



April 2014

NEWS from the Rotary Club of Billericay

“ Service Above Self ”

Looking Good But Much Work To Do



I start with a “Thank you” to Peter Greene and Trevor Bond for the first edition of the new Club Newsletter. I feel positive and optimistic about its future –

just a shame that someone so talented as Peter cannot airbrush yours truly to look a little more like Tom Cruise! As for my words, I am sure Trevor will continue to treat them kindly in the short time left until Mr Ginn takes over the baton.

So to our activities

On March 31, Plum Valley restaurant again gave us an enjoyable fifth Monday in the month club visit as opposed to our normal Monday lunch. (See report and photograph inside). I have some personal thoughts on the evening. We seemed to have taken them by surprise as early arrivals expecting a drink (of something, anyway...) found it not on and we took turns in sitting there whilst they cleaned up and washed glasses as if we were invisible. Is that what happens when you grow older? And I worried that the vegetarians were not too well catered for. It seemed to be that if they served anything that wasn't meat then that was for them.

However, as always, the company was great, the food (as it was) kept on coming and, overall, a very enjoyable evening.

Bottom line: With apologies to Ben Curtis who organised the evening again, I personally think that we've “now done” Plum Valley and we should look for another venue for next time. A great idea though, breaking out for the fifth Monday and mixing socially. What do you think? New venue? Any Ideas?

On April 7, our speaker Peter Hall updated us on Little Havens. More than just a children's hospice, a caring

centre based in Thundersley that I remember opening in 1998. It came out of Fair Havens Hospice identifying a need in Essex to specifically care for children with life-limiting illnesses. Although only having provision for seven or eight children in specially designed rooms, it provides for about 60 associated bedrooms for supporting family and friends who might need respite in caring for their children. Completely purpose built, and being continually improved and

updated to offer the very latest in sensory technology to cater for and accommodate the extreme needs from which children and families can benefit. Costing about £460,000 a week to run it is a worthwhile charity with which we have worked well in the past and should consider so in the future. For those of you that haven't been, do not miss the opportunity to go.

Again, elsewhere in these pages, we feature in detail the talk by Christine Brewster, Curator of the Cater Museum about the tremendous work that she does in protecting Billericay's heritage. The museum features a large collection of local photographs, books and maps available for research purposes, and a period herb and kitchen garden.

Christine hails from America but after a stay of over 13 years now as curator, she admitted that she is now recognised by some visiting Europeans as ‘almost’ quintessentially English. Not quite an Essex girl yet but no doubt still wishing and hoping and ambitious. Christine worked alongside us on

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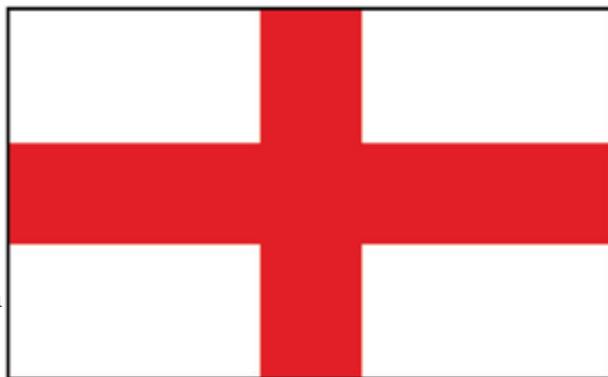
Flying the Flag for St George

Hello Rotarians
We held our April meeting at the “Hutton Junction” pub and enjoyed a wonderful meal.

Our main charity event of the year was a St George’s Day lunch held on the day at Margaretting Village Hall, which was decorated for the event. Having had to cancel last year because of lack of support, this year we were bursting at the seams!

The hall was buzzing; noisy, chatty, very friendly and kept our members on their toes all the time. A huge success!

We were grateful for help from the gentlemen there and other friends. The “Red Hatters” ladies group supported us very well once again with 17 members as well as support from other Inner



Wheel Clubs and friends.

A large amount of chickens was torn apart (sounds painful but I assure you, nothing that would send the animal protestors into panic) and vegetables chopped for a menu of Coronation Chicken, new potatoes and vegetables, followed by apple pie and cream (our supporters always enjoy the food at our events!).

Editor’s Note: I love apple pie and cream – count me in next time!

After lunch Ben Clark played piano for a sing along of traditional English songs.

This was a wonderfully successful event well photographed. If not in this issue – then look out for them next month.

By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel correspondent

President’s message - Continued from Page 1 the Reading Rooms 150
year Anniversary project when she was extremely welcoming and accommodating. About 120 children from the four schools visited the Cater Museum – an experience that they enjoyed enormously and that will remain in their memory for ever.

We progressed the Sand Dam Project in Kenya. Ed has reported separately on our visit to Excellent Development, the charity organising the work in Kenya. We will have much more to report before the end of my term as President, as I intend going to Kenya to see work in progress. I doubt that might happen in my year. However, I feel there is work still undone for us as a Club. For the moment we have to be content with the allowed rate of progress.

The same evening we met with Kew Gardens Rotary Club from where Peter King (next year’s RIBI President) hails. The interesting visit simply confirms what a great Club we have here!! I was always told that you will only miss a vase when it’s broken, so let’s keep the unibond close to hand chaps!!!!

On the weekend of April 13, Gillian and I, with Mike and Sue Ginn, attended the RIBI Conference in Birmingham. I was particularly impressed with the speech by Lord Digby Jones. It was also good to meet up with the incoming D.G. from Stroud in Gloucestershire whose wife, belongs to an E-Rotary Club. That and a most unusual conversation with a “hugely tattooed” young lady in a home-made burger restaurant prompted me to realise that we are completely missing

a generation of young people who are not remotely interested in Rotary. We desperately need to refocus! Although nearing completion of ‘my year’ I’ve not finished yet. Keep watching this space! Finally, Gillian and I had a great Easter weekend in Yorkshire, with my daughter and her fiancée. What a joy to be cared for! As I finish, I am reminded that I have not packed yet and we are taking Gill’s parents to Spain tomorrow – our turn for caring now. See you next time!

By President Keith

PS: You may feel this poem – The Pages of Life – is relevant to us all. I hope you do.

*Each day of life is different
Some nasty, some nice
Of one thing we are certain
No single day comes twice*

*We must grasp at every good thing
Try to learn from what is bad
Enjoy the days that seem perfect
To give comfort from those that are bad*

*As we pass through life, we grow older
They begin a different phase
Yet there is still time left for learning
When quieter seem the days*

*Now comes the time for reflection
As we reach toward old age
For the Book of Life we are writing
As each day turns another page.*

L M Wadlow



Cater Museum – Looking Back and Into The Future

Museums – just a hoarding place for relics, antiquities and old bones? A warehouse of things ancient and of no interest to anyone in the 21st century? Wrong!

Listen to Christine Brewster, curator of the Cater Museum in Billericay High Street for the past 13 years and you realise 2 things: firstly, all our local heritage and history is enshrined in one small building at 74 High Street; secondly, how a local museum which contains some antiquities that the British Museum would kill to own, safely stores them.

Originally Christine hails from America and retains the hint of a drawl. As she admitted when she gave us a wonderful talk on the developments of the museum, since she last spoke to us some eight years ago, she now considers herself 90 per cent British and mocks those overseas tourists who say to her: We were in America recently – do you know America?

Many ask: “Do I speak German or French? Cannot think why, but I speak both. It helps with questions.”

Since the museum attracts 2,500 visitors in an average year, Christine’s ability to meet and greet everyone on an equal basis is an advantage. “Yes, we get a lot of Americans, Canadians and New Zealanders. Many of them are seeking details of their ancestry – many have genuine connections with the area and we try to help. We even located the details of ancestors of a couple whose ancestors lived in Billericay over a century ago, and helped some Americans from Billerica in Massachusetts (a Billericay’s twin town) to find details of their great, great, great grandfather who they believe emigrated two centuries ago.

It goes on. Christine displayed a piece of wood – not any ordinary piece of wood. This was found when the original building was demolished. Probable date – around 1588 – Elizabethan defence of Britain as Sir Francis Drake fought the Armada. A fairy light – a wooden box with a hole and a form of candle –

dated 1800 – and amongst the museum’s “skeletal” collection, a wooden Noah’s Ark Model dug out of the mud from a demolished local house.

But, as Christine was anxious to emphasise, the museum is as much about current and future events and records as the past. It is a museum with a garden. “We are very proud of our garden,” she said. “It is something we have developed with a great deal of support. Which is why when The Developers came to us and said: “Can we buy the land?”. “My answer was, let us say, non-receptive!”

To emphasise their modern approach, Christine said how they had to deal with the recent floods which had thrown up all kinds of possible artefacts which had to be examined and chosen. “Just one of the many things we are asked to consider.”

The museum involves all aspects of the local community. They invite people to bring plants for their garden, have a Remus Horse Sanctuary Day for an afternoon of fun on May 10 and bring 15th Century to life with a Merrie Medieval Day on July 26 from 12 noon – 4.00pm. It involves itself also with the The Fun Walk Trust, this year on May 18 at Barleylands Farm. And our club president, Keith Wood presented Christine with a cheque for £100 for the museum’s contribution to the Reading Rooms’ 150th Anniversary celebrations in March.

And it will recognise the year of World War 1 with a special display and identification of your heirlooms at the Reading Rooms on October 25, (2.00pm – 5.00pm) and a talk at 7.00pm – “Home for Christmas.” Plus a Victorian Christmas in December. The Museum has always encouraged children and had great support from the local schools. To that end, they will be a further World War 1 exhibition, inviting the schools to see displays of World War 1 weapons, a lecture in the Reading Rooms and special feature on the local Zeppelin crash which figures in all the town’s war-time history.

A Fun Note: ...Do you know how to cook a Banbury Cake? Or a Balmoral Tartlet? Or a Cheese Biscuit?

All on recipes from the early 20th Century and available at the Cater Museum – go on – give it a try!

Interested in the history of the local public houses – come on you drinkers, admit, yes!

All I will reveal is that the first one was The Anchor (anyone know where that was?) in 1615.

PS: As Editor of the Newsletter, I would welcome your thoughts on The Pubs. See the back page for the list..... suspect you may or must have drunk in many of them. Do not wish to know your drinking habits – just your thoughts on local pubs, ancient and modern.

Excellent Development and the Sand Dam Project

On the afternoon of Wednesday April 16, President Keith, Jim Onions from the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens, and I, all visited Excellent Development in



Brentford. Jim enjoys a very good relationship with Excellent Development and has been most helpful in trying to progress our involvement in the Sand Dam Project. We had a long meeting with Alexandra Oatham, the charity's Fundraising Development Manager

and also met briefly Simon Maddrell, the Executive Director and a Paul Harris Fellow. Alexandra gave us a copy of their Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13 and was very well-informed about the charity's activities.

In the evening we had a meal with Jim and some of his colleagues at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Kew Green. We received a friendly welcome and met Peter King, a Club Member and the incoming RIBI President. We

left after 9 p.m. before the Club held their AGM and Council meeting.

On the following evening president Keith, treasurer Mike Sinclair, Peter Greene, Roger Kettle and myself attended Basildon Club's meeting at Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club.

The speaker was Sir Edward Clay, a patron of Excellent Development. Sir Edward is also a Paul Harris Fellow

and a former High Commissioner to Kenya. His PHF



had been awarded by Clubs in Uganda in recognition of his work there prior to his time in Kenya. Assistant Governor Alan Buxton (Rayleigh Mill Club) spoke briefly after Sir Edward and there were also representatives from Basildon Concord, Burnham-on-Crouch, Stanford-Le-Hope & Corringham, and Thurrock Gateway clubs. Excellent Development are currently working with 14 Rotary Districts and 104 Rotary Clubs.

by Secretary, Ed Harrison

Laugh along with Roger

On Marriage:

After 25 years of marriage, Tom and Tami go for counselling.

Asked what the problem was. Tami delivered a passionate, painful tirade, listing every problem in all their years of marriage.....

neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable.

Hearing all this, the therapist gets up, walks round his desk and, after asking Tami to stand, embraces and

kisses her long and passionately while Tom watches with raised eyebrows.

Tami shuts up and quietly sits down as though in a daze. The therapist says to Tom: "This is what she needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?"

"Well, I can drop her off on Mondays and Wednesdays but I play golf on Fridays."

Bob Hope in Heaven - On turning 80:

"That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

The 100 Club

The latest draw took place during the evening of March 31st when over half the club and their partners and guests attended our Social Event at the Plum Valley restaurant.



The winners were:

Clinton O'Rourke £100,

Iris Bishop £75,

Neville Deakin £50 and

Mike Redgewell £25

(see special feature, Ben Pulls Out Another Plum on Page 5)

by Secretary, Ed Harrison

A Man For All Reasons

Trevor Stansfield, last year's club president, has finally called it a day on 34 years of editing The Resident – the brilliantly produced newsletter which slipped through all our doors to keep us informed year after year.

Town Councillor, Chairman of the Parents' Association at Mayflower School, organising Young Chef and Youth Speaks for our Club – so many fulfilled roles.

"Now I am taking a gap year, chill out and then see what I can find to keep me out of mischief," says Trevor.

He has left The Resident in good hands of Maralyn Buchanan, Chris Wade and Ron Eaton but you can be sure he will keep a watchful eye on it. Trevor, on behalf of the Club, enjoy your gap year, take that cruise you fancy and chill out. You deserve it.

by Trevor Bond

PEACE IN OUR TIME AND GONE WITH THE WIND

Club member Norman Wilson recalls events that influenced his teenage years in the 1930's.



On September 30, 1938, Neville Chamberlain returned from his discussions with Hitler, Landed at Heston, waved a copy of the Munich agreement and declared "Peace in our Time"

However preparations for war continued:- The R.A.F. built aerodromes under its "Expansion Scheme", and the "Civil Air Guard Scheme" was launched, aimed at training a reserve of pilots. My eldest brother, Alan, joined and qualified (my other brother had joined the R.A.F. in 1934).

The Air Defence Cadet Corps was launched by Air Commodore Chambers in '38 (Aged 15, I became a founder Member of No. 8(F) 1st City of Coventry Squadron - in 1940 it was taken over by the Government and renamed the Air Training Corps

I left school aged 16 in July 1939 - war was declared on Sunday September 3, 1939 and I started an Aircraft Engineering Apprenticeship on Monday September 4 at Sir W.G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft Ltd. (AWA)

In 1940 The "Local Defence Volunteer" force came into being, in response to the threat of invasion. In

the first week 250,000 volunteered, including myself. The Force eventually topped 1.5 million and became the Home Guard.

A unit was formed at AWA., And I recall we had a fearsome Regular Army Sgt. Major taking us for drill and on one occasion, the order came :- "Stand to attention, shoulders back and thumbs in line with the seam of your trousers". He then inspected us and finally came to a senior manager who stooped slightly and was round shouldered -- "You' be more like the rest if you about turned" was his cruel remark -- that member quite rightly never came again.

At 17, I and others, were issued with a Ross Rifle and ordered to carry it everywhere - I even remember sitting in the cinema with it by my side.

One foggy night two of us were patrolling the perimeter of the airfield, and heard what we thought were footsteps. Encircling the noise we discovered it was a horse and the sounds were of it grabbing and chewing grass!!

November 14, 1940, Coventry was blitzed--- a brand new cinema, The Rex, had a direct hit - the film being shown was "Gone with the Wind".

Just like my 91 years!!!

by Norman Wilson



Ben Pulls out a Plum

It's the fifth Monday so ... club members and their partners get together for a convivial meal out.



There are two advantages in having a fifth Monday in the Monday as in the March just gone.

Firstly, your speaker/finder is spared trying

to chase up another persuasive soul to talk to us (2 or 3 a month is quite enough) and, secondly, it provides a wonderful opportunity for some serious socialising.



Which is why some thirty or so of us once again descended on the Plum Valley restaurant on March 31 for a delightful meal and convivial evening. Did not count too many

tiaras on the wives and partners but don't they all look smashing on a night out!

Our appreciation to Ben Curtis for arranging the occasion again. Clever Ben - he knows he will not be served rocket there! President Keith Wood thanked him on behalf of us all.

By Trevor Bond



Pub Quiz (from Page 3)

1615: The Anchor/Bull/Crown/
George/Kings Arms
1638-1667: White Hart
1706: The Bell/White Lyon
1712: "Bulls Head"
1725: Royal Oak
1730: Red Lion

1750-1765: Kings Head
1765: Hare & Hounds/ Three
Horseshoes/ Chequers
1769-70: Magpie & Horses/ Old
Fox
1772-77: Carpenters Arms
1775-79: Five Bells
1802-15: Kings Arm

1817-20: Crown Tap
1823-05: Duke of York/ Dog &
Partridge
1835-40: Plough (Tye Common)
1895: Railway Hotel.
*published by the Cater
Museum*

Blood Pressure Checks Still Vital

On Saturday April 5, we again staged a Know Your Blood Pressure event, again promoted by "Rotary" in conjunction with the Stroke Association.

On a sunny Saturday morning several club members and three nurses set up the Testing Station within Waitrose Supermarket and were soon busy assisting any customers willing to give it a go.

Excuses for not taking the test ranged from varied to original. Despite that, a total of some 70 checks were carried out in the three hour slot. Results showed the need for 20 referrals,



which included two very high values of blood pressure.

Even with the increase in "self-testing", these results show that large numbers of people are still unaware of their high blood pressure.

Random testing is still very important in the effort to reduce strokes etc.

Many thanks to all the club members who supported the event, to all of our nurses who carried out the testing and to the Waitrose Organisation for permitting us to operate within their store.

by Norman Bishop.

Arthur Edwards - 40 years of filming the Royals

The club was privileged to have Arthur Edwards - celebrated as the press world's royal photographer - as a special guest speaker on Monday, March 3rd.



Arthur, who is based in Hutton and learned his trade on Essex and East London

newspapers, has been photographing the royal family for 40 years and gave a major lunch time turn-out of members and friends, a wonderful portfolio of his work from the days when he was first employed by The Sun newspaper. Yes - The Sun, whatever thoughts you may have about that press vehicle. He showed early shots of Charles and Diana and their princes (William and Harry, of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, of their 4 children, and, up to to Charles and Camilla, William, Kate and Prince George - a portfolio of any normal family but, in this case, privileged and royal. The one word that enabled Edwards to capture all his

great images, was "trust".

He said:"if I had ever let them down with a paparazi type picture, I would never have been allowed access to or near the palace. It was a mutual respect."

Confidentially, he admitted after the lunch when questioned privately: "yes, I once took a picture of a royal from behind a hedge.

I regretted it and asked The Sun to kill it, which they did. Never again."

Arthur began as most photographers do - film-

ing local events and football matches. Club member, Trevor Bond gave him his first job on the Stratford Express and Ian Cole, a guest on Monday, boosted him on the Newham Recorder. "I shall always be grateful to these guys", he said.

Forty years on, he retains the trust of royalty, the full backing of his editor, and the friendship of all in the photographic profession. He is a gem.

by Trevor Bond



Rotary Club of Billericay – Club Meetings and Events Calendar 2014

Location - The Ivory Rooms



We meet on Mondays at 1245 for 1300

(On the 5th Monday of a month, please check the website)

The Ivory Rooms 66-68 Laindon Road Billericay Essex CM12 9LD tel: +44 1277 632378

May 5

Bank Holiday - no Meeting

May 12th

Danielle Barnett - Sink & Swim - Lose & Win - a white-knuckle journey through the music industry.

Service Committees Joint Meeting (6.30 p.m.) followed immediately by Club Council, to be held at 49, Station Road, Billericay

May 19th

AGM & Club Business Meeting

May 26th

Bank Holiday - no Meeting