013
THANKS FOR THE MEMORY
David London**



District Governor Ian McMeekan came to present the club with a banner proudly saying "No1 Club in District" because we were the leading club in Foundation contributions with a total of \$188-30 per head in the year 2010/11.



A last minute replacement for our speaker was club archivist, David London, who showed us many of his old pictures of ourselves when young

David said that as a founder member of Forum he unfortunately didn't attend the meeting where they handed out the job of Club Archivist. He has been trying to leave the post ever since but has not found any one else willing (or stupid) enough to take it over. He has been given the job of producing a booklet to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the club in 2016 and he wants as many photos from members of Rotary events as possible so that he has the maximum choice possible.

He then showed us pictures from 1976 to 2000 using his old fashioned slide projector which, of course, proved so much more reliable than the modern computer linked projector which has let down some of our more recent speakers.

W.W.

**Thursday 22nd September 2013
BUSINESS MEETING**

Secretary:

The EGM will be on 6th December. There is a new system for electing directors for RIBI. There are 8 vacancies for the new executive board. There are 32 candidates we can choose from.

Thanks to most of the club who have sent him photographs.

Treasurer:

The frugal lunch has raised £700 (with gift aid) for Mary's Meals. He now has badges and car stickers available.

President:

He was very grateful for the excellent turnout of members who attended the funeral of former member John Cockeram.

Community Service:

There will be a collection on 9th & 10th December at Tescos at the Hythe in aid of Young Carers. The station collection rota is circulated. Dick Jackson will be Santa Claus. The tabards have been located but the club's first aid kit is now missing.

Approval has been given for a donation of £100 to Treetops League of Friends.

New Generations:

Evening committee meeting was well attended. Reading support classes continue and books are still being collected for Kingsford School.

Way Ahead is being arranged for 2 schools.

Mock Job Interviews have been done at St Helena's School. Irene Kettle stepped in as a last minute substitute and Jo pleaded with people who have to drop out to try to find their own replacement. Selling on e-bay continues well, cotton materials are selling well at the moment. Anything left unsold goes to a charity shop so nothing is wasted.

International:

Work at the Meerhof School in South Africa goes well. The girls' shower block is almost finished and a new dishwasher for the kitchen is installed. Work on the sports courts will begin in the new year. Wording has been agreed for a plaque in honour of Rodney Borgartz to mark the work of Forum. Because of currency rate changes in our favour there is £3,000 (R39,000) available and the Brits Club have asked if we could help to build a proper kitchen for another deprived school they already help.

Richard Porter is arranging flights for a visit to Steinfurt Club in Germany for the new year.

John Lloyd needs confirmation of participants in the cycle ride so he can finalise hotel bookings.

Club Service:

A discussion paper about the role of President will be circulated soon. One suggestion is a meeting's manager to help remove some of the President's burden of running meetings.

W.W.

Forum Freewheelers

We would all like to offer our condolences to Val Cockeram on the sad loss of her husband John whose obituary appears on page 7. We hope to see Val again in the near future.

VISIT TO THE THATCHERS ARMS – November 15th

The promise of freshly cooked, wholesome food and a beautiful view over the Essex countryside attracted a good turnout of Freewheelers to the *Thatchers Arms* pub between Chappel and Bures. Having driven through the first of the winter's icy fog, we reached our destination and found, unsurprisingly, due to the weather, that we had the place to ourselves. Ten in number plus the very youngest Freewheeler ever, we thoroughly enjoyed our visit and the varied menu on offer. It was lovely to welcome Viv's daughter Helen and baby Jessica, who impressed us all with her good behaviour. The good looks obviously travel down the female line in her family. Congratulations also to Rachel who became a grandmother again recently. Thank you to Rachel for arranging such a successful outing for us. Perhaps we can go again another time to see the view!!



How do you celebrate Christmas? For most of us Christmas dinner is the highlight and is eaten on the afternoon of Christmas Day.

In France, however, Christmas dinner, know as *Reveillon*, is eaten starting late on Christmas Eve and continues into the morning of Christmas Day.

The food served may be goose, roast duck, smoked salmon, oysters etc. The Christmas cake is made in the shape of a log and is flavoured with hazelnut and chocolate and served as a dessert and washed down with champagne.

However you celebrate Christmas, best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Future Events

Wed Dec 12 Christmas Celebration - Library at Milsom's 12 for 12.30. Cost £28 for three course meal. Contact Ann Stedman.

Thurs Jan 24 Lunch at Beefeater, Cowdray Avenue 1pm Contact Jenny Pilgrim.

Any suggestions for future events or visits are always welcome.

Our best wishes for a Happy Birthday

Dec 18th Rosemary Ireland

Jan 9th Gwen Light
17th Nancy Dean



Evening Meeting
Thursday
29th November
Rose and Crown

OLYMPIC MEMORIES

A presentation by
Alan & Rita Rustage
Ian Dewis and
David & Pauline Jones



Our speakers with departing Rotary Scholar Masumi Ono.



David and Ian discuss how to set up the projector

Three members of Forum and two of their wives were involved as games-makers and ambassador at various activities during the Olympics. They came to tell us something of their experiences.

Alan Rustage:

Alan was offered “transport or nothing” when he volunteered and found himself as a team leader at Heathrow Airport, meeting and greeting incoming athletes and Olympic officials and directing them to their destinations. He saw nothing of the games at all but did get his picture on television talking to Seb Coe.

Rita Rustage:

Rita got a better choice of venue as she was at Horse Guards Parade for the beach volleyball. It was busy and exciting with three sessions a day and 15,000 people at each session. The whole park was full of different entertainments, all very enjoyable. As she could drive a golf buggy she was given the task of helping people with limited mobility. Due to a one-way system she drove them into the venue and then had to return by a long route through the park.

Ian Dewis:

Ian was an Essex “Ambassador” at Hadleigh Farm, the site of the mountain biking venue. As a keen cyclist he was looking forward to seeing what proved to be a phenomenal mountain bike track. As a team leader he had to help move people on and off the site. They had 78 double-decker buses and moved 20,000 people in 1¼ hours with no-one having to wait more than 6 minutes for a bus. He also worked at Stansted airport where the biggest problem was getting the Australian team on to their aircraft for the flight home as most of them had a problem getting out of bed the morning after the closing ceremony.

David Jones:

He and Pauline applied separately and were both chosen for the protocol team. This put them at the main arena in the lounge for the “Olympic Family.” This included royalty, heads of state, Olympic officials and former gold medal winners. As the royal family left the opening ceremony at 2am the Princess Royal thanked David personally for his hard work. He also was working with mobility and the first two guests he took up in the lift were Stephen Hawkins and Henry Kissinger. The biggest problem was not the heads of state but their security people.

Pauline Jones:

Pauline said they were forbidden cameras and could not take pictures of the distinguished guests. These could all come and go at any time and you were never sure who would turn up. She had to escort the guests to their seats in the different rooms and the arena. The security guards for the guests were supposed to stay in another room but Michelle Obama arrived with six who refused to stay outside. Pauline coped so well with the conflicting orders from the British and American security staff that she was asked to stay as she was the only one who could remain polite with both sides. The royal family personally thanked all the volunteers for their hard work and were happy to stop and chat with them. Each of them said that it was an experience that they would never forget.

Thanks from the Scouts – Can we assist with another project ?

Last October, we organized a walk around Layer de la Haye to help to raise funds for the walkers' favourite charities.

A number of scouts joined us as they were raising funds for the erection of new toilets at their camp at Thorrington. As a thank you for us letting them join our walk, we were invited to the opening of the new beautiful toilet block at Thorrington, performed by Sir Bob Russell. During her speech, Mary Francis, Chairman of the Thorrington Management Committee, thanked our Rotary Club for its support and we will have our name on the plaque to be installed on the new toilet block recording its sponsors

Mary mentioned to me during the visit that they had had 3 old donated boats stolen from their double padlocked shed, There was no insurance claim as the boats were old and of minimal value. They plan to acquire 5 new canoes and Mary asked if we might be able to help with some funding. The boats will cost about £600 each.

In our young days, I am sure we had some good times as scouts so it would be nice if we could help our successors.

What do you think ?

Barry Donovan

OBITUARY

John Marshall Cockeram
22 November 1923 – 9 November 2012



The funeral took place on 21 November of John Cockeram, a former member of this club. John was an engineer and inventor who worked for many years in the field of plating with precious metals. His latest work was in gold plating electronic components to use the smallest effective amounts of the expensive metals.

John had resigned from the club owing to ill health.

The funeral which was attended by a large number of members of his family and many members and wives from Colchester Forum Rotary Club was conducted by the Rev Christopher Brown at the Colchester Crematorium.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

The club New Generations Committee has recently, as part of its Youth programme, run three sessions of Mock Interviews. On the 8th November we did one at Thomas Lord Audley. This was the first time for their new careers teacher and was a bit disorganised. The second was at Alderman Blaxill School on 15th November and was well attended. The last was on 20th November at St Helena's School. They were determined to get an interview for every member of the year and had organised a large panel of interviewers, including Forum members, who each did a long session. Each student had a critique of his or her performance. Both the staff and students were very appreciative of our efforts.

The interviews are a valuable resource for the schools and they are very grateful for our help.

Peter Powell did have a small number of last minute cancellations, all for the very best of reasons. It did cost him some moments of anxiety and he does ask, if it happens at a future event, people would try to get their own substitute rather than just leave it to him.



Left:
The group at
Alderman
Blaxill School



Right:
Jo Portway at
St Helena's
School

POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS EVENING

Some six potential members responded to the invitation to find out more about Rotary and the Forum club. They were welcomed by President Andrew and a glass of wine at the Rose and Crown on Monday 26th November. Past Presidents Louis Thorp and Ivan Stedman were also on hand together with Vice-President Irene, most committee chairs and the respective nominees of the potential members.

After a brief introduction, the evening, presented by PP Brian Gant, was in the form of three parts. First was a video presentation of Forum activities entitled "Enjoy Rotary." The second was a slide presentation illustrating the roots and structure of Rotary from RI down to committee functions together with an idea of the commitment and cost of membership, followed by an informal networking Q&A session - with a refill of the wine glass!

As in the past it is too early to predict the success of the evening but it is hoped that we attract at least three new members.

D.A.P.



This photograph shows the new dishwasher at the Meerhoff School in South Africa which was paid for by Forum and the Brits RC. It has greatly reduced the workload of the staff and given them more time to spend with the handicapped youngsters at the school.

FIFTH THURSDAY EVENING 31 January 2013

31st Jan will be the next 5th Thursday and the International committee are organising it. They have booked the Colchester Institute and bartered for a good deal which is as follows

Two course menu plus Amuse bouche – this comprises of a choice of one meat dish (your African dish), one fish dish or one vegetarian dish plus a choice of 3 desserts and coffee/tea. The price of this will be £18.50 per person including one arrivals drink each.

The African meal they have proposed is a Bobotie which is the national dish of South Africa - They thought this would be appropriate given the direction of our activities over the last 3 years.

Stephen Penrose

(Editor's Note – Wikipedia says)

Bobotie (/b bo ti/), also spelt **bobotjie**, is a [South African](#) dish consisting of spiced [minced meat](#) baked with an egg-based topping.^[1] The recipe is likely to have originated from the [Dutch East India Company](#) colonies in [Batavia](#), with the name derived from the [Indonesian](#) *Bobotok*. Afterwards, it was taken to South Africa and adopted by the [Cape Malay](#) community.

Visit to Personnel Recovery Centre.

On 18th Oct. 15 members braved and successfully negotiated security at the garrison to visit the newly opened personnel recovery centre.

The visit started with a warm welcome from Maj. Rob Thomas and Maj. Steve Scholar, the latter being the “Help for Heroes” manager at the centre. A lively Q&A session followed at which they explained the concept and culture of the centre and gave a broad outline of its financial arrangements.

This was followed by a detailed tour of the facility, demonstrating the many gadgets fitted to allow injured soldiers, particularly amputees to adapt to life in civvy street. It was also emphasised that many had mental rather than physical injuries and needed a stress free environment during their stay at the centre.

Members left enthused by the quality of the centre and, hopefully, we will be able to find ways in which we can support it in the future.

Nigel Offen

American holiday

Rita and I have just been on a wonderful holiday to the East coast of America for the first time, visiting New York, Boston and New England. David London supplied a comprehensive visitor’s guide which we used extensively and we did as many of the tourist highlights as possible. We also combined this with a wide spectrum of musical events, eg. the opera ‘Otello’ at the New York Metropolitan opera house, Mendelssohn & Shostakovich concert at the Boston Symphony hall, a Russian male voice choir at the Carnegie centre, an amateur competition night at the Apollo theatre in Harlem, a gospel choir at the Abyssinian church in Harlem, and a jazz concert at Harvard university – all gave a wonderful experience.

I had booked most hotels, trains, car hire etc. before leaving England but because we were unsure exactly where we would be staying on a week’s drive around New England in the Fall (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Cape Cod) I only booked a hotel for the first night. On the second night, a Saturday evening, we searched along the route for hours trying to find somewhere to stay but everywhere was full. We stopped at a Best Western (also full) and the receptionist very kindly phoned about 20 places to see if we could be accommodated, but all were full. This meant that we travelled further than we had anticipated on the first day and I called in at about another 15 motels, inns, hotels etc. but all had no accommodation. The reason for this, apparently was that it was Columbus weekend (a Bank Holiday), plus it was the prime time for looking at the foliage (leaf-peeping!) Eventually we found ourselves at a small motel which had just one room available (a smokers room) which we accepted because it was about 9pm. by then. The strange coincidence was that it was situated in Colchester Business Park, Connecticut! Very interesting to see another Colchester.

Alan F. Rustage

A DAY OUT IN CANTERBURY

Alan Tindall had tried to arrange a weekend in Canterbury but as he had not been able to get the numbers needed for an economic cost he arranged instead for a day trip. Alan and Philippa, Bill and Marilyn Ward, Dick and Ann Jackson with Barry and Margaret Donovan travelled in two cars. We stopped at the Park & Ride and took the bus into the centre where Alan had arranged for us to meet a town guide. This lady was excellent and obviously extremely knowledgeable about the history of the city. We walked through the narrow streets of the old part seeing the many timber buildings from the Middle Ages including one where the hiring and provisioning of the *Mayflower* had taken place. She was incensed to find that a painting of the *Mayflower* on the front, together with a panel giving the story, had been given a coat of new white paint.

After lunch we visited the cathedral where a superb American cathedral guide gave us a conducted tour around the building. She was able to give us so much more of an insight into its history than we would ever have gained from a guidebook. (Dick Jackson found out he had probably met her father who was a taxi driver in Las Vegas last year – it’s a small world indeed.)

Bill Ward

Photos on back page.

FIFTH THURSDAY MEETING



Happy smiles as they await the food



"The burdens of running a meeting"



John Russell and Tom Ford in serious debate



Masumi with Bill and Marilyn



Katrina serves coffee to our speakers



Richard & Wendy Pearce smile for the camera



Tony Dutch shows off his new hair style.



Liz's hair is much better



Irene is ready to eat her Pavlova

A DAY OUT IN CANTERBURY



Taking photographs



Mediaeval water tower



Group photo inside the cathedral.