



# Rotary Club of Billerica

# News



July 2014

“Service Above Self”

## My Aims and Ambitions - Membership and Solidarity



It was the Duke of Plaza-Toro who led his regiment from behind because he found it less exciting. That was because of cowardice. In my case, a similar action is because there are far more able people than me in the front line. Talented people look after the various aspects of the Club’s business. I have confidence in their ability to carry on their work and make it fly. There is one particular person whom we must support to the full, and that is our outgoing President Keith as he does his best to make the Sand Dams Project work. This is possibly the largest project that our Club has ever undertaken. We

must give him total support. My central ambition is to make a major difference to the level of Club membership. The recent resignation of another stalwart (who has moved away) to me highlights our deep problem. We have lost about half our membership in the last decade. We need to recruit many new Members. It is no good running special events or advertising. They have been demonstrated to be a waste of time and money. We must all become evangelists for Rotary and get out there and invite people to join us.

If on 30th June 2015 we still have membership in the low 20s, you may judge my Presidential year as a failure. If we reach 30 Members by that date, I would regard my Presidential year as a success.

My ambition is that we reach 40 Members. I will give all the support I possibly can to our new membership chairman, Peter Strong.

We have a strong track record for holding special events that raise funds for causes we want to support. I am sure that our Service Committee will continue to gener-

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ate such ideas. I will be pleased to give those who have ideas a “fair following wind” and would wish us to continue supporting Mary’s Meals and ShelterBox.

I look forward to taking on the role as your President and hope that my year will be remembered as the year we made a step change in our declining membership.

By Michael Ginn

### Congratulations

Congratulations to our daughter club, the Rotary Club of Billerica Mayflower on winning

Rotary International’s *Significant Achievement Award*.

A great performance, also recognised in PDG Peter Dowse’s

farewell report in 1240 news by the support it garnered from other clubs in the District for its Thriftwood College Appeal.

## Inner Wheel



**H**ello Rotarians  
We were thrilled again to welcome (on July 9) the visit from the Chernobyl children, hosted by Pat & Carol Rotheron in their lovely garden. One problem – the warm gusts of wind trying to take the roof off the gazebo! Eventually, we admitted defeat and took the roof off to create an open-air gazebo – a first? Carol's sturdy glasses and

plates kept the food and drink on a firm base!

After a gym morning, the children arrived for a welcome lunch of lasagne (made by Lilian) and salads (also enjoyed by the adults and our ladies -with added quiche- followed by fruit and cakes. Kind friends helped us with preparation and the children ran this off with games, bike and scooter rides and turns in the hot tub. As in the past, they were a lovely group of children. New Rotary president Mike Ginn joined us in time to see myself and Linda squashed in the tractor lawnmower trailer laughing and in my case wondering how on earth to get out. Carol drove

us around in circles and, to the embarrassment of myself and all around (not least the children who saw it as a great joke) I did indeed manage to extricate myself!

The children sang for us and presented us with drawings saying 'thank you' done by some with the crayons and stickers we provided. Altogether another great reunion day for all.

*By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel correspondent*



## Speakers' Corner

### Hope & Homes for Children

**H**ellen Mason-Spyry highlighted Rotary's huge help when she spoke to the Club on July 14.

 Rotary had contributed \$2.8 million in saving lives in Eastern Europe and Africa.

In 2013 Moldova had been able to close its Institutional Care project. "There used to be 100,000 institutionalised children in Romania. That figure is now 9,000", she said. "Think of our own families and how love and care are so important" she added. That love and care

is sadly not experienced all around the world. 1 in 10 babies in Eastern Europe and Africa are at risk. Not least from mothers who died of illnesses such as Aids.

Hope and Homes' vision is for a world where children no longer suffer institutionalised care, and



the aim is to eliminate it by 2035. Financially, it didn't make sense to keep children in care. It took £500 to train and support a family and,

while governments did help, most funding comes from charities. Its Project Speranta (Eastern Europe), ensures each child in an orphanage receives the basic right of a loving and caring family. "Astonishingly, 90% of children in central and eastern Europe orphanages are not orphans. Our object is



to reunite those children with their families."

### The District Governor visits

**S**tan Keller, our new District Governor visited on July 21st, and gave a most interesting talk, covering his path to becoming District Governor, the training he went through and some anecdotes and experiences from his trip to San Diego.



Stan summarised his objectives for the District, the major initiatives he plans,

and the launch of the District Citation Award. He was warm in his praise of our achievements, our fundraising efforts and the scale of our donations to charity. We say we "punch above our weight" and, said Stan, "you're right, you do".

*(More in next month's Newsletter)*

## A Concert to Delight Everyone from 10-70



We packed Emmanuel Church for our past two Autumn concerts with Harmony Brass. Now we plan to do so again but on a different and wider scale.

Where do you like to listen to good music...concert hall, pub, lounge bar, in the open air? Top Essex band Re\_Public, who have performed in all the above sites, will be playing for Rotarians and friends at an Autumn Charity Concert organised by us on Saturday, September 13.

Don't miss this opportunity to see Re-Public perform "in the round". Emmanuel Church Hall in Laindon Road, as our previous concert guests know well, is a perfect setting for acoustics and clarity.

The band comprises Paul Barnes (lead vocals), Chris Johnston (guitar and vocals), Ben Hearn (bass and backing vocals) and Mark Stephens (drums and percussion). It will be bringing its own special brand of music - some old favourites, some current hits, some which have delighted fans in pubs like The Old King's Head, Stock, The Nag's Head in Ramsden Heath, Amico's Lounge Bar in Ingatestone - and yes, on our club stand at the annual Christmas Market - for several years.

We know that members, family and friends will support us - a first

time special concert for all ages - music of top of the pops for the youngsters, golden oldies from the fifties and sixties for those of us in our dotage. Come on -

you cannot wait to remind yourselves of how you danced cheek-to-cheek with your loved one to the swing, pop and slow music of your day. Re-Public promise you will not be disappointed.

Band manager and organiser, Chris Johnstone says: "If you have heard of us, you will know how good we are. If you have not, then come and enjoy the experience.

We make no secret that we want bums on seats and a full house. It is a first time experience from us to play "in the round" - we cannot wait. And please bring the kids - they will want to leap up and dance."

The band have taken 250 tickets to sell on to their fans and partners. Can we match them? Tickets are priced at £15 only and include free tea and coffee in the interval. For sale

there will be craft beers, wine and authentic German-style hot-dogs. Mouth-watering!

Tickets can now be obtained from High Street outlets "Creatures Great & Small", "Enjoy ... Cakes & Café", "Masons of Billericay", and "The Olive Branch". Or ordered directly on our website at <http://tinyurl.com/BillericayConcert>.

Club members will be chasing all those who enjoy our Rotary events to come and enjoy the evening. Remember our wonderful Band in the Garden - well, all we are doing is moving a similar event indoors (no weather problems!)

Posters are also being displayed in high-street outlets, The Resident's three sites at Gooseberry Green, Queen's Park and the High Street. They are also available to members to stick in their windows - please do so. *By Trevor Bond*

The Rotary Club of Billericay  
Presents  
Top Essex Band...  
**Re-Public**  
Charity Event  
PLUS - guest vocalist Amy Langmead  
Old and new popular music for all  
SEATED "IN THE ROUND" - ALBERT HALL STYLE!  
CAR PARKING • DANCING  
TICKETS £15.00  
Interval tea and coffee included  
Supporting Little Havens Children's Hospice  
Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks  
...and other charities supported by Rotary  
Tickets available from <http://tinyurl.com/BillericayConcert>  
also from Creatures Great & Small • Enjoy... Cakes & Café  
Masons of Billericay • The Olive Branch  
All in High Street, Billericay  
Email: [events@billericayrotary.org](mailto:events@billericayrotary.org) Tel: 01277 630344  
**EMMANUEL CHURCH HALL**  
LAINDON ROAD • BILLERICAY CM12 9LD  
Saturday 13 September 2014 7:30pm for 8:00pm

# When Our Town Celebrated One Over the Enemy

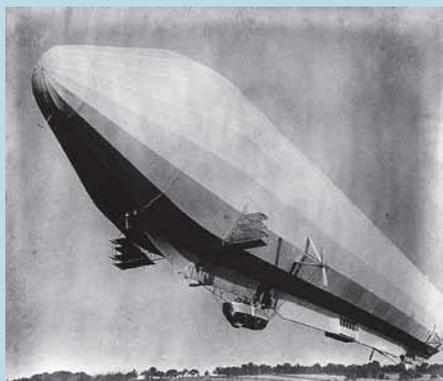
*Material supplied by Rotarian Patrick Rothon*

Billericay, our Town, has become well-known beyond our boundaries for many reasons – suggested famous (link with wood from Norse forest for the building of the ships to transport Mayflower Pilgrim Fathers to the New World, first boundary constituency to declare in two immediate post-war general elections (the idea of a founder member, Felix Rothon, in the 50s to put Billerica on the map for which he was awarded the MBE for services to the community) and, of course, having to repeat ten times how to spell the name to those Delhi-based telephonists who could be in outer space. Our football team even won three Wembley cup finals in four years back in the 1970's

To dwell on the infamous – well there were a couple of MP's (no names) who did us no service by reputation.

But one event – not least in this year of remembering all our fallen heroes in two world wars – will always be special to our town and to those who can still recall the memory. The shooting down of the Zeppelin over our Town.

Although officially shot down over Ilford, it crashed in Outwood



common and the crew are buried in Burstead graveyard A spot in the ground reminds us all and

now a personal account from a young man at the time, one Leonard James Lees, has described his memory of that event in an incredible record of his years which Rotarian Patrick Rothon has kindly given me, as newsletter editor, a full version.

My problem – extracting from a multitude of pages, those parts from Leonard Lees most likely to give you, fellow Rotarians, a good read. Which is why I have chosen one event close to Our Town.

Background: Without delving into Leonard's very early family history, he did spend many years studying and schooling in the Ilford - Goodmayes area of what was then very much Essex. He seems to have moved or been moved a great deal in his early life by his father's work.

He had experienced signs of aerial warfare prior to the Zep: "German



aeroplanes - Taubs. One morning a large group flew over our garden – no raid warning – while I was out playing. The sky seemed full of them, not very high up and our fighter planes were harassing them. There were only a few of ours and dog fights developed and I saw planes falling from the sky over and over and then, miraculously, the pilot gaining control. But the German planes flew on relentlessly and later you could hear the bombs being dropped, By that time I was hauled inside by my mother."

So to the Zeppelin raids: Leonard recalls: "I slept through most but, on one occasion, I was woken up and with my mother we sat at the bathroom window and watched as the Zeps were caught in the searchlights. Up to this time the Zeps could more or less do as they liked. If they came under attack, they just made height. Our planes could not fly as high as the Zeps could reach and the Zeps could also get out of aircraft fire.

"After a time, the gunfire stopped and you could hear a lone plane in the sky.



In the silence the little plane slowly spiralled up until it gained sufficient height and then the rattle of machine gun fire and the seemingly slow arcing of the incendiary bullets across the sky.

"A small luminous hole appeared in the envelope of the Zep. The envelope was filled with hydrogen in a number of separate pockets and suddenly the little glowing hole burst unto flames and within a few moments the whole of the envelope was aflame and it sank to earth with ever increasing speed. It was a most spectacular sight and it will remain with me always."

*Editor's Note: Patrick has highlighted one of his father's many roles in Our Town's history. Our Dads – Our Memories.*

*Why not follow up this article with your own memories and thoughts. I have mine. I welcome yours.*

# Changing Lives Forever

This is Excellent! A dam is just the beginning....not my words I'm afraid, but true nonetheless.

Initially my story started in Ghana, about four years ago. My wife Gillian and I had met not long before and in our early days we were in Church in Brentwood, one Sunday, when we had a visiting preacher, Pastor Odai from Ghana. His message was simple he wasn't looking for money, he was looking for help, in the shape of people to go and see for themselves the lives that people lived over there and to help with a Medical and Construction "outreach" to finish building a Medical Centre and to go out into the bush, taking skilled help and medicines to the Ghanaians, who couldn't help themselves.



Gill looked at me and asked, "should we go?" and there and then we committed to join a band of 31 of us in a visit that would change our lives forever. We had 3 Doctors and 5 nurses in our group and many others who simply slotted into a "Medical" or "Practical" role. Each of us took a suitcase full to the brim of medical supplies, in addition to the personal clothing we thought we might need for the trip. We proceeded to have the



*Walking for Water! Every Day!*

*By Keith Wood, Immediate Past President*

very necessary immunisations for protection against yellow fever, malaria, tetanus and rabies.

The trip was life changing and I will never forget the experience. But that was the start of properly understanding the need for clean water - we saw women walking 10 -20 km a day with a pitcher of water on their head and even then taking it from dried up streams that we would not even go near.

We also saw the official "birthing of a bore hole" near to one of the villages and the celebrations that went alongside it for the gift of "just" water! WOW! Imagine!!



*Ghana Water Hole*

So that was why, when I was elected President of the Rotary Club of Billerica in 2013 that I had the mission, and the dream, to bring fresh water and sanitation to a deprived area in Africa.

On taking up office I had already

## Scale of the Problem

- 41% of the Earth's land is Dry-lands.



- Drylands support 74% of the world's poor, 50% of livestock and 44% of food production.

spoken with the charity, Water Aid and my initial thoughts were to hold a Big Concert to fund the project, and get matching grants from our Rotary District and the World Fund, and undertake a huge project in Africa to bring fresh water and sanitation to a whole village.



*The Problem - Dry River Beds*

I was determined that it would happen despite the initial challenges we faced regarding the Concert and the hurdles being presented to me by the Charity Water Aid, I was totally undeterred! I always joke that if you want to make God laugh, tell him what your plans are!!! HE will show you different!



Well actually the more I pressed for the concert, the more depressed I became. As determined as I was, it just wasn't going to happen. Clearly Olly Murs & Co didn't have the same motivation that I had. And, to make things even more difficult, Water Aid seemed to be finding more differences between the Rotary Memorandum of Understanding which controls how charity donations are managed, and Water Aid's rules on how it wanted to manage donations.

So, what next? The Club didn't want to see this opportunity to do such good, wasted. In order to find a way through this mess, Club Council decided to use some money that

## Changing Lives Forever (continued)

was bequeathed to our Rotary Club by a former member.

In addition we were asked to form a Sub Committee to research options and find a way forward. I chaired the Committee and was ably supported by our Club Secretary, Club Treasurer and Club Foundation Officer. It was then that we discovered Sand Dams.

### What is a Sand Dam?

- A reinforced concrete wall 1 - 5 m. high across a seasonal river with sandy sediment.
- When it rains the dam captures soil laden water – the sand sinks to the bottom, whilst the silt remains suspended in the water.
- Research shows that initially only 1 to 3% of rainwater is retained behind any individual dam, the rest continues to flow towards the ocean.
- Eventually the dams fill with sand - usually over 1 – 3 years.
- 25 to 40% of the volume of the sand held, is actually water.
- Because water is held within the sand:
  - Evaporation Loss is very low
  - Disease is reduced. Breeding of mosquitoes and the bilharzia parasite is prevented. Contamination by people and animals is greatly reduced
- Sand Dam type structures can be found in Roman times
- Sand Dams dramatically reduce water related disease, increase school attendance and household income and food production

In January 2013, the Rotary International Foundation awarded a Global Grant to enable five community based Self Help Groups in Kenya to improve their access to water and to increase food production. The principal objective of this project was to create year



*Training the Self Help Group prior to the Build*

round access to water for each of the Self Help Groups' communities in Kenya, through building Sand Dams to capture and store seasonal rainfall.

In addition, the Global Grant supported each community over twelve months to increase food production through a range of improved farming techniques and new food security projects.

We researched the idea and quickly came to the conclusion that our "Water Project" should be with Sand Dams, and we should forget the Charity "Water Aid" this time.

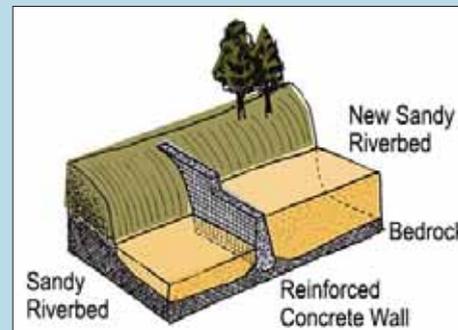


*Mature Sand Dam - completely filled with sand and water back to the next dam upstream Crops cultivated close to the dams*

We looked at the theory of the project, and had lengthy discussions with other Clubs in other Districts and discovered that our own UK Government was supporting Sand Dams through the Department for International Development, (DFID) to the tune of matching our contribution three times over!!

We had lengthy discussions with James Onions, Kew Gardens Rotary Club, who had been asked by Rotary International to spearhead this Project, and who was enormously

helpful, and we visited his Club in Kew Gardens.



We also visited the Company 'Excellent Development', which is also a Charity, based in Brentford, where we met with Alex Oatham, their Fundraising Development Manager and also met their Founder and Executive Director, Simon Maddrell. Our association with Sand Dams had begun.

It's not that there's no rain in Kenya - they actually get similar amounts

### Some Useful Facts

- Excellent Development built its first Sand Dam in 2002.
- There are now 413 Sand Dams – providing water for almost 450,000 people.
- 35 Sand Dams were constructed last year.
- The average cost of a Sand Dam is now just over £13,000.
- A Sand Dam can store up to 40 million litres of water
- Sand Dams keep their water within the sand to protect it from evaporation, contamination and disease.
- Sand Dams are now being built in the African countries of Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Sudan, Swaziland and Chad.

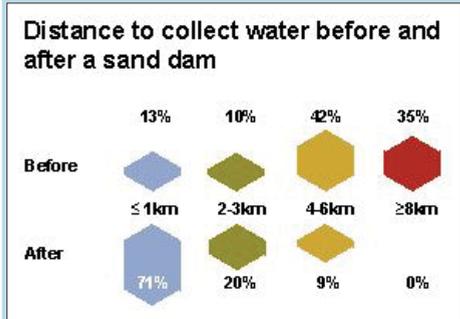
# Changing Lives Forever (continued)



*The build process - Step by step*

to the UK. It's just not controlled. Huge amounts hammer down on arid land in 1 or 2 short flood periods. Most of the rain runs off bone dry land and disappears into the ocean, taking fertile soil with it. The rains create huge rivers for short periods and then through natural wastage evaporate and dry up until the next rainy season.

Mostly Kenyan women and children literally walk miles and miles every day just to gain access to some, but often contaminated water, and carry it back, only to repeat the procedure the next and every day. Women, children, especially girls often miss school to help families collect water.



Sand Dams can change all this, effectively blocking up the river beds. Built on bedrock, they're a barrier of sand, stones and concrete

which holds back the rain water. In order to build the dams the Self Help Groups need technical expertise and money to fund the materials, but their personal contribution is the manual labour

which they contribute freely and hence give "ownership" to each project. By building successive dams along a dry riverbed channel they effectively trap the water between the dams and thus enabling the

## How Does it Work?

- Sand Dams are a low technology and sustainable way to improve the conditions of people living in semi-arid parts of the world where water is seasonal and subsistence levels are poor.
- They are a reinforced concrete wall which must be built in a seasonal river with a sandy sediment.
- The bedrock must be accessible in the river-bed



- Each year the dam captures soil laden water – the sand in the water sinks to the bottom, whilst the silt remains suspended in the water, and most of the water continues downstream to other communities.



- They must be built on a rock base at least 1.5m wider than the flood width of the river.
- They must allow the river to continue flowing in the same direction as before.



- Finally, the Dam is full of water sodden sand, ready for the water to be drawn off by the people.

## Changing Lives Forever (continued)



*After the rains - Full of water*

land on either side to be terraced, making provision for agriculture, horticulture and even farming.

Excellent Development based in Hertfordshire provide this expertise and have worked with many Rotary Clubs over the past 2 years, helping to provide Sand Dams in many locations (mainly Kenya), but now in other dryland communities, in similar parts of the world.

I was determined to gain maximum

financial leverage out of our Rotary Contribution of £12,500 and despite channelling our finances through (DfID) I wanted a Global Grant from Rotary to maximise our contribution and “cement” the Rotary emblem on the project. We are still in the process of securing the Global Grant, a long and tortuous route. But having already obtained \$10,000 from our District in addition to our own \$20,000 we are on target to produce \$100,000, enough to build five Sand Dams, terraces and Agriculture.

I started my story in Ghana, some four years ago, when I saw for myself the agonies of women and children devoting their lives to carrying water just to exist. Now, because of the help that we are able to give, their lives can be transformed. It is hard to be able to describe the difference it will make to so many people, but I know first-hand that this project is necessary. It will enable 30,000 people in Kenya to live healthily, have a good education,

and break the cycle of dependency by giving them an income. It will also improve their environment by enabling them to terrace land and plant trees to prevent erosion, thus keeping water in the soil.

I am grateful to my Rotary Club for supporting me in my mission - which will be repaid many times over in the difference that it will make to those Kenyans who just didn't have a chance. When Pastor Odai visited us 4 years ago I'm sure that in his request for help, none of us realised the impact that his plea would make and the far reaching changes that it would bring.

And I have not finished yet, my obligation to our Club is to see this project through to conclusion and with this firmly still in mind I intend to visit Kenya and witness for myself and our Club the difference that Billericay Rotary Club can make, not only locally, but across the world.



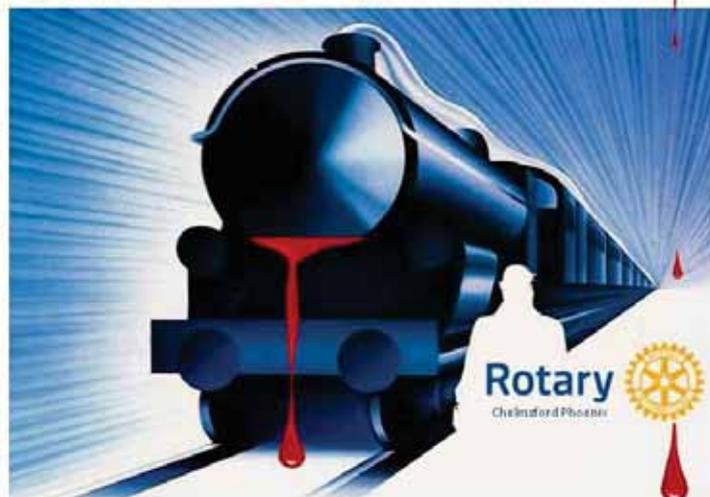
*The Sand Dam water pipe - Fresh running water!*

### Useful Links

- **Website:**  
[www.excellent.org.uk](http://www.excellent.org.uk)
- **Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/excellentdevelopment](http://www.facebook.com/excellentdevelopment)
- **Rotary Facebook Account:**  
[www.facebook.com/wonu.owoade.9?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/wonu.owoade.9?fref=ts)
- **Twitter:**  
[twitter.com/thisisexcellent](https://twitter.com/thisisexcellent)
- **Queries:**  
[rotary@excellent.org.uk](mailto:rotary@excellent.org.uk)

# Murder on the Ongar Express

## Murder on the Ongar Express - 2



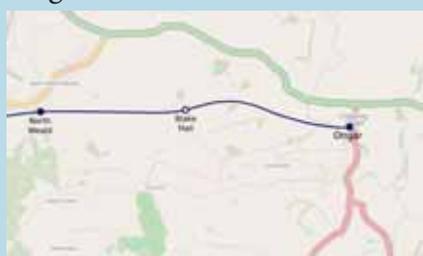
We boarded the train at Ongar and made ourselves comfortable in our pre-assigned seats. It left for North Weald just before 7.00 pm and while it made its way there, the drama of the murder began to unfold.

We were thanked by the President for representing the Rotary Club of Billericay, and helping to raise a substantial amount of money for charity. He also said that if we needed any support, he was willing to support our club.



Deborah and I had a lovely evening at this “Murder Mystery Event” organized by Chelmsford Phoenix Rotary Club. Our fellow Rotarians were very welcoming and the evening went off very smoothly and was very entertaining for everybody who was there.

Then a stop at North Weald station for a luxury platter meal & drinks, before boarding the train for the return journey to Ongar and the Final Act. Some of the actors had to be murdered 4 times as the events needed to be re-enacted in each carriage, yet they still kept in character. I felt it was better than being at a theatre.



A brief stop in Ongar, then back on the train for a repeat journey to North Weald and back, everybody having a chance to question the suspects, and decide ‘Whodunnit’ before the murderer was unveiled and the winner announced.

I felt that the evening was what rotary was all about; fellow Rotarians pulling together to help other Rotarians. Surprisingly, a few weeks before the event, it seemed as if they would not be able to fill the train and had to send out a chaser email to neighbouring Rotary Clubs. Myself and many other Rotarians responded, causing all four carriages to be filled.

It was a great evening and I will certainly go on it again.

*By James Ilesley*

## Handover Meeting

Our first meeting on July 7th saw the Handover from President Keith Wood to President Elect Mike Ginn.

Despite the lack of a speaker, and with a number of members away for various reasons, we were delighted to welcome back Norman

Wilson after his recent stay in hospital. We were also pleased to see Brenda (Norman’s driver), Sue Ginn, Gill Wood, and Rtn. Frank Rigg from the Rotary Club of Concord (Massachusetts) who had given a talk on a previous visit. Trevor and Lesley Draper also attended as

our guests, in recognition of their outstanding support over the years to our Young Chef competition. Trevor has been Lead Judge, and has sponsored the event and the Winner’s Trophy. Let’s hope we can rely on Trevor’s support in the years to come.

## A Year of Achievement

**A**t the handover Meeting President Keith welcomed Norman Wilson back from his serious illness ... an honour that he was at Keith's last meeting as President.



"I am excited to have fulfilled my manifesto promises, given via our video-conference just 1 year ago" said Keith. "My wish had been to deliver a different year, for, unless Rotary changes in many ways, it won't be too long before it disappears. It's too easy to repeat what we did last year!"

**T**hanks - Keith thanked Ed Harrison for his tremendous work for the club - and his support to Keith during his year; Peter Greene for his work on the Website and Facebook; and Trevor Bond for his work on the new Newsletter. And also to his wife Gill for her tremendous support. Gill was rewarded with a new Club Tabard.

**A**wards - We have received Rotary International's Certificate for "Best Membership Retention" in our District, not losing a single member, and the Stan Keller Trophy for the best Website.

**F**undraising & Donations - We held a major concert in the Autumn, conducted street collections for the victims of the Phillipines Hurricane and the Somerset floods, and dedicated our Christmas Market and Raffle to the Phillipines victims. We donated 8 Shelter Boxes to the Phillipines Appeal, and made generous donations to Mary's meals, Thriftwood School, the Jaipur Limb project, and many

smaller donations to worthy causes. We took disadvantaged children from Thriftwood School on a "Kids Out" day, ran a "Know Your Own Blood Pressure" day (see "Health" below), and supported other clubs with the Summerfest, Lake Meadows Fireworks Night, the Christmas Market, the Fun Walk and the Basildon Bike Ride

**M**ajor Project - The "massive" fundraising Concert proved beyond us this year, but the Club agreed to donate \$20,000 from the Powles generous bequest and use that to fund a Sand Dam Water Project in Kenya. With matching grants from District and the Government (DFID), this is lev-



eraged to about \$100,000 enabling the building of 5 Dams, bringing fresh water and prosperity to up to 30,000 people in Kenya, changing their lives forever.

**Y**outh - Through Trevor Stansfield's efforts we ran Youth Speaks and Young Chef Competitions with local secondary schools. Via our membership of the Trustees of the Reading Rooms, we involved 4 primary Schools in celebrating its 150th Anniversary. So successful was it that they are participating again in a Project on World War 1.

**I**nternational - We hosted a fantastic International Exchange visit from our twinned Clubs in Alba and Beausoleil, along with 2 new clubs from Karlshamn (Sweden). Everyone enjoyed it thoroughly, so much so that Karlshamn will participate in future visits and host

us all in 2015. We are all looking forward to renewing our fellowship with our International Colleagues from all the clubs, when we meet in Monaco, hosted by Beausoleil Club, in mid-September.

We continued to collect spectacles for Vision Aid, providing hundreds of pairs for patients in less developed countries overseas.

**H**ealth - We held our first Male Cancer Awareness day in November with the help of leading Consultant Anil Vohra, raising the profile of a subject that isn't talked about. We also supported Stroke Awareness Day by testing many peoples' blood pressure at Waitrose, with high result patients referred to their GP.

**F**ellowship - In addition to supporting other clubs and charity fundraising activities, members visited other local club meetings to enjoy fellowship with other clubs.

**T**he Handover - Keith ended by handing over his Chain of Office to Mike Ginn with best wishes for his year, and pledged his support as the new International and Foundation Chair.

**T**he Future - Mike thanked

Keith for all his work last year, and pledged his dedication to the aims of the club, and, in particular, his objective to dramatically increase club membership. Only with increased membership can we continue all our good work in the community. He then invested Ed Harrison as President Elect.

*By President Keith*



## Billericay in Bloom

I went to the Billericay in Bloom prize-giving on July 5th 7.30pm at the Canon Roche Social Centre, Laindon Road to present the prize for the 'Best Kept Large Garden' on behalf of the club.

I was feeling a trifle nervous as this was the first time I had represented our club in a non-Rotary setting. I asked a couple if I could share their table and they graciously allowed me to. We got chatting a bit. It didn't take long for the presentations to start.

First up were the schools competitions. I was proud to see that the first prize in the first category went

to Quilters Junior School. This was the school to which both of our offspring went in the late 70s and early 80s. The school buildings later became the Ivory Rooms where we now meet and eat – but then it was a school. After all the schools prize-giving, the children had an opportunity to depart.

Then came the adult presentations. Our trophy was, I think, the third to be presented. I presented certificates to the third prize winners and the second prize winners, pausing to have my photo taken with each winner. But the winners of our cup were Mr and Mrs Walters who had been the couple who made me so

welcome when I sat at their table.

The photos show me, the prize winners and our compère for the evening, BBC Essex Gardening presenter Ken Crowther.

I was a bit disappointed that nobody turned up to represent most of the sponsors, but our club was covered. I didn't have to say anything beyond congratulating the winners as we shook hands, which was a relief!

Mr and Mrs Walters said they live in Hillside Road. I am sure their garden will stand out if you drive down the road for a look.

*By President Mike*



3rd Prize - M Pellatt



2nd Prize - D Henning



First Prize - Mr & Mrs Walters

## Billericay Summerfest

It wasn't an auspicious start, to say



the least! But the weather improved and the crowds came and everybody was happy, smiling and having a good time.

Once again the Rotary Club of



Billericay Mayflower did the town proud by organizing this annual event. There were performances in the arena, starting with the Caledonia Pipe Band and the Billericay Rugby Club, and the Billericay Dog



Display, and later on, the Dance Steps Display Team. All this interspersed with bands on the raised stage to keep people entertained and happy.

There was a major Classic Car

Show, and around the arena, stalls selling crafts, food, drinks, and even an on-site pub(!), a kids fun-fair, artisan products and displays.



We were there (Pat Rotheron, Ed Harrison, Mike Sinclair, Peter Greene, James Ilesley, Mike Ginn and Keith & Gill Wood) with our friends in Basildon Rotary Club to "show the flag" and tell people how great an organization Rotary is. And alongside us, a ShelterBox display from one of Rotary's sponsored charities.

*By Peter Greene & Ed Harrison*

## Laugh along with Roger

A pregnant woman was in a terrible car accident and went into a deep coma.

Six months later, she woke up and frantically asked the doctor about her baby.

He replied: "You had twins, a boy and a girl. The babies are fine. But they were poorly and had to be

christened immediately, so your brother had to name them."

The woman thought to herself: "Oh no, not my brother. He's an idiot." Expecting the worst, she asked: "Well, what's my daughter's name?"

"Denice", said the doctor. Somewhat relieved, the mother said: "Wow, that's a beautiful name. I

guess I was wrong about my brother. I really like Denice."

Then she asked: "What's the boy's name?" The Doctor replied: "Denephew".

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### Bob Hope in Heaven -

On his six brothers. "That's how I learned to dance...  
Waiting for the bathroom"

## Tit-bits from the Club

**Rotarian Returns** – We were all delighted to see Norman Wilson looking so well at the club meeting on Monday (7th), his first meeting after his recent absence due to his accident and health scare.

"Three weeks ago I didn't know who I was, let alone where I was. Today I'm delighted to be at the club. It's a miracle" said Norman in response to members best wishes on his recovery.

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The latest draw of the Club's 100 Club took place as the last item of the handover meeting. As usual there were 4 prize-winners, each of whom was drawn by President-elect Ed Harrison and are as follows:

1st - £100: Malcolm Acors

2nd - £75: James Ilesley

3rd - £50: Steve Dodge

4th - £25: Iris Bishop

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**Reminder - President's Farewell**  
Slap up Dinner at La Toscana **confirmed** for 7.30 for 8 on Friday, August 8th. Cost £25 for 3 courses including Coffee.

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### Chernobyl Children

See Page 2 for Inner Wheel Report



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### Our 55th Charter Lunch

Celebrate on Sunday, November 2nd. in the Essex Barn at The Chichester, Rawreth, 12.30 for 1.00  
Cost £25 for 3-course lunch – multi-choice on the day – coffee and service. Cost to members is £11.00 (no club meeting Nov. 3rd).

## Rotary Club of Billericay – Forthcoming Club Meetings and Club Events

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

- Aug 4  
Dr. Eric Watts - Haematologist
- Aug 8  
President's Dinner at La Toscana
- Aug 11  
Dr Karen Lehner, Vice-chair, Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled.

- Aug 11 (6.30 p.m.)  
Service Committees & Club Council
- Aug 18  
Business Meeting
- Aug 25  
No Meeting - Bank Holiday
- Aug 28  
Fellowship visit to Basildon Rotary Club
- Other dates for your diary:**
- Sept 13 (19.30)  
Autumn Concert at Emmanuel
- Nov. 2 (12.30 for 1.00 pm)  
55<sup>th</sup> Charter Lunch - The Chichester,
- Nov. 8  
Lake Meadows Firework Display
- Dec. 7 (11.00-17.00)  
Christmas Market