



Rotary Club of Billerica

News

May 2014

“ Service Above Self”

Picking up the Baton & Hurrah for “Enrichment Lecturers”



Hello everyone! Welcome to our third “new-look” Newsletter. My message – the eleventh of my year – is short and sweet. (About time too, do I hear? Surely

not!) So now I’m on the downhill run – promise, no stumbling! - of the Presidential Year.

My sadness on the downside is that we seem to be running out of time. For what? You might say, and I might agree, but it still feels that there is so much for us to do in Rotary. Maybe the baton will be handed on and the new burst of enthusiasm will lead us into new areas. I hope so.

Talking of enthusiasm, what about the Oomph that Danielle Barnett showed us when she visited us on May 12. I know that we were exhausted by the performance (that is apart from Ben Clarke, who is a well-known cyclist and long distance runner). It made it all the more noticeable that we are all ageing, as a Club. I looked out from my presidential seat across the room, as she was speak-



ing, and it was as if she was speaking in a foreign language! She gave me a leaflet afterwards describing herself as “an Enrichment Lecturer”. ‘Nuff said’!!!

This month Gillian and I visited Billerica Mayflower Club at the invitation of Ifor Roberts. We had a great time and were made to feel very welcome in their new venue at Burstead Golf Club. They are still settling in, sharing a room divided only by a curtain, and they will have competition from “The Moonshiners”, I think they called themselves. Even so, it was a lovely evening and demonstrated for me the warmth that Rotary worldwide provides.

And finally please let Trevor Bond have your 25 word synopsis of “what Rotary means to you”. It is after all a great organisation, doing wonderful work, locally and internationally. And a club where you can have fun giving back a little to those that will have less! See you next time. *By President Keith*

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Website Award

In this age of major website competition, we have to be thrilled that Peter Greene has won the Stan Keller Award for the best Club Website in the District. Since Peter took it over two years ago, it has gone

from strength to strength and is now the envy of other District clubs.

As editor of the Newsletter, I could not put it all together without Peter’s brilliance on the technical side and in keeping us all informed of the club news and events.



Receiving the trophy from Vice-President Mike Ginn

I know he will be the first to thank all members for their support – do keep him informed.

Peter, thank you and congratulations. Thoroughly deserved.

By Trevor Bond

Don't We Look Lovely in Red and White

Hello Rotarians

Further to my report on our St. George's Day lunch, here is the picture of our ladies in red and white. Everyone leaving said how much they enjoyed the lunch and sing-along and we received letters of thanks from guests for such a good time.

The event raised a very pleasing £800 – 16p (where do these odd pennies come from!) which has been donated to Water Aid, which we have always supported. We are thinking of having an Armistice Day lunch in November with, if possible,



songs from both World War periods.

We also donated £2000 from our Benevolent Account to other charities, and made a donation to District 20 (Somerset) to help Rotary and Inner Wheel support those still affected by the aftermath of flooding.

We were delighted at our May meeting to welcome Iris Bishop back to the club and we may also be having two other new members, always very welcome.

See you in glorious June; roses, strawberries, tennis and hopefully sunshine.

By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel correspondent

Life with "Tom" and Why I Never Eat Beetroot

(Another page from Norman Wilson's memory bank).



When I was asked to submit items for the new-look newsletter, I thought back over my life for major happenings and some of their consequences, serious, practical or trivial.

One Friday evening my mother and father were upstairs preparing to go out. Dad got to the bottom of the stairs and I heard him call back to my mother to bring him down a clean handkerchief. Getting no response, he returned to the bedroom to find her dead. I was eight years old, my brothers were 14 and

19.

My father got the three of us together and said: "From now on we work together as a team, sharing whatever has to be done, taking it in turns."

He stressed that he was an equal member of the team and now wished to be called "Tom".

When we asked why? (His name being Herbert), he said that stands for "The Old Man". "Tom" he became as well as being my best friend. He and I did everything together.

We cooked in turn – I cooked our Christmas dinner of roast chicken at the age of eleven – "Tom's" instructions being: (a): "If you can read you can cook" and (b): "Whatever is on the plate you will eat." Consequently, to this day, I always clear my plate. Being a reasonably good cook has been of great benefit in both helping to care for my late wife in her latter years and also for the 30 years of living alone since losing her.

Talking of food, I will eat anything except marmalade (I hate the bits of peel) and beetroot. The latter a consequence of my mother's death

(thereby hangs another tale).

We employed a daily housekeeper who, as well as doing the housework, gave me lunch. In those days we went home from school to lunch. After school I went to my grandmother's until "Tom" came from work. She lived next door and gave me my tea. One day, she gave me beetroot sandwiches. I said they were very nice. Looking back I cannot believe I said that – probably just being a polite little boy!

Every day from then on beetroot sandwiches became my tea until I was made violently ill which lasted two or three days. I have never eaten it since but I find it impossible to blame my dear mother.

Talk of blame. When "Tom" died in the Fifties and, on clearing his effects, I found a newspaper cutting report of my mother's inquest. There was evidence that since the birth of her youngest son – myself – she had suffered heart problems at the "advanced" age of 40. For many years after reading that, I felt guilty for her death. That may sound illogical but, to me, it was very real and deeply heartfelt.

By Norman Wilson

Through the Lens with James Ilesley

For the 43 years that I have been repairing cameras, the top 10 questions that I get asked by my customers are.....

1. What camera do you use?

Ans. Whatever comes to hand at the time, as I am not brand conscious.

2. Is this camera worth repairing?

Ans: Is anything? Considering that the camera is the nearest thing to a time machine as I see it!

3. I don't want a sophisticated Single Lens Reflex Camera, I only want a "point and shoot" However, I really want to catch my children/birds/.... in focus

Ans. You can have the most expensive camera, yet still take lousy photos.

A camera is the tool,getting the eye ... well???

4. How can I improve photos.....

Ans. How about viewing the picture in different positions/ angles etc (see picture to the right)

5. Having to eat my own words when asked which lens is best?

Ans. A prime lens every time Yet, on going for a walk recently I realised, having sold my zoom lens, that I had to take a prime fixed focal length lens.

The focal length of the lens meant that to get the picture I was after, I was forced to make a climb down to get it.

Yes and what a lovely photo...

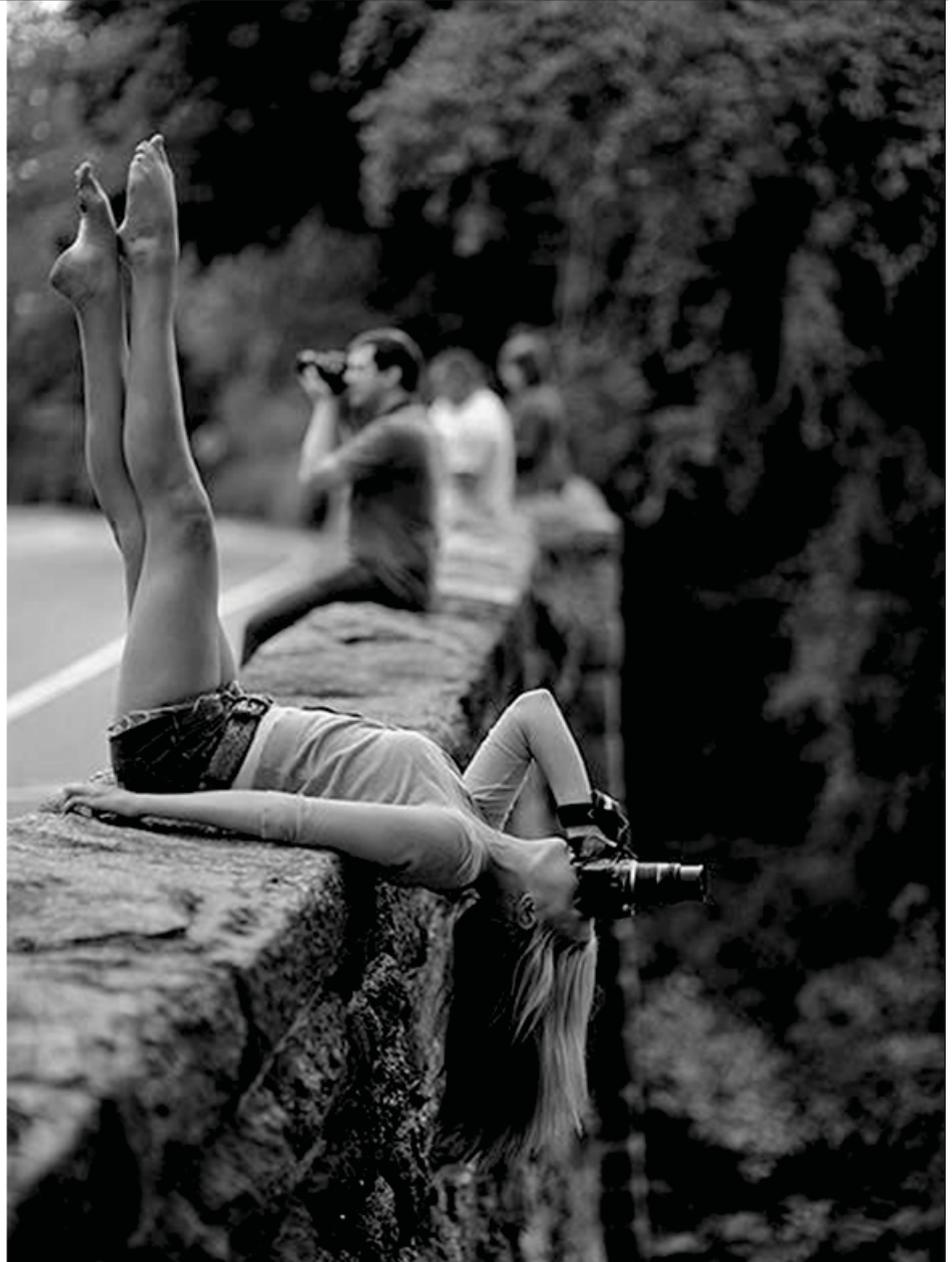
A Prime lens every time-- it is worth the effort.

6. Do I try to influence my customers ?

When I have repaired a camera, I always set it to "Programme Aperture Priority" to encourage customers to become more than Auto!

7. Lenses why is one better than the other?

Ans. Glass! Glass! Glass!



8. What is the main cause of problems in the cameras you are asked to repair?

Ans. 70% of all cameras come in for repair because they are dirty! Look after your camera.

9. I had a go at repairing it However?

Ans. The kitchen knife and fork will not work!

This is a specialised trade with specific tools!

10. How have digital cameras changed the way we take photos?

- Digital is modern but the concept is the same as it's always been
- Don't snatch

- Don't hold your breath and squeeze the shutter button
- Look at your composition e.g. notice those telegraph poles in the background where they shouldn't be
- Check out the sun's position - it should be behind you!
- Remember churches are sited on compass settings.

Happy snapping!



(www.ilesleyphotographic.com)

Official Opening of Thriftwood College



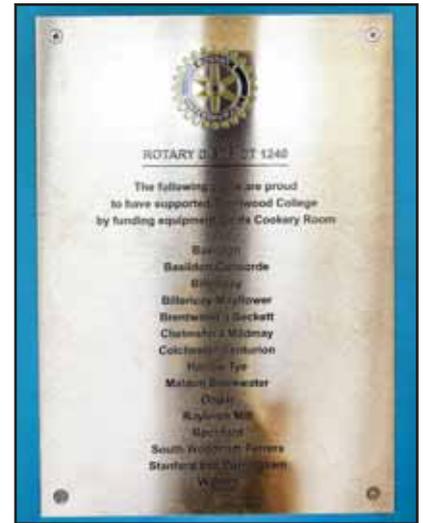
On Friday 2nd May Vice President Mike and I represented the Club at the official opening of Thriftwood College in Fox Crescent, Chelmsford. (The college is on the old St Peter's School site where our District Council Meetings were held some years ago). Guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford, Simon Burns MP, representatives of various business organisations and a large number of Rotarians.

Speakers included the Chair of Governors, The Thriftwood School's first Headteacher (who retired in 1993), the current Headteacher Sally Davies, President Gavin Taylor of our daughter Club, one of the students and the former



Leader of Essex County Council, Peter Martin. The college was opened officially by Peter Martin.

Andy Hunter and Nick Lamborn from Mayflower Club have been the driving force behind Rotary's efforts to raise £70,000 for the Thriftwood Appeal, and it was



announced that the amount raised to date is £65,000. (Members had agreed at our Business Meeting on 28th April that our Club should donate a further £500 and this has been acknowledged by our daughter Club's Treasurer). After the formalities we were taken on a short tour of the premises including the kitchen area and gym.

By Ed Harrison

Who are We?

Founded in 1959, The Rotary Club of Billericay is the older but the smaller of the two Rotary clubs in the town, the other being Billericay Mayflower Club.



We regard our club as senior in history (and certainly age) but have a wonderful relationship with our daughter club. The Mayflower Club meets in an evening, the Billericay club enjoys meeting for lunch, always on a Monday, for some years now at the Ivory Rooms 66-68 Laindon Road, Billericay. Three-courses and great fellowship.

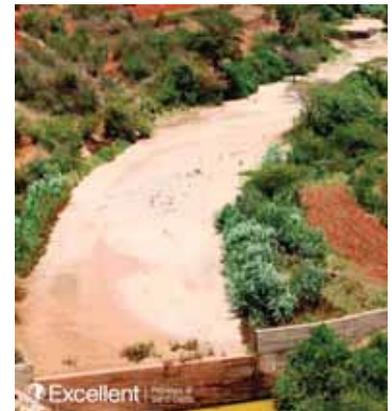
Currently the club has around 25 members (we would like more)

from all walks of life, some retired, some still active in business such as Patrick Rotheron of Unbar Rotheron, son of Felix Rotheron, a founder member of the club. And we have the Rev. Paul Carr, diocese leader based at Emmanuel Church.

It is a small club which punches above its weight in being involved with charity and community and fund-raising events throughout the year. And with national and international Rotary projects –



currently a Sand-Dam major water scheme in Africa to aid poverty. In addition the club supports all other local projects and is heavily involved with the local schools – staging Young Chef of the Year and



Youth Speaks awards, sending our winners on to district and national competition.

The club is totally non-sexist. It works very closely with our lady partners from Inner Wheel and Susan Hammond, head teacher at Billericay School is a valuable member who helped us set up a Rotary Interact Club which supports pupil awareness of international problems. Monday meetings are taken up with interesting speakers and fellowship discussion, along with club business.

As subscribed to Network Magazine June Issue

A Bad “Break” in Barcelona

Since retiring I have continued to meet up with colleagues with whom I spent many happy years working. They retired about the same time as I did. Our company was global, and organised trans-nationally, so we had close contacts with colleagues in Germany, Spain and the USA.

All the British members meet up every 6-8 weeks and pass a happy few hours together until “Closing Time”. Since about 2002, we have made an annual excursion abroad with our wives to see another part of Europe, and meet up with our overseas colleagues. Our group ranges in size from twenty to near-



ly forty depending on availability. All retired and surprisingly busy!

This year twenty of us met in Barcelona – ten from the UK and ten from Germany. Format as always – stay from Tuesday to Friday in 2-3 hotels at various price ranges to suit people’s pockets, and meet for drinks at an agreed place every night. Those inclined, go out to dinner together. The night “meet” is when we decide to explore together or alone.

Those who have been to a city before will opt to see different things to those first-timers. But, we all meet up for a final gala dinner on the Thursday night.



In practice of course, in any city, exploring together or alone and you will keep bumping into other group members. Thereby hangs this tale.....

Choosing Barcelona came with a warning about pickpockets and bag-snatching – two constant threats. We chose to ignore – after all, forewarned is forearmed we thought. After two days of walking round with bags in front of us, and hands in pockets holding on to wallets etc., and no incidents to worry us, relaxation set in and the warnings were surely overblown. How wrong we were!

On Thursday, Wendy and I were on the Metro, and as the train neared the next station, a swarthy individual moved close to me, studying the network plan above



my head as if to decide where to go. I wondered idly why he was taking so long. A girl (with very obvious “charms” as Wendy said to me later) stood very close to me on the other side. As I put my hand in my pocket around my wallet I brushed against the girl’s hand, and thinking it was an accident, turned to say sorry. At this point, the doors opened and the guy, the girl and two other men got straight out of the train. Only then did I realise that I had had a very narrow escape, and had intercepted her trying to get to my wallet - he was the distraction, she was the pick-pocket, and they were the hand-offs. If I hadn’t got into the habit



of keeping my hand in my pocket around my wallet, it would have gone and I would have been yet

another victim.

I was lucky -- but another of our party not so.

Just before the gala dinner that night, as one of the girls was walking along, a cyclist rode up to her, grabbed her necklace and accelerated off. But the necklace didn’t break, she was pulled to the ground and what did break was her hip. So great was the pain that she travelled home to Germany first thing the following morning and went straight into hospital.

A moral to this story? Beats me ... unless it’s always be ready for the unexpected, because the consequences could be serious.

And, ignore warnings at your peril!

As witnessed by Peter Greene

Think Bike Think Rotary - Well Done Basildon

The Rotary Club of Basildon's 8th Annual Charity Bike Rides took place on Sunday 18th May.

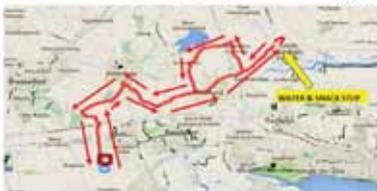
It was a fabulous sunny day which brought out the riders. Not only is the Ride growing in numbers - this year 224 participants, but also growing in mileage as there are now two routes, one of 35 miles and another of 70 miles for the professionals or the super fit.



I understand from Mike and Carol Barrett of Basildon Club that the Ride has so far raised over £5,000 to help with The Rotary Club's local and International projects,

and that is without the money still to be received from Sponsorship which will all go to supporting good causes such as Little Havens, St Lukes Hospice, Essex Air Ambulance and Basildon Hospital.

Rotary Club of Basildon 35 Mile Ride



Rotary Club of Basildon 70 Mile Ride



Some did the 35 mile course while the more adventurous took on the 70 mile course. Basildon Rotary Club were pleased to report, that apart from one or two punctures and a broken chain, all managed to get back and receive their well deserved certificates.

In the spirit of Fellowship and support for other Rotary Clubs, Billericay Club members Malcolm Acors, Pat Rthon and I were only too pleased to again help and be Stewards for this Annual Charity Bike Ride, which has now been going for 8 years

Personally even the 35 mile route seemed incredibly long but all the riders that passed us were in good spirits and seemed to be enjoying the challenge and the objective of raising money for Rotary Charities.



It was pleasing to see the growing success of this worthwhile initiative and good to be able to return some of the support Basildon Rotary Club has always given us, especially at the SummerFest and Christmas Market and also on other occasions .

By Roger Kettle

A Ginn and Tonic in 2015

Mike Ginn was elected unopposed as the club President for 2014-2015 at the club's AGM on Monday, May 19. Michael chaired the meeting in the absence of Keith Wood and declared his willingness to stand. The handover lunch is on Monday, July 7.

- Ed Harrison was elected as Vice-President and also re-

mains as Secretary.

- Treasurer: Mike Sinclair

Other senior officers:

- Asst. Secretary: Norman Bishop
- Asst. Treasurer: Norman Wilson.
- James Ilesley has taken over from Trevor Stansfield as Youth Officer, Immediate Past President Keith Wood succeeds

Peter Strong as the new Foundation officer, and Peter Strong becomes Membership Officer.

Other officers agreed to continue in their current posts.

Reports from the retiring President, the Secretary, Treasurer and all officers were circulated at the meeting and approved.

By Ed Harrison

Light Up Rotary in 2015

District Assembly was held at Writtle College on the morning of Saturday, May 17. Vice-president Mike, James and myself represented our Club. District Governor Peter Dowse welcomed Rotarians and guests before handing over the meeting to DG Elect Stan Keller.



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DGE Stan began by awarding various trophies. The Geoff Player Trophy for Best Club Bulletin was won by Stort Valley Club and The Graham Savage Trophy for Best International Project was won by our daughter Club Billericay Mayflower. To our delight, we won The Stan Keller Trophy for Best Club Website and VP Mike received it on our behalf.



DGE Stan had attended the RI Assembly in San Diego recently. The theme for next year is "Light Up Rotary" with emphasis on Membership, PR (Awareness) and Foundation (Rotary's own charity). In Stan's year our District will be hosting the National Finals of Youth Speaks and there will be a Bike Ride to support the fight against Prostate Cancer.

Giggle Doctors who bring music, magic, fun and laughter to children in hospitals, hospices and residential homes are operating in Broom-

field Hospital and it is hoped to extend this to other local hospitals. He reminded us that clubs must sign the Health & Safety Policy, and the Memorandum of Understanding in order to apply for grants. The District Handover will be at The Chichester on Sunday June 29, and our District Conference will be at Stratford Upon



Avon, September 12 - 14.

Rotarian Paul Harvey from Bishop's Stortford Club spoke about National Immunisation

Days in India and has twice taken part with his wife. Over 170 million children receive the oral vaccine in India each year. Rotarian Colin Powell, whom I heard give a presentation at Orsett Hall a few years ago, spoke movingly about Post Polio Syndrome

(PPS). He was born in May 1949, contracted polio 6 months later and spent much of his childhood in various hospitals. He ran his own accountancy practice for 35 years and has been a magistrate for



27 years. As the last polio case here was in 1984, new doctors do not see it in their training.

The British Polio Fellowship (www.britishpolio.org.uk) is the largest UK Charity dedicated to supporting the estimated 120,000 people in the UK, who have had the disease and are now suffering

from the debilitating neurological condition of PPS which can cause people to develop severe muscle weakness and pain, swallowing and breathing problems as well as increasing fatigue. Sadly, Colin is confined to a wheelchair and asked us to consider the charity when fund raising.

Rotarian David Hatcher from Medway Club is a Shelter Box Response Team Volunteer and gave an update on the charity's work. Last year it handled 34 disasters in 18 countries and helped over 10,000 families. A team was in the Philippines responding to an earthquake when Typhoon Haiyan struck.



David went out following the typhoon and

showed a video which he had shot in Tacloban, one of the worst areas of devastation.

VP Mike attended the breakout session for Presidents-Elect, James attended the Youth Service session (including Interact and Rotaract) and I attended the Foundation session where the main speaker was



the District Foundation Chairman, Len Nieuwenhuis. As at the first week in May, there were 65 polio cases in endemic countries and 9 cases in non-endemic countries. WHO has declared S.E. Asia to be polio-free but Pakistan and Afghanistan remain a problem. We are encouraged to hold one function each year purely in aid of Foundation.

By Secretary Ed Harrison

Laugh along with Roger

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping Strip. After a good meal with wine they lay down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend awake. "Watson, look at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." What does that tell you?" Holmes questioned.

Watson pondered a minute "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potential-

ly billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is about a quarter past three. Theologically, I see that God is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does that tell you?"

Holmes was silent for a moment, then spoke. "You idiot! Someone has stolen our tent."

Bob Hope in Heaven - On Golf: "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the Green Fees."

Tit-bits from the Club

Where Were You Keith?

President Keith missed the AGM with apologies.... wife Gillian had arranged a surprise trip away... deep secret.

Was this the secret?



Just born May 23rd. at 5.37a.m. A new Granddaughter Isobelle to Keith & Gillian. Both Grandparents doing fine!

Board has gone round for Kids Out Day for Thriftwood School at Marsh Farm on Wednesday, June 11. Volunteers so far – Peter Greene, Wendy Greene, Ed Harrison, Peter Strong, Trevor Bond, Norman Bishop, Trevor Stansfield. Probably enough – grateful to you all. Tina has again agreed to supply the picnic food – our thanks.

President's Farewell: Slap up Dinner/Dance at the Ivy Hill on Saturday, July 26. Keith says: "More the merrier. Do please give it your best shot." Still time to book to see El Presidente off in style.

Happy Birthdays: Norman Bishop on May 19 (thanks for the drinks - but in your absence – PJG paid the bill!!) and Ben Curtis on May 22.

Billericay School head teacher & club member, Sue Hammond will the Interact agreement between club and school. Many thanks, Sue.

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

June 2

Sally Davies OBE- Principal Thriftwood School

June 9

Dee Twentyman - a specialist in pain hypnotherapy

Service Committees Joint Meeting (6.30 p.m.) followed immediately by Club Council, to be held at 82, Western Road, Billericay, CM129DT

June 16

Club Assembly

June 23

Business Meeting

June 30

Norman Wilson - Club Member

July 7

Handover Lunch

July 14

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

July 21

District Governor visit

July 26

President's Dinner Dance

July 28

Business Meeting

Other dates for your diary:

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