



Rotary Club of Billerica

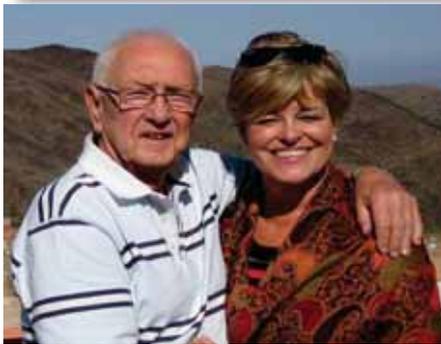
News

June 2014

“Service Above Self”



Twelve and Out - Thank You All



Well it's a reluctant last newsletter for me and a welcome handover to Mike. It's been an achievement to get this far in producing the New Look Newsletter and I must say that all the hard work has been down to Trevor and Peter to produce a professional looking job and again something in our small club that we can be proud of. I certainly am!

We are at the end of the road of another Presidential year, and one that I've enjoyed and I hope that you have too. I've tried to break the mould again (for the 2nd Presidential time) but this time it has probably been a little more refined than last time, ten years ago. Then like now I feel there is a great need for change and Rotary doesn't do change easily.

We started differently with my Club Assembly last year that we broadcast from Sunny Spain. Believe me, heartache prevailed when I thought I had tied up all

the loose ends with Peter and then found that the restaurant that I had intended to use for my side in Spain was closed on a Monday!! Phew, hot and sticky I located the owner and persuaded him that I was honourable enough for him to give me the keys to open up and do my stuff, in the empty bar. I returned to my villa afterwards looking even more worse for wear and yet sober as a judge (is that right Pat?) and Gill knew nothing of it.

I set out my aims and objectives and in the main I've achieved them. I've had a good supporting team and I feel that we've worked well together. Sometimes I admit it has felt a bit lonely as I've felt sometimes that I was pushing water uphill.

I've dedicated myself to the cause and apart from one occasion when struck down by illness I've attended all functions and events in the year. Gill has supported me well and as a relatively new wife to Rotary she's proved an admirable Rotarian, with her great smile and hospitality, helping out at all events and even gaining most from the public, whenever we have shaken the tin.....

Life after Presidency, what? I can't take a year out, I've still too much to do.

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But from the back benches as Chair of International and Foundation I still have plans. I MUST see the Sand Dams project through to completion. It has been such a struggle to actually get this going; I can't feel that we've accomplished anything yet.

But believe me with true grit and dogged determination we will see changed lives for as many as 30,000 people in Kenya and only then can we say we have achieved.

Having got the bit between my teeth (a lot of mixed metaphors here) I would like us to have a go at another International Project. It's probably not a bad place in the

(President's Message - Cont. foot of Page 3)

Our Welcome to the Chernobyl children

Hello Rotarians
June as always is AGM time and Lilian Greenfield will be our President from the July 1. Must get my report done!

We have had confirmation that the children from Chernobyl will join us for a day in July at Brook Lodge, so keep your fingers crossed for good weather, but even when it rains the hot tub is very popular! I will report on the day, with a picture, in next month's newsletter.

Last year certain members were seen in most undignified poses, legs everywhere, laughing uncontrollably, in a small trailer being pulled by a sit- on lawnmower! Must remember my camera and



make sure it's charged.

Five members went in May to Wickford's charity lunch in Rawreth village hall, a lovely rural venue. They sell many plants and always do a good buffet lunch with lovely desserts, my favourite in the past being a "fridge" cake of chocolate, cherries and biscuit pieces flavoured with rum. Yum!

I thought I would finish with the Aims & Objects of Inner Wheel, said at the end of every meeting:

- To promote true friendship
- To encourage the ideals of personal service
- To foster international understanding

The last of these aims is forever current in a world full of tension and division.

By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel correspondent

From the Archives



1993-94 (President: Ernie Cox)

This being the 35th anniversary of the Charter presentation, a dinner was arranged to which all members were invited. Twenty present members attended and welcomed eleven former members. It appeared to be a very satisfying meeting with reminiscences from Brian Ford who had his audience laughing and cheering.

Discussions afterwards showed that a lunch time venue with wives invited would please the former Rotarians.

Socially, garden games were organised at Stockwell in order to meet Rotaract. Every member of the club was given a task suitable to his strength by Tony Mudd. In the various games against Rotaract it may be reported that the Rotary Club retained the McHale Trophy.

A Monte-Carlo Evening raised £1,500 from which £500 was sent to an Indian Earthquake centre and a similar amount to Mayflower to support their effort to raise funds for an international Burns Unit.

In order to raise part of the Foundation donation, Gerry and Beth Cuddigan organised a Gourmet Dinner at their home on 7th May, inviting a very full house of guests. There was a profit of £620.

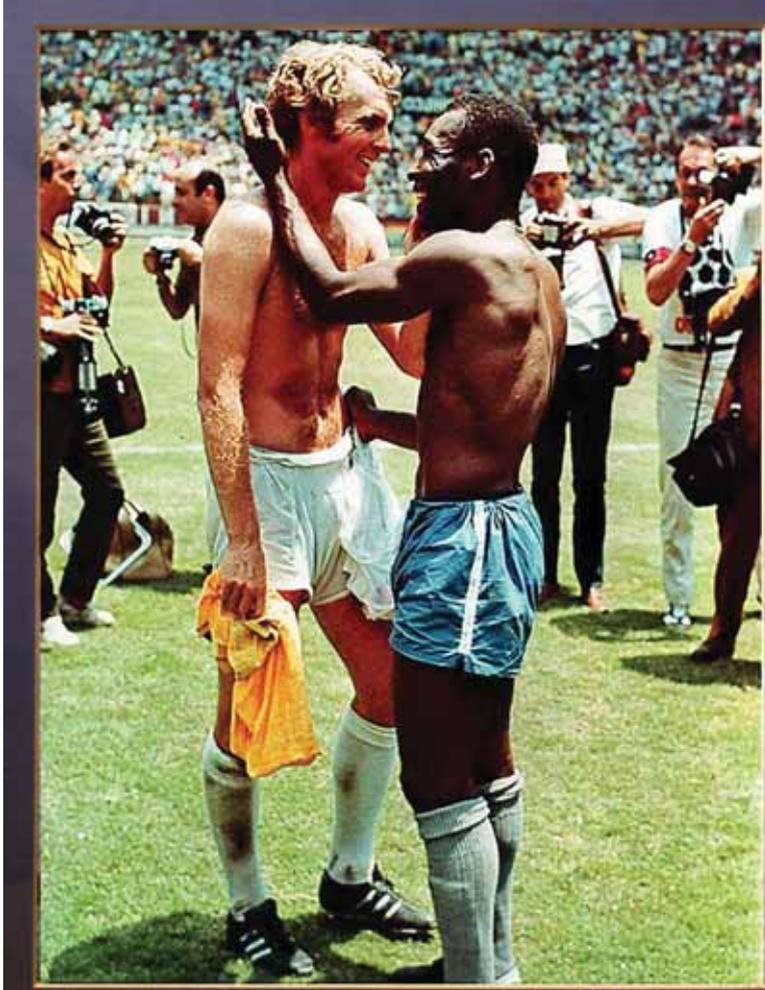
During the year, photographs of the club at the time and another of past Presidents who were still available, were taken and hung in Rose Hall. Also, during the year, negotiations started in earnest to find a suitable meeting place when our Lease runs out in 1998.

Through the Lens with James Ilesley

The Customer is always (?) right

It was a typical Tuesday for me, except the world cup was on.

explain the situation, to which he angrily responded; "No, it couldn't have had coke spilt over it, you must have spilt it yourself and are blaming me for this" etc. etc.



A customer came in fuming about his camera that suddenly stopped working at the recent game he was at. So I booked it in, took it apart and realised the problem; coke had been spilt over it.

So I rung up the customer to

So, after a few minutes of this, I suggested that he should come in and have a look at the damage himself.

Two days later, in he comes with his son. I show him the camera, and he starts up his angry response again. Except this time his son chips in; "Yeah,

my dad's telling the truth! There wasn't any coke spilled over it ... it was Pepsi!"

Since then, if I find anything in a camera, I just say foreign matter.

Tips and Tricks for Camera Care.

1. If you must carry your camera in a bag with your lunch, make sure that the drinks container is kept in a separate place or put the camera in a sealed plastic bag.
2. When travelling wrap your camera in a good duster or camera cloth, this will naturally protect and keep your camera clean.
3. A one inch soft natural hair paintbrush in your camera bag is a good tool to have especially when visiting the beach as a light brush will clean any sand from the outside of your camera and help remove it.
A blower brush is not a good idea as all this does is push the grains of sand into the body of the camera and lens.
4. Do not discard the silicone gel packs that come with your camera bags These are most useful in protecting your camera from moisture in the air.
Another product which may sound a little off-putting is ladies tampons, especially for those extreme wet conditions.



Happy snapping!
(www.ilesleyphotographic.com)

(President's Message - Cont. from Page 1)
Newsletter to sound initial warnings to District that we might be knocking on their door again for another Global Grant, but more of that later....

And so as I pass on the baton to

Mike I wish him well for his year. I have promised him my support and I know that you will give him yours.

So as I prepare to leave for a well-earned holiday in Spain (I timed it right this year) I look forward to

seeing you all next time and with a timely reminder to save Friday 8th August in your diary for a Celebratory Leaving bash at La Toscana.

Asta Proximo -
By Keith (El Presidente)

Proms and Passion and some Beatles magic



The International Conference Centre in Birmingham is quite a place. It is the first place of this ilk I have been to where there weren't serious queues outside the ladies' toilets. In fact, the whole place was well designed and the parts of it fitted together excellently.

On the first evening, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, ably assisted by the Treorchy male voice choir, put



on a "last night of the proms" concert to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the formation of the organisation which became R.I.B.I. in 1921.

The Symphony Hall – which is an integral part of the Conference Centre – holds about 2250 people in the audience and the place was packed. There were only about 60 men in the Treorchy male voice choir, but they filled that massive hall with sound when they sang.



We were seated in a balcony above the double basses of the

orchestra and so had a good view. This concert was, for us, almost the highlight of the weekend. It finished with "Land of My Fathers" (sung in Welsh) and seated where I was, it was not possible to hear the orchestra or the choir. Both were overwhelmed by the passionate singing of the Welshmen in the audience. I saw some of them punch the air to show how much they cared about their country. Do we care that much about Rotary?

On the second evening, there was a tribute band playing Beatles music – amongst others. These too were excellent. There was space at the front between the seats and



the stage where many people, our President and

his wife included, got up to dance. Strictly speaking – they danced well and the body language of the many who took to the floor exuded happiness.

Slotted around these two excellent events was the RIBI conference.

89th Annual RIBI Conference 2014

Among the interesting speakers In the main conference hall one stood head and shoulders above

the others. This was Lord Digby Jones and for me he was worth going to Birmingham just to hear him. I aim to try and get a video



of his presentation played at one of our meetings as a change from having a speaker.

The House of Friendship was in one of the side halls – where they held the Beatles concert. Many of the charities represented gave me food for thought. Also, it was what it said on the tin. All the stallholders were friendly – even when tired at the end of a long hard weekend.

I could say something trite like "a good time was had by all", but it wasn't. Only President Keith and I went. Patrick had to drop out at the last minute because of family illness and you all missed out.

Next year it is in Belfast. Sue and I will be there. I aim to go for a few extra days to take in some of the sights. I have never been to Northern Ireland and I would love to see the Giant's Causeway and the Titanic exhibition amongst other things.

Do you want to join me?
By Michael Ginn

Speakers' Corner

Present commitment and preparation for the future

Sally Davies OBE, Principal of Thriftwood School, our speaker on June 2, gave us a fascinating update of the school's progress and the addition of the college.



She said that an important factor of the school's aims was to maintain a partnership within the community which why she was so appreciative of the club's annual Kids Out day visit to Marsh Farm which gave the children an opportunity to witness life beyond the classroom.

She stressed their support for family life which was difficult for parents with disadvantaged children – especially those with dyslexia and Downs Syndrome at a difficult age.



“We have a commitment to young people,” she said.

Of the future, she added: “When Rainsford school closed three of four years ago, we took over the site. It was absolute chaos. Were able to develop it, clearing the rubbish and establishing a sports hall with proper equipment and adding outside facilities such as

archery etc. Plus such additions as a cookery room.”

Rotary's contribution and partnership at district and international level had been a major asset – witness the exciting venture of a science laboratory.



“We will continue to treat young people as adults for preparation for the future.”

A Suitable Case for Treatment

An altogether different subject was addressed on June 9 by our speaker Dee Twentyman.

Dee, who gave her time to travel all the way down from Newcastle to meet us, spoke of her role as a



hypnotherapist who specialised in using hypnosis to help to relieve pain.



The worst scenario she encountered was people who had suddenly to give up an active and exciting life-style because of acute pain.

Often a case of mind over matter. “They find it extremely difficult to come to terms with that situation. They get depressed and ” she said.



“Often normal pain-killers will not do the job for them.

Helping them to relax often makes them more willing to accept their position. Alternative medicine can help and hypnotherapy is officially recognised in medical circles as providing some great relief.”

Club Assembly - and a Rotary International award for Membership



We were graced with the presence of our new Assistant District Governor for next year - Alan Clark (Rayleigh Mill) - at our Club Assembly on June 16th.

On behalf of the Board of Director's of Rotary International, Alan presented club President Keith Wood with its Membership Development and Extension Award. Rotary Club of Billericay achieved the **highest retention rate of any club in District 1240** during 2013-2014!

In Chaucer's footsteps – A Modern Pilgrimage

Yes, it is just over the water. Yes, you can be there by car in just over an hour but where's the fun in that? To follow Chaucer to the holy of holies, Canterbury, it is not enough to "dart" back and



forth over the bridge or through the tunnel. You need to be there, to stay there, to savour it, to stand at the place where Thomas A'Becket was slain, where the pilgrims were



fed and watered, where monks and travellers never met and where Mr. Justin Welby now reigns after such modern names

as Temple, Fisher and Carey. And all those ancient ones long before them.

Climb the pilgrim steps within the cathedral and you might feel back in a world long past and less secular than that in which we live.

There are many beautiful cathedrals in Britain – Lincoln, Ely and Chichester are my own favourites - but there is an awe about Canterbury. It is the religious Throne of Thrones – I defy anyone to challenge that.



A silent walk around the interior of this magnificent building? Not on! They arrive coach-load by coach-load on the hour, every hour – the school children of all religions, the theological students, the camera-mad Japanese and the ladies from the W.I. Go before 9.00am or after 4.00pm.

Jan (birthday in May) and I (in April) do not give each other pressies any more. We choose a place to go and make it a city visit. This year – Canterbury and a sort of pilgrimage. Jan was still at school when taken there by a favourite aunt. She searched in vain this time for the renowned Mulberry tree she saw then – sadly gone. I have been there to watch cricket at the lovely St Lawrence ground (the famous oak tree was there then and the greatest Kent cricketer of all time, MC Cowdrey (MCC) was still playing).

We stayed (not cheaply) in a wonderful pub, The Millers' Arms with a view down to the river and the



weir which was as far as the punts and

river boats could go. We have now been punted on three rivers – Cambridge, Canterbury and Christchurch in New Zealand. We admire the puntsman's skill – and ignore the chat....but we tipped him well.

There is more to Canterbury than the cathedral – a castle, some lovely parkland and a common friendship. Not sure whether it comes under Man of Kent or Kentish Man (Roger Kettle will tell me) but, where I thought that mentioning Essex might incite a modern horde of Vikings (they dominated the

area for almost a century), there was only the comment: "Our beer's better." Not surprising since Shepherd and Neame own just about every pub within a hundred miles!.

On the way, we called in to Rochester – Dickens this time, not Chaucer - another "first", another fine city and cathedral. On the



penultimate day, we went to Reculver Cliffs for views across the Medway and on to Whitstable – one of Britain's last and

proudest fishing ports. Famous for its oysters (you can party on them all along the harbour), mussels,, cockles, crayfish and winkles are landed every day along with skate, bass and cod. Jan could not resist a bowl of crayfish tails fresh from the fish market.....Those were the heavy fishing boats. One lone angler at Reculver, when we asked him what he hoped to catch, said: "Fish and chips". Win some, lose some.

On our way home, we explored the Historic Chatham Dockyard – wow! Such a maritime history now sadly just that – history.



Expensive, but worth the visit.

Next year? Who knows? Any suggestions?

By Trevor Bond

Sun, Fun & Fellowship on Kids Out Day



In keeping with Rotary International's Kids Out Day, this year on June 11, we again played our part, organising and arranging for a party of disadvantaged children from Thriftwood School, Galleywood to make their annual visit to Marsh Farm at South Woodham Ferrers.

Over the years and, certainly in the



last year since coming under new management, Marsh Farm has become less a working farm, more a themed Fun Park. Yet, amid the new amusement additions, it still retains a good farm feel. If it now lacks its original large numbers of



Alpacas and Wallabies.

domestic animals, what remain – pigs (and some lovely piglets on our visit), sheep, goats, chickens and cows – share the farm with Llamas,

And despite the structure of a maze, an adventure golf course and a huge bouncy slide since we were there last year, one old-fashioned attraction remains – the tractor ride which, again, provided a fitting finale to the official and



ed-ucational part of the day. After that, even the staff and careers shed shoes and trainers to join the children on big "bouncers". The same cannot be said for the volunteer helpers from the Club! James Ilesley admitted it was the first time he had sat in a deck-chair



watching kids play since..... well, best not recalled.

The sun god was with us – a beautiful day, warm but not hot until almost departure time. After viewing the animal sheds,

the eighteen children (proudly wearing their "smiley" Kids Out T-shirts and caps) and staff



enjoyed an excellent picnic lunch, kindly provided for the second year, by Tina and Claire from "Enjoy Cakes and Cafe". Our grateful thanks and appreciation to them. Also to the excellent staff at Marsh Farm (how smart they look in their new purple clothing!) who could not do enough to make the day enjoyable for the children,

And my personal thanks to the Club members who gave up their time, Norman Bishop, who organised the food collection and delivery, Ed Harrison, Peter and Wendy Greene, and James who had never been to the farm before but said: "Count me in again – great fun."

Final word from Thriftwood organiser, Deborah Stanley: "Thank you Rotary Club so much. We had a wonderful day and hope we can do it all again next year."

By Trevor Bond.

Laugh along with Roger

An elderly man was stopped by police around 2 a.m. and asked where he was going at that time of night.

The man replied: "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse, about how it effects the human body, as well as the dangers of smoking and staying out late."

"Really?" said the officer. "So who is giving this lecture as late as this?"

The man replied: "That would be my wife."

Bob Hope in Heaven -

On turning 80: "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing".

Tit-bits from the Club

President's Farewell: **Change of Plans** - Slap up Dinner at La Toscana confirmed for Friday, August 8th. Keith says: "More the merrier. Do please give it your best shot." Still time to book to see El Presidente off in style.

Farewell to John Bader - after John's move to Chigwell several months ago, he has found it



increasingly problematic to get to the club's meetings and has reluctantly decided he has to resign from the Club. We wish him well. He will be missed!

Out of the mouths of ...
Eight year-old Grandson in restaurant to waiter: "I'm a Pescatarian. There isn't anything on the menu for me. What can I have?"

Waiter: "What's a Pescatarian?"

Child: "I'm a vegetarian who eats fish but no meat."

We all knew that didn't we ????

The Club is staging a **major autumn concert** at Emmanuel

Church on Saturday, **September 13**. The well-know local band Re-Public will be playing some great music from the Fifties and Sixties plus everyone's favourites of more modern times.



It will be a bumper event, priced at £15 per head with refreshments included and a beer and wine bar. Posters are being circulated shortly and tickets will be on sale from various outlets or by request. Full details in the next Newsletter.

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

July 7

Handover Lunch

July 14

Helen Mason-Spry from "Hope & Homes for Children"

Service Committees Joint Meeting (6.30 p.m.) followed immediately by Club Council to be held at (location T.B.E.)

July 21

District Governor Stan Keller's visit

July 28

Business Meeting

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.

Service Committees & Club Council (6.30 p.m.)

Aug 18

Business Meeting

Aug 25

No Meeting Bank Holiday

Other dates for your diary:

July 3

Sand Dams Appeal BBC Radio 4 - 15.27 pm

July 13 (11.00 - 17.00)

Billericay Summerfest

Sept 13 (19.30)

Autumn Concert at Emmanuel

Nov. 8

Lake Meadows Firework Display

Dec. 7 (11.00-17.00)

Christmas Market