



# OBITER DICTA

The Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Colchester Forum

President: David Jones

MAY 2012

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

## PRESIDENT'S NIGHT GREAT SUCCESS



The President's Night meeting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April at Le Talbooth was a great success with a large number of members and guests enjoying the dinner and dance.

The Auction of Promises raised £2,820 and together with the profit from the evening there was a total of £4,000 raised for Forum for Africa projects.

More photos on page 8.

### BILL WARD AWARDED A PAUL HARRIS FELLOWSHIP



### DAVID JUDGE COLLECTS THAILAND STATIONERY



### GRAND NATIONAL DRAW RAISES £800 FOR CHARITY



Peter and Tony draw the horses for the Grand National Sweepstake. The prize of £500 for the last horse home was won by Ray Gamble.

#### CLUB MEETINGS – May 2012

- 3<sup>rd</sup> FOCUS INTERVIEW – David Boyden  
*Vote of Thanks:* The President
- 10<sup>th</sup> MY JOB TALK – Nigel Offen  
*Vote of Thanks:* The President
- 17<sup>th</sup> COLCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL – Dr G Coutts  
*Vote of Thanks:* Bill Ward
- 24<sup>th</sup> BUSINESS MEETING
- 31<sup>st</sup> Evening Meeting with partners  
VETERINARY MEDICINE FROM LAB TO  
LABRADOR AND BEYOND - Dr Kerry Simpson  
*Vote of Thanks:* Stephen Penrose

#### CLUB MEETINGS – June 2012

- 7<sup>th</sup> A LONG WAY FOR A PIZZA – ON FOOT FROM  
COGGESHALL TO ROME – Brian Mooney  
*Vote of Thanks:* John Williams
- 14<sup>th</sup> CLUB ASSEMBLY
- 21<sup>ST</sup> FELLOWSHIP MEETING
- 28<sup>th</sup> BUSINESS MEETING

## EDITORIAL



**Editors:**  
**Bill Ward and Bill Frame**

It was a great surprise to me to be given a Paul Harris Fellowship by the club at the evening meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March. I know how careful the members of the club are in choosing Paul Harris Fellows from amongst its own number and that only a very few are so privileged. I am joining a very select group. I was even more surprised to find that originally David had wanted to give me the award at Christmas but I spoiled his plans by going to Aberdeen for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Despite this you all kept the secret from me. I had absolutely no idea about what was coming and my face, I am told, was a picture of astonishment. I shall wear my new badge with great pride.

**Bill Ward**

## PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

I am writing this in the aftermath of President's Night whilst trying to pack for our trip to South Africa which starts tomorrow (Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>). Council this month was dominated by the budget and in the end we were pleased to be able to recommend a modest increase of 50p in the subscription for the coming year. We also talked about the 10% rule on fund-raising events and once again the idea of a weekly raffle came up. We plan to discuss this properly at our next meeting and I would be pleased to receive any thoughts that members might have on the subject.

Of course this month's big issue has been President's Night and I would like to thank the Club for the magnificent support which this event received. We had 140 guests in the impressive new marquee at the Talbooth and I was delighted to note that 70% of club members were able to make it. I would also like to offer my thanks to members who for good reasons could not attend but sent along their best wishes. As you may well have read in John Lloyd's email, the Auction raised £2820 and the final profit on the evening was over £4,000. We were fortunate to have so many generous donors of items for the Auction and fortunate indeed to have Graham Ellis as our auctioneer. Above all I would like to thank John and Lynne for all their efforts to make the night the great success that it turned out to be. The quality of the organization had the Lloyd (Ball-Hall) stamp all over it. I feel a great personal sense of gratitude to them both. Today my email box has been filled with messages from people saying what a great time they and their guests had enjoyed. Pauline and I felt it was a wonderful evening of friendship and fellowship.

I shall now be away for a couple of weeks and will leave you in the capable hands of Irene and Andrew. In doing so, will miss another historic moment in the history of the Club when our meeting will be presided over by a female Rotarian. What would JPD have had to say about that?

Thanking you again for giving me a great President's Night

**David Jones**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>May</b>	6-9 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Rotary International Convention – Bangkok</b> Visit to Fire and Rescue Emergency Headquarters at Lexden
<b>June</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> 21-24 <sup>th</sup>	Car Treasure Hunt Collection, Tesco's Highwoods in aid of Headway Collection, Tesco's Highwoods in aid of Headway RUTLAND WATER ACTIVITY AND SOCIAL WEEKEND
<b>Dec</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup>	Presidential Handover Visit to Thursford

Although there are no dates fixed yet plans are in hand for a trip to Cambridge in early July, another visit to the gliding club and a croquet evening. There is also a visit to Steinfurt Rotary Club in Germany to be arranged.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
STRATFORD EXPERIENCE  
Ian Kirby**



Ian is a Rotarian from the Brentwood Club. Since his retirement he has worked for the Committee for East London Tourism gaining a City of London Guide badge. He was then asked by Newham Council to train guides for the Olympic Games.

London has been the venue for the Olympic Games three times, 1908, 1948 and 2012.

Baron Coubertin of France began the modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens. (The Greek government of the time was bankrupt.) London was given the 1908 games after an eruption of Vesuvius meant that the Italians could no longer hold them. They were held at the White City, built for £44,000 and which lasted for 60 years. One English runner Wyndham Heswell was in the final of the 400 metres in which he was attacked and punched by three Americans who were disqualified. When the race was re-run the next day he ran alone. The Marathon distance was determined by the distance from Windsor to the stadium.

The 1948 Olympics was the austerity Olympics. The Americans brought so much extra food that some was donated to a local hospital.

The Stratford Olympic park will house 20,000 people. £125M has been spent on Stratford Station. The new international station will need to handle 100,000 an hour during the games. A new Docklands Light Railway station has been built also to allow access from London City Airport. A DLR train will pull in every 14 seconds at peak times. A cable railway will cross the Thames to link the O<sup>2</sup> stadium at Greenwich to the Olympic site. The Central Line trains at Stratford will have platforms on both sides to allow faster loading and unloading. Sponsorship has played a big part in raising the money for the games. The Olympic Village will become housing but will need some refurbishment. The flats at present have no kitchens as that will make space for another bedroom and the athletes are all being fed in separate dining rooms.

**W.W.**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
RETURN TO INDIA  
Robin and Jackie Twinn**



Robin headed the GSE team to India 16 years ago. He and Jackie returned this year to visit old friends and see some of the work being done by the Good Foundation charity started by Olive Jeffries, and its successor, the Russ Foundation

Madurai in South India is not one of the usual tourist areas. The biggest city is Madurai which is where Olive Jeffries set up her charity to bring basic medical care to the villages. The Russ Foundation now runs the charity and is situated 15 miles outside the city on a road which is mostly potholes.

The Russ Foundation has an orphanage which Robin had previously visited with Faith Russmeyer from the Sixth Form College in Colchester which has had a long programme of support for the charity. There are 30 children, mostly girls, who are HIV orphans. They try to be self sufficient. They have their own cow to produce milk and cow dung for methane production. They have frequent power cuts. They have their own water pump – paid for by the Ongar RC.

There is a school on the site with 160 children in 6 classes, 2 kindergarten and 4 primary. The children all pay a small fee. It is open plan and noisy. It is an English medium school with teaching in both English and Tamil. There is a national curriculum for schools in India and the teaching is in a rather old fashioned style of “chalk and talk.” Maths is taught using abacuses. A lot of the decorating of the school has been done by visitors from the Sixth Form College.

Olive Jeffries’ house is now used for foreign visitors. The food is prepared outdoors. It is mostly vegetarian and usually involves rice three times a day.

The evening tuition programme we support helps many children. It provides 2 hours every night from 5.30 to 7.30pm. Many have illiterate parents who cannot help with school work. It is greatly appreciated and the children are eager to learn.

**W.W.**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
COLCHESTER UNITED FROM 1984  
John Schultz



John gave a fascinating view of Colchester United from the 1980's at Layer Road until the current day at the Weston Homes Community Stadium

John came originally from East London but became involved with Colchester United from the early 1980's on the Commercial side of the club. During his time at the club they have had 6 Chairmen each with his own unique approach to running the club.

Maurice Cadman who was a member of Forum was the first Chairman John worked with when he was appointed to the Board and he quickly realised that they needed more cash in the club. This led to the turbulent reign of Jonathon Crisp from 1985 to 1991 who was famous for sacking the then Manager Mike Walker when the team were top of the league and introducing the infamous membership scheme. Colchester Council had to buy Layer Road at this time in order for the club to survive as they were relegated from the league. James Bowdidge was only Chairman for a year but during that short period Col Utd came back into the League and won the FA Trophy at Wembley. Although Gordon Parker was the Chairman from 1992 to 1998 the club was effectively run by Peter Heard who took over from 1998 to 2006 when the club were promoted to the Championship. Robbie Cowling then took over as owner of the club when they moved to the new Stadium.

John now concentrates on the Corporate side and identified the range of events that can now be put on at the Stadium and highlighted how things had changed since Layer Road. He also confirmed that most businessmen seemed to forget basic principles when it comes to running a football club!

WF

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
BUSINESS MEETING

**President:** Thanks to the Programme Secretary for his work in providing a very interesting programme of speakers.

**Secretary:** Thanks to Peter Hill for taking over in his absence.

**Treasurer:** There are 3 areas to address in the proposed budget.

1, The speakers and lunches for them and guests have been more expensive and a sum of £520 has been allowed.

2. A sinking fund of £50 a year is suggested to spread the cost of buying things like club banners. There will be initial costs in setting up a twinning arrangement but this can use funds left over from last year.

3. There is a proposed increase in the club subscription of 50p (due to increase in RIBI fee of 50p a head) and this will mean a total fee of £118.

**Club Service:** As the Christmas Celebration last year was so good, despite competing attractions on the same day Ian Dewis has been asked to organise another event, probably a "Candlelit Concert" in Dedham Church on a Saturday.

**Community Service:** Two sums of £412-50p have been raised for Prostate Cancer and ABF from the Grand national Sweepstake plus £110 for the club charity fund. Please start collecting for the Car Boot Sale. Send lists (not goods yet) to John Williams of what you have. The collection on 24<sup>th</sup> March raised £431 for ABF.

**International:** Rutland Weekend has now been fully organised. John wishes to say that anyone who wishes just to go up for the day will be very welcome at any time over the break. John and Lynne, David and Pauline will be going to South Africa to visit the Brits Club and will report on the projects we have been supporting.

£2,000 has been sent to Rotary Foundation this year.

**New Generations:** Ray Burman, president RIBI is coming to the University for lunch and Vlad, the president of the Rotaract Club will welcome any Rotarians who wish to attend.

Jo Portway is collecting suitable goods and bric-a-brac to sell on e-bay.

Tom Ford is still collecting unwanted spectacles for re-use in India.

W.W.

# Forum Freewheelers

## A VISIT TO ACORN VILLAGE (A COMMUNITY OF REAL NEED)

Despite driving rain and wind Jenny received good support for the visit she arranged to Acorn Village at Mistley near Manningtree on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Acorn Village was established in 1975 and was conceived by Denzil Green, family and friends to provide a community for adults who have a learning disability. His daughter Heather, who is responsible for promoting the village, showed us round Mistley Hall, a listed building and the original home, which is now used for administrative purposes, staff training and as a conference centre.

Acorn – I like the analogy of “Great oaks from little acorns grow” – as Acorn Village has grown immensely since it first opened its doors. Various types of buildings in the beautiful grounds offer accommodation appropriate to the needs of residents who, on and off site, now number 62 with 200 staff to cater for all their requirements. More able residents live in homes in Lawford and Manningtree and manage their own affairs with some assistance.

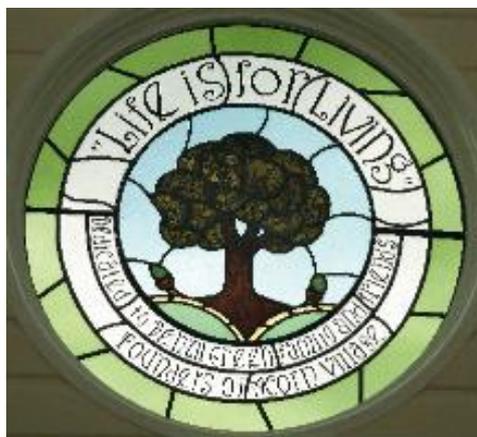
Great thought has gone into the development of Acorn Village which now has on-site a modern coffee shop and a recently opened conference centre and function room called the Oakroom which is available for hire. There is also a second-hand book shop and a craft shop which is currently being updated. These facilities together with a tea-room in Manningtree High Street called “Ike at 47 Café” plus charity shops in Manningtree and Brightlingsea help to provide income for the substantial running costs.

Incorporated in the recently completed “Oakroom” conference centre is a beautiful stained glass window dedicated to Denzil Green, family and friends, whose vision and determination enabled Acorn Village to be established and to develop into the thriving community it is today.

Heather, who showed us round, contacted Jenny after our visit and said how happy she was to see us and would welcome future visits which Jenny will be pleased to organise.



Gwen, Jenny and her friend Janice in the coffee shop conservatory where we had lunch



The beautiful stained glass window above the entrance to the Oakroom dedicated to Denzil Green. Denzil was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by Forum Rotary Club for his work at Acorn Village.

### Future Events

- Wed May 9** Afternoon tea – Gill Crayston’s, Black Bond Hall, 2.30pm. cost £3-50  
Tel. Gill to book place.
- Thurs Jun 7** Ploughman’s Lunch – Jill Parsonson  
Tel. Before 4 June
- Fri July 13** Evening meal with partners. Venue TBA
- Thurs Aug 23** Lunch at Rosemary Ireland’s
- Sep TBA** Evening meeting with speaker at Viv’s
- Wed Dec 12** Christmas Celebration - Library at Milsom’s

### Our best wishes for a Happy Birthday

- May 23<sup>rd</sup>** Rachel Hills
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Jenny Pilgrim
- July 5<sup>th</sup>** Betty Souter

Many thanks to those who have offered to host events and organise visits.

## VISIT TO THE RAIL COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AT COLCHESTER STATION



Bob Light looks at the massive display



One man controls many miles of track



Posing for the group photograph

After the lunch meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April a dozen members of Forum went to Colchester Station to see the rail signal centre. This was a most impressive place. The rail lines from Marks Tey to Norwich are all controlled from this single building. There are three separate control panels for different sections of line. All the level crossing gates are also controlled from here and video cameras allow the staff to check each one visually before and after opening them. The boards are all manned continuously and there is a spare hand to take over from anyone who needs a break or requires extra help during a period of heavy demand.

The biggest workload is at rush hour times. When there is any sort of hold-up they have to do a rapid revision of the timetables to try to keep the service running. One problem has been cable theft, both of power lines and telephone wires. One thief cut a power line which fell onto the telephone cable and sent a massive electric current down the wire and burnt out their private telephone exchange in the centre.

We were all made most welcome and given a very detailed and fascinating explanation of the workings of the centre. We are all grateful to Bob for arranging such an interesting visit. W.W.

### THE WAY AHEAD

*We have had a letter from Alderman Blaxill School thanking us for running this event on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.*

“The feedback from students and staff was very positive and showed that they found the experience very useful. There were fewer questions this time about specific careers and what they found useful was that it made them think about what they needed to do to achieve their own goals. This is a better outcome for them as it encourages them to think about what they need to do rather than whether a particular career is something they might be interested in.

The students found the speeches inspirational and it clearly motivated them to achieve success in the future.

Please thank the speakers and members of the Rotary Club for once again supporting the students at Alderman Blaxill School.”

Kind Regards,

Phil Jones

Associate Headmaster

### THE FIGHT AGAINST POLIO

The fight against polio has been a long and difficult one and has involved a lot of work by very many people all over the world. In the *Daily Telegraph* obituary column for Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April there was the report of the death of Renato Dulbecco. You may never have heard of him but he shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1975. He was a virologist, born in Italy and working in America, and he first isolated the mutant strain of polio virus which was used by the Sabin Institute to produce the first polio vaccine which had to be given by injection. He then worked on the production of the Salk oral vaccine which greatly improved the uptake of polio vaccine worldwide.

Many people have been involved in promoting the polio eradication programme set up by the World Health Organisation. Rotary Foundation was instrumental in providing initial funding for this programme when other agencies were unwilling. The programme is still needed and so is our money.

Many Rotarians say “What do we get from Foundation for our money?” What we don’t get is thousands of dead and crippled children all of whom have been saved by our efforts.

## **RIBI CONFERENCE 2012**

David and Christine Judge have attended over 25 RIBI Conferences around Britain and Ireland, the most recent being 13-15 April 2012 in Bournemouth and one of the best which was attended by nearly 2,000 delegates. RIBI President, Ray Burman and Conference Chairman David Buchanan and his committee put together an interesting, informative and entertaining programme. This included a powerful and moving presentation about the Future of Rotary from RI World President Kalyan Banerjee from India. One of the Nolan sisters, Linda and Baroness Delyth Morgan put across strongly the stark reality of breast cancer and how Rotarians can support the newly formed tissue bank.

Sir Terry Wogan spoke on behalf of BBC Children in Need interspersed with emotive, entertaining and humorous stories. Pam Rhodes spoke on behalf of REPOd particularly sharing the good news of more "Memory Cafes" which help those with dementia and their families. "Memory Cafes" are increasingly being supported and started by Rotary Clubs and DAJ hopes that the combined four Colchester Rotary Clubs may start one in Colchester.

BBC News Channel broadcast live the RI Young Citizens Awards and also the Friday evening entertainment from RIBI Young Musician competition winners.

Saturday evening entertainment was from PLATINUM - the ABBA tribute band.

RIBI Business Session and AGM lasted three and half hours, covered a vast number of proposals and resolutions. Most of these were passed and can be seen on [www.ribi.org](http://www.ribi.org) Annual Conference 2012 Report. The overall result was RIBI continues in a revised and streamlined form.

Sunday opened with a multi-faith celebration chaired by Vicki Burman with New Forest Children's Choir brilliantly led by founder and conductor Alison Russell-Hayward. The choir's patron is John Rutter.

Malcolm Wells of Canine Partners demonstrated how these special dogs help with everyday tasks and proved "dog is man's best friend".

Finally, the entertainer Richard Digance gave a superb performance. Richard is a great supporter of Rotary. Performed at 2011 District 1240 Conference, is an honorary Rotarian in Leigh on Sea Rotary Club and on stage was made a Paul Harris Fellow for which he had a standing ovation.

Overall a good conference - the next one is in **Harrogate 12-14 April 2013** - come and join us. **DAJ**

## **SCHOOL STATIONERY TO THAILAND**

David and Christine Judge are now off to the Rotary International Conference in Bangkok in Thailand. Whilst they are there they have arranged to help the Maerimwittayakom School in Rim Tai, in Chiang Mai province. The school had particularly asked for writing pads, pens and pencils and David had arranged to collect these from a number of sources including Langenhoe Community School, Colchester Forum and Colchester Centurion Rotary Clubs and family and friends. David had collected over 50 kg of materials which will be delivered by a special arrangement with Fed-Ex.

This school is in the north of the country and is on the Laos/Thailand border. It is the school which will be the place where a special "English Camp" is to be held.



David with Jackie Martin from  
Langenhoe School



Ellison's were changing their logo  
so these pens were now obsolete



David and Christine pack the goods  
ready for transport

**FIFTH THURSDAY MEETING – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**



Gordon Dean chats to Dick Jackson



Christine Judge and Jenny Pilgrim



Our speaker Jim Jenkins gave us an excellent talk about the new developments at Abberton Reservoir and the many changes there will be to allow better access for the public.



Stephen Penrose and Peter Blake enjoy the meal



Ann and Ivan smile for the camera

**PRESIDENT'S NIGHT – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012**



Elizabeth and Mark Lloyd with Marilyn



The Days play Happy Families



The Pearces enjoy the evening



Bill and Dawn take a break from elections



I'm so happy the Sweepstake is now over



Rachel and Philip were warmly welcomed



The band was great to dance to



“Don't bid for anything – or else!!”



Richard and Nicky sit this one out