



Rotary Club of Billerica

News

October 2014

“Service Above Self”



So Proud to be Your President



As this edition hits the news-stands, my term of office will be one third over. It seems so strange that something I had waited for since Ed approached me in November 2012 is rushing past me like an A4 Pacific charging down Essendine. It isn't "stop the world, I want to get off" but rather "please world, let me on."

This month has come the welcome news that the first of Keith's Sand Dams is being built. I have been excited by this project. Thousands of Kenyans will have clean water for the first time ever, and it's all "low-tech", so no future maintenance problems. When we are all pushing up daisies, these people will still have clean water. I haven't asked Keith if he is proud of this project. He should be.

Next month is the Charter lunch, an awesome occasion. I will remember my first one. The Chichester really does look after us well. Thinking of the Presidents who have gone before me, I am so

honoured to be able to sit on that chair at the top table. Trevor has found us an excellent speaker. I look forward to it.

Looking back at our Beausoleil trip, one of the things that made it so good was the splendid weather. I hold a view that between Guy Fawkes night and Valentine's Day our country is less than habitable. In the days of luxury travel, someone had the bright idea to have a rally in Monte Carlo. "Let's all drive down to Monte Carlo in the worst part of the winter and soak up a bit of sun." It was so nice there last month that I aim to sort out a trip to Nice for Sue and me, and hope to stroll on the sea front in shirt sleeve weather. It will probably be 10°C warmer there than here. Last week in January. Go by train as Poirot would have. Anybody else fancy it?

Finally, a personal thank you. As I write this, it was last Monday that my Sue managed to plant a sewing machine needle through the top of a finger of her left hand. She did it in Galleywood, so she was taken to Broomfield Hospital for running repairs. She said that I could pick her up from the Hospital after our lunch was over. I explained that the club members would be quite cross with me if I didn't put her first. In the event,

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she called me to say she was ready as we were having our puddings. I was chatting with a Hungarian guest about the time Hungary slaughtered us at Wembley 6-3. The score was actually 3-6 as you put the home team first. He was telling me that in Hungary they still sell chocolate biscuits with 3-6 stamped on them. Then Sue called. As I left to get her, there was an outpouring of good wishes and love for Sue. You really are a splendid bunch and I am so proud to be your President.

Stop Press - Fighting Ebola In The Market Place - see page 2

Inner Wheel

Nothing fishy about our special birthday cake!

Hello Rotarians,



We celebrated our 54th 'birthday' at Alec's lovely restaurant in Navestock on a sunny, if windy, day, three tables of seven which included member's spouses and late members' spouses.

I confess that, although I closely read the menu, it didn't immediately sink in that it was a fish restaurant with only two meat options and one vegetarian! Being what I call a 'fishytarian', it was a delight to see a variety of fish courses and the staff were very attentive and friendly. Also a good sign was that the restaurant was very busy for a weekday lunch.

When asked by our waiter what we were celebrating, we told him about our Inner Wheel 'birthday'. He went away and came back after a few minutes with a plate with a ball of ice cream in the



Fighting Ebola In The Market Place

The Rotary Club of Billericay is taking the fight against Ebola to the local market place. As part of planned activities in support of the 2014 Billericay Christmas Market, we have printed 5,000 raffle tickets to raise money for good causes. Proceeds mainly to the campaign against Ebola and to ShelterBox.

Malcolm Acors, former club president, whose company Acors Press printed the tickets free of charge, says: "Our aim is to sell them all and raise £5,000. A key factor is that they're on sale now - we're not waiting to sell them on the day, or even in the days just before."

Tickets will be sold at £5 a book (or £1 a ticket) between October 14 and December 7, the day of the market. The draw takes place at 4.00pm that day at the Rotary Tent in Billericay High Street. Club members, in addition to the pre-market drive, are volunteering to try to charm the crowds into taking part. First prize is a new 18-



gear mountain bike and helmet, second, a super Christmas hamper and third a mixed case of quality wine. Also a basket of fruit and other prizes.

Roger Kettle, the club's market liaison officer with the organisers, the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower, says: "In addition to this special raffle, the club will again be highlighting "Rotary Activities" and encouraging people to join our team in supporting causes that are both local, national and international. For example we have a Life Education Mobile Display that works in conjunction with schools and aims to show the dangers and advantages that exists as they grow through childhood."

As in the past there will be a display of Shelter tents that Rotary and other charities fund in the event of world disasters. The tent, blankets, cooker, utensils etc. etc. in a Shelter Box never fails to surprise the crowds who stop and ask questions. We will also hope to attract new members with the fellowship and social side of Rotary.

The appeal to all club members is once again: Sell, Sell, Sell.

By Trevor Bond

middle, a candle on the top, 'Happy Birthday from Alec's' written in chocolate around the plate and seven spoons! Not enough for three tables (our fault for not making it clear) but we shared what we could.

After lunch, we adjourned outside for photos.

It was all so enjoyable, we might



book for Christmas!

By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel correspondent

Hornchurch - Those Gallant Men In their Flying Machines

Norman Wilson's World War II memories last month prompts Trevor Bond to contribute his.

I was born and brought up in Hornchurch – just a mile from an aerodrome that became famous as one of the Battle of Britain fighter stations during World War II.



I was just four when war was declared, five by the time of the Battle of Britain, and it was no more than six months later that I became aware that some flying machines were diving and ducking over our modest house.

All a mystery until my dear father who I maintain was such a great engineer that he could have built an Ack-Ack gun single-handedly on our back lawn, explained that those with “funny” markings came from a country called Germany and those with the red, white and blue rings were “Ours” – British. And that they were actually fighting something called a war. Sweet innocence of youth!



My mother took me to an air raid shelter at the very end of our 300 yard garden, while Dad went fire-watching in case one of those



nasty German planes dropped a bomb on us instead of the airfield. Ever a curious child – why else did I become a journalist – I persuaded my parents to let me sneak out and watch the “fireworks”. Spitfire against Messerschmitt (more often the strangely-shaped Focke-Wulfs with their all black markings).



Today it would be a kid's computer game. Which it was probably for me at aged five – a game!

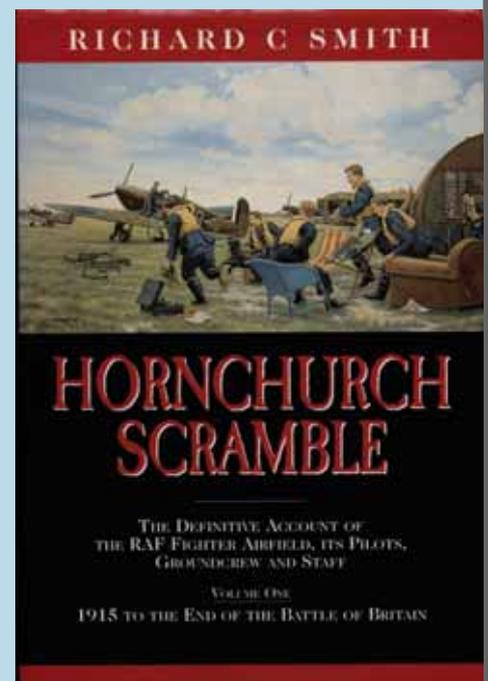
Years later I read the history, have the T-shirt and saw the video of the great part Hornchurch played in that battle in the air.

The great pilots who actually flew over our home – Guy Gibson, Stanley Tuck, Donald Findlay (commander 41 Fighter Squad-



ron) who won an Olympic 110 metre hurdles silver medal at the 1936 Berlin Games – and most distinguished of all, Adolph Gysbert Malan – known as “Sailor” Malan because he previous-

ly served in the Merchant Navy. He came from South Africa to join the RAF in 1936 and became flight commander of 74 Squadron and had the record number of “kills” from the ‘drome. Roads there are still named after them all. Altogether sixty-eight of the pilots who flew from Hornchurch were killed during the Battle of Britain.



An excellent book “Hornchurch Scramble” by Richard C. Smith is the definitive account and record of the part played by those brave men who flew above my home.

Club Concert Profits - Donations to Charity

Business Meeting

At the above meeting on Monday 29th September, members agreed donations to

the following charities from the proceeds of our recent concert – Little Havens Children's Hospice £1,000, Hope and Homes for

Children £300, Mary's Meals £300, WaterAid £300 and NARA – The Breathing Charity £100.

By Ed Harrison

Speakers' Corner

October 6 - In the Rotary way, international fellowship is always welcome - Rotarian or not. So thanks to club members who made Istvan Molnar very welcome when he came as guest of Trevor Bond, with Ian Cole, a former journalist colleague.



Istvan, a football journalist from Hungary, who met

Trevor 10 years ago in Budapest ("we stayed good friends ever since"), has kept in constant touch with Trevor and Ian. He had spent a weekend at Ian's Rayleigh home,

with prime targets to: watch Southend United play, eat fish and chips in Southend, walk the length of Southend pier, see the Hammers at Upton Park and eat pie & mash in the Barking Road before West Ham played QPR (Well done, Istvan - we won!!). He did them all.

He gave us 10 interesting minutes on his weekend and answered questions about aspects of Hungary. Also, about the decline of Hungarian football since most of us remember the Magical Magyars beating England 6-3 at Wembley in 1954 (Yes. Own up - we are that old!!). Hungary have not qualified for the World Cup



finals since 1984. "Poor coaching, nobody plays in schools now, best players leave Hungary - very sad." Istvan added: "I was nervous and I apologise for my poor English but you all made me feel welcome and it was my last event of the weekend. I have had a great 3 days and I will fly home very happy to have met you all."

October 13 - A Pioneer of Progress - Norman Wilson's life story continues to fascinate us all. When he talks about his career in aviation, it is all about pioneering, not just the aircraft he worked on in his career at Sir W. G. Armstrong-Whitworth from 1939-1965, but his reminiscences from the time he was apprenticed at A.W.A. in September 1939.



He described the first planes developed by the company - the first all-metal aircraft, the Siskin, and those he worked on when he returned from RAF service after piloting Sunderland flying boats ("still my favourite aircraft") as flight test pilot on Lancaster, Lincoln and York planes. He recalled the world-first four-engined monoplane, the Atlanta, and the four-engined Ensign Monoplane, test-piloted by Turner-Hughes. "He was very flamboyant, wore a bowler hat and

"I had a Company Plane before I had a Company Car!"

invited the media to witness the first flight." All this at a time when tests were usually done in secret to ensure satisfactory results before telling the press. Later captured by the Germans, the Atlanta was re-engined by them and used by Hitler as his personal transport. In April 1949 he was flight test engineer on the development of the first Apollo airliner and later



became Foreman in charge of the Meteor MK8, and later Mks. of production aircraft during flight testing. He was Production Manager from 1959-62, ending as Works Manager (Armaments) at the Whitley works of the then Whitworth-Gloster Aircraft Co., later Hawker Siddeley Dynamics. We shouldn't forget his other memories - the Shah of Persia



flying in an early Apollo aircraft, how Arm-

strong Whitworth's pioneering work on testing for metal fatigue helped identify the cause of failure in the world's first jet airliner, the Comet, the A.W.A. Flying Wing whose tail ends "flipped and flopped", the first "prone piloted"



Meteor (later copied by the U.S. and Russians) and how Armstrong Whitworth were the first British Company to get a Certificate of Airworthiness for an airliner in the USA, before the UK.

Norman was truly valued, who else can say "I had a Company Plane before a Company Car!"

Through the Lens with James Ilesley

It's all down to Perspective!

Back before the digital camera era, a man brought in his camera for a service. While servicing it, I noticed many issues with the set up; the meter was erratic, the shutter speeds were all the same or incorrect, etc.

So, rather than leaving them as they were, I decided to adjust them to what most people call the 'correct' settings. He collected the camera and thanked me.

A week later he returned, complaining that the shutter speeds were all different now, and his photographs were all coming out with the same exposure. He produced 36 photographs that I saw as correctly exposed, and natural looking.

He said that he used to get up to five photos that came out how he liked, not all the same like these ones. I explained to him that he could use bracketing and compensation to change the exposure of the pictures, although I couldn't see what was wrong with the ones he had took.

A week later he returned with another 36 photos, but this time



grinning like a Cheshire cat. The photos were all randomly exposed, either too light or too dark. I said to him "Why do you have them all like this, they don't look correctly exposed?" he replied with "But this is what I'm used to."

I then realised that he must have been accustomed to using old box cameras, where you couldn't adjust the speed or bracketing or the "f" number, and so would instead move both the camera and the subject (if possible) to the correct light to get a 'good' image.

This made me start to think about

what makes a good image. Here I have the same image, but with two different exposures, one which I think is correct and one which isn't. Which do **you** think is better? It's all down to perspective. Happy snapping!



By James Ilesley
(www.ilesleyphotographic.com)

Charter Lunch and the Good Doctor - hold your breath!!

Our Charter Lunch at the Essex Barn in The Chichester on November 2 is guaranteed to be special - not least for the annual camaraderie and good fellowship, but this year the bonus of our speaker, Dr Eric Watts, haematologist, who delighted us at a Monday lunch this year and is now happy to be back to address us all. Title of his talk: "In My Professional Opinion" - wow, what a lot

of ground that covers! He adds: "Yes, it won't be all about blood and gore - doctors see many aspects of life. I am honoured that Lord Petrie is attending - I suddenly thought: Oh Dear, before remembering that I've spoken to Lords before and they're usually quite normal people." He will be bringing collection tins - please support his cause generously. All credit to Norman Bishop

for again organising one of our special events of the year. District Governor, Stan Keller has agreed to attend- more club kudos. Reminder: Lunch 12.30 for 1.00pm. Cost:£25 for 3-course lunch (members - £14.00), multi-choice on the day - coffee and service. Please bring family and friends and eat and bask well at the Chichester - there will be no club meeting on Monday November 3.

Baroness Shirley Williams

The Clash of Empires and the Break-up of Nations

It was before 6 p.m. that Malcolm Acors, Michael Sinclair and I set out to drive to Bishops Stortford to attend the regular meeting of Stort Valley Rotary Club at the Lemon Tree in the centre of town.



Backs to the camera

Why suffer the hours drive to the other side of the District you may ask. Well, several reasons. Firstly Peter Greene had been working with Peter Latham and David Scott of that club on our Websites and Newsletters to see what we can learn from each other, and had been looking for an opportunity to meet up with them face to face. Secondly, as part of that exchange of information, he noticed that in their latest newsletter, and in the forthcoming events on the website, that Baroness Shirley Williams would be speaking at the club on the 23rd September.

The subject of her talk was her reflections on the consequences of World War One. In a wide ranging and erudite talk she covered the effects as she saw them, summed up best as the “Clash of Empires” and the “Breaking of Nations”.

Her key points were that pre-WW1 Europe was a continent of old Empires - the Ottoman, the Austro-Hungarian, the French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, and the British. Germany and Italy, as relatively newly formed countries, mainly from principalities,



didn't have empires, and felt hard done by. Shortly after the end of the war, most of the empires had failed and Europe was a continent of Nations. The inter war years were characterised by inter-country disputes, the rise of dictatorships culminating in World War 2, and the invasion of most countries in Europe by the Axis powers. More recently the Soviet Union had broken up into many of its constituent parts.

Little surprise then that most countries see the co-operation of nations and the formation of transnational groupings such as the European Union, as a way to ensure peace between them.



She then drew parallels with the recent Scottish referendum. The debate had focussed almost exclusively on internal factors and the problems (currency, jobs, etc) which an independent Scotland might face (depending which side was talking) and hardly at all with

the positive aspects and benefits of a United Kingdom. She had many connections with Statesmen and business people around the world, ranging from the USA to Malaysia, the Middle East and the Far East and Australia. In the light of the World Wars, why would any country seek to create more national break-ups. They couldn't understand why a country which had been, and remained, such a force for good in the world, could voluntarily break up.

We all three (Peter, Malcolm and Mike Sinclair) talked about the visit all the way home and we all felt how interesting and satisfying it was to have such an intimate (in the nicest meaning of the word) talk from Baroness Shirley Williams. Very educational and informative and expressed in such a down to earth and understandable way.

An event not to be missed and we were so glad we could be there.

Although this was the high spot of the evening, we should also mention two other matters.

- We enjoyed the ambience of the dinner, and friendliness of the members, and were most impressed to learn how the club has grown from a low point of 6 or 7 members to its current strength of 27, and with a nearly even split of men and women.
- Youth activities – the club seems to be heavily involved with primary school children. It is progressing both the Life Education initiative and Rotakids.

Hopefully an exchange of information on these subjects will also be fruitful.

By Peter Greene, Malcolm Acors & Mike Sinclair

Beausoleil Home Hosting - A Miscellany of Rotarians

Debbie & James Ilesley; Liz & Mike Sinclair

Liz and I, and James and Deborah, were hosted by Philippe and Pascale Medeau. Philippe only joined the Beausoleil Club in the last year on his return from working in Asia for some years.

His wife Pascale is head of a middle school for the children of migrant workers in Monaco. The school is just outside Monaco and she is provided with a flat at the school overlooking the Marina - a lovely venue for our evening.



A splendid home-cooked meal, copious fine wines and liqueurs, and interesting conversation with our hosts (both spoke perfect English), ensured we had a very enjoyable time. After dinner, Philippe entertained us on his guitar and we all sang and, in some cases, danced to his playing. James amused us with his jokes during the evening, the most memorable of which was his musical request for Philippe to play "Far, far away". Whilst this was not lost in translation, our host obviously did not know it and carried on regardless. A great evening ended and we were chauffeured back to our hotel by about midnight. The honesty of their hospitality makes us keen to repay it on any future return visit.

Wendy & Peter Greene

There was no sign of Marie Françoise Brivet when we met

Despite the language limitations, an evening of humour and much laughter with wonderful hosts

with our dinner companions, Ruth and Paul Smith (Basildon) and Georges Mas (Beausoleil), nor any answer on her mobile! Georges took Ruth and Paul to the restaurant 'Le Petit Prince' in Menton, (his car was too small for us all). We waited, ... and we waited, and only we were left. And we waited some more, and then some more. Just as we were thinking all was lost, Georges collected us.

At the restaurant, Marie Françoise was there. She had been in a meeting and, running late, had rushed to her car, leaving her handbag behind. Going back, the room was locked. No phone, no sign of the caretaker, nobody to tell her problem, she eventually contacted a colleague (Christian Stanek) who rang the cleaner, who returned to the school, let her into the room to retrieve her bag, and eventually, to get to the restaurant. Poor Marie Françoise!



But, "N'importe", our concerns were soon forgotten, the restaurant was superb - aperitifs of two bottles of champagne in the open air, then we retired inside for the meal with more champagne and wine. Delicious food, great champagne and wine, sparkling conversation, laughter, and great company (Marie Françoise, Georges, Louis Sclavo and Christian). We couldn't have had a better evening.

Margaret & Ed Harrison; Carol & Pat Rothon

We were collected from the hotel by Jean-Louis who has been Club President on three occasions and is the father-in-law of IPP Bertrand. After a drink in Menton, we drove to Gorbio, a small hilltop village in a valley above Menton and Roquebrune. Gorbio has oscillated between Italy and France since the 12th century, and between Provence, Savoy and France (in 1860 votes were only 59-26 in favour of France).



The 2 families live next door to each other and Veronique's sister lives nearby. We were warmly welcomed by Bertrand, Veronique



and her mother Monique, and enjoyed an aperitif in the garden before going inside for a sumptuous meal (see menu). Veronique had come here as a child on Rotary trips with her parents, and all had fond memories of their times in England. Monique updated us on the work in Ladakh supporting orphans in a monastery. Jean-Louis and herself visit regularly and following our last visit to Beausoleil, our Club made a financial contribution to assist the project. Jean, who accompanied his parents here last year, did not join us at the table but kissed us all before going to bed.

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DG sets out major projects

District Council

There were some important developments at the District Council Meeting and final session of conference at Writtle College on Saturday, September 27. I was our Club's sole representative.

DG Stan Keller reported:

1. **Recent District Conference had gone very well.**
2. **The World's Biggest Quiz will be held on Saturday June 6 at Southend United's Ground.**
3. **The Ride for Prostate Cancer (AG Alan Clark is our Co-ordinator) will be on June 21.**
4. **RIBI President will be visiting District 1240 in January.**

Reports by the Chairs of the District Committees are on our website. Here are a few updates.

Membership – PDG John Banks commended the District 1240 Membership Workshops which will be held in Chelmsford (October 21), Colchester (October 29) and Southend (November 6).

Foundation – PDG Ken Buck reported that Chelmsford Rivermead is leading the initiative for a District-supported Global Grant application relating to the Send a Cow project (see below). Take up for district grants has been poor. DGN Terry Dean reported that Colin Daines is en-route to Gatwick to collect 2 scholars - Jonathan Porter (Canada) and Abigail Tibbetts (Texas) who are being hosted in District; either or both scholars will give presentations to clubs if required.

Vocational Services – Philip Helps wants to know what Clubs are doing on the vocational front.

Youth Services – PDG Peter Dowse has dates for the competition finals and these will be advised to clubs shortly.

Quiz, Cows, Cancer and Police Challenge

Administration – DGE Adrian Phillips advised that the district quiz will be held on March 20..

Club Visioning – PDG John Banks reported that 8 clubs have gone through the process and four others will do so shortly.

District Secretary's Report - Alan Clark (our current AG) has been elected to serve as DG in 2017/18. A nomination letter and nomination form has been sent to club secretaries relating to the election of officers for the next Rotary year. No resolutions have been received from our District for the Council on Legislation.

District Treasurer's report – One Club (named) has not paid its subscriptions.

RI Convention (Sao Paulo - June 6-9, 2015). PDG David Judge commended this event and showed a short video featuring RI President Gary Huang and his wife

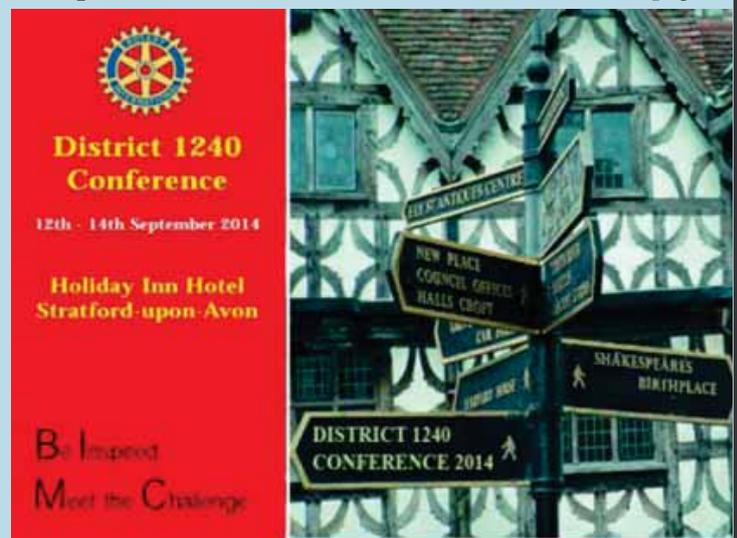
The World's Greatest Meal to Help End Polio – Rtn Susanne Rea from Cairns Sunrise Club had attended our recent District Conference and encouraged all present to get

involved in this initiative (www.wgmeal.com, E-mail info@wgmeal.com). She's a Project Partner and Global Team Co-ordinator.

Final Session of Conference.

Essex Police: Supt. Trevor Roe, who is Deputy Divisional Commander of West Division, gave a lengthy presentation. The force faces a funding challenge and, although significant savings have been made, more are required. 83% of costs relate to staff and some stations will need to close. Essex is a low cost force, the second lowest in the U.K. The aim of HMIC Benchmarking is to standardise nationally and it considers Essex has over-specialised. Collaboration with Kent has saved £19m, and collaboration with ambulance and fire services is being investigated. The main

(continued page 9)



Final Session of Conference (continued)

threats in Essex are considered to be cybercrime, organised crime gangs, modern slavery, radicalisation, child sexual exploitation and London gangs. Supt. Roe had attended a Superintendents' conference and showed a video clip on human trafficking.

Send a Cow Project – Rtn Martin Reed from Chelmsford Rivermead, who has been a Send a Cow Ambassador for over 20 years, gave a short presentation. His club, supported by District, is proposing to cooperate with the Send a Cow organisation in a global grant to help communities in an area of Kenya. Support has been enlisted already from the local Rotary Club of Kisumu Winam (District 9212), and from

Government and local officials. A donation of £160 (with grant matching) will support 1 family and take them permanently out of poverty; £160 will automatically become £480 under the District 1240 sponsored “Send a Cow” initiative. (The District Foundation Committee has agreed already to support the project from the District Designated Fund). A donating club will be linked with a specific family and, later, will be able to see the publicity photographs and the benefits that have been achieved. Martin is happy to visit Clubs to give a presentation.

Essex Coalition of Disabled People (ECDP - www.ecdp.org.uk) - Rachel Vipond is Project Manager. This Chelmsford based

charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee. All board members & 35% of staff have impairments. Rtn Pat Gaudin is a trustee. Rachel worked previously for Essex Police but in 2009 contracted swine flu and subsequently suffered from chronic fatigue syndrome. Besides spreading the word, she asks if we could offer a 6 week work placement or fund a £2,000 bursary. A number of local businesses support the charity and we have a brochure in this connection.

District 1240 Conference: At Bournemouth Highcliff Marriott Hotel (October 9-11, 2015). DGE Adrian Phillips gave an amusing presentation and Ed has a brochure for each member.

By Ed Harrison

Beausoleil (continued)

As we left, each of us was presented with a miniature bottle of Limoncello de Menton.

Gillian & Keith Wood
At the Petanque evening, Gillian and I were approached by “Marie Do”, that fascinating lady who appeared everywhere last year on the visit to us, and did the same this year. She is so committed - their photographer, their Secretary, and probably their first lady President next year. She asked us to join her for Home Hosting and she would send a “gentleman” to pick us up at the hotel. Graham and Ragnhild (Mike Barrett's brother and his wife) completed the group as we eagerly awaited her driver the following evening. Even before 7.30 pm, Phillippe introduced me to “Eric” in whose car we soon sped through the Corniches in silence - Eric didn't speak English and our speed wouldn't allow me to interrupt his concentration with my “Freng-



lish”. His car literally stuck to the winding roads, abruptly turning right then upwards into the mountains, coming to an abrupt stop on the country road, at which stage he speedily engaged reverse gear and just as swiftly reversed up a mountain track to arrive where the car was to be parked. We hastily got out and followed him to a lovely country home overlooking the bay of Monte Carlo. “Marie Do” was nowhere to be seen, but we were lovingly introduced to Dominique, a diminutive younger lady who was the Rotarian who had so capably run the bar the previous evening. “Marie Do” joined us shortly afterwards carrying a beautiful plant, as a gift. Only then was it apparent to us that Dominique was the host, and

Marie Do was also a guest!

We were “lovingly entertained” the whole of the evening, sharing speciality dishes that Dominique had prepared herself, including a delicious Italian main dish, “Vitel-lo Tonnato”, the thinnest slices of veal covered with a sauce of tuna, anchovies and mayonnaise.



My lasting memory will be our complete misunderstanding of who was hosting whom, but mainly, the absolute love and attention that Dominique put into the evening.

Gillian and I are in contact with Dominique and I can't wait to return the compliment!

More reports next month!

A Magical Night

Yet again, the Rotary Club of Basildon laid on something different to raise money for charity. This time it was the Mid-Essex Magical Society giving a bravura performance of magic to delight the large audience at Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club.



Patrick and Carol Rothon, Roger Kettle, Keith Wood and Gillian, and Peter and Wendy Greene all joined the fun to support Basildon, and enjoy themselves. Wendy and Peter also took along their Grandson (8) and Granddaughter (6) who didn't just enjoy the show, but fully participated in it! And there were other kids there too.



A quick drink for everybody on arrival, and then the evening started with a buffet dinner with far too much for everybody to finish, and then ... the show.

And he didn't even get wet!



The format was "close-up" magic at each table, then a general show for everybody.



This was followed by more "close-up" magic at the table from a different magician.

After a break, we had a further "close-up" magic from another magician, and then, for a finale for everybody, a repeat of Harry Houdini's "escape from chains while hanging in a tank of water".



Except it was without the water, without the straitjacket, and no need to hold his breathe.

Seriously though, it was still effective, with the magician locked into handcuffs by members of the audience, and his efforts to escape behind a curtain being monitored by the youngest timekeeper in the audience, who shouted out the time at 5 second intervals. It was done well - with false alarms, great humour and ultimately, success. And he didn't even get wet!

And what do you think happened next? Yes, "Sawing the lady in half".



With the assistance of a "volunteer" from the audience, and an electric Jigsaw, she was bisected ... and then put back together again! What a way to end the evening. Basildon had done us proud yet again, and raised just under £400 for charity in the process.

By Peter Greene

Tit-bits from the Club

Four of our members celebrated their birthdays during this last month:

- Ed Harrison (PP PHF)
- Malcolm Acors (PP PHF)
- Roger Kettle (PP PHF)
- Ken Smith (PP PHF)

Our congratulations and best wishes for many more to come.

Overheard - who said "She's a tough old bird" - Answers on a postcard please to the editor.

Essex Cricket Club - In over 60 years of following the club, (about 500 matches) your editor has never been there when they declared or won by an innings. My hopes rose against

Gloucestershire earlier this season. Having passed 500 for six wickets and a lead of over 300, a declaration before lunch on day three seemed on.

Hopes dashed - Essex batted on and were all out. On day four, Gloucester needed 123 to avoid an innings defeat - they denied Essex by TEN runs. *I live in hope.*

From the Archives - The Founding of the Club

As we approach the next (55th.) Charter Anniversary one thinks back to the day early in March, 1959 when three tyros - Felix Rotheron, Claude Taylor and Stan Harvey were invited to meet A. S. Raven, MBE, JP, known from ever after as Bert, to hear about the possible Rotary Club which it was hoped to start in Billericay. Bert Raven, as Extension Officer, had been instructed late in 1958 by Frank Winfield the District Chairman and Rotary International Representative, a title which was superseded in 1968 by District Governor. At the time District 108 consisted of the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, part of Hertfordshire, and Essex. The first stage in the possible foundation of a new club was to undertake a survey to find out if there were enough classifications to warrant the formation. Bert first discussed this with the Clerk to the Billericay District Council, Alma Hatt. This soon showed that the potential was there and Bert discussed the formation only to find that Alma would soon be moving Offices to Basildon and would no longer be available for membership. He advised contacting the Barclay Bank's Manager, Claude Taylor. He in turn, realis-



The Chantry in 1959

ing that it would take some months to form a Club, by which time he would have retired, recommended a local Industrialist, (H.S.A. (Felix) Rotheron) and Stanley Harvey, leading Solicitor of the Town.

So together Bert, Felix and Stan took on the task of forming a club. Initially, they looked around for three men to join them. Those three members counted themselves fortunate that they were invited to join at such an early stage. They were Kenneth Hallows, (Bank Manager), Horace Iles (Estate Agent), and Frank Rilstone (General Medical Practitioner).

At a meeting in March these men considered a further three.

Albert Gale (Accountant), Robert (Bill) Hathaway (Dental Surgeon) and Charles Odell (Ophthalmic Optician). These eight men, under the chairmanship of Bert, met on April 6th, 1959 to create a Formation Committee, Albert Gale being selected as acting Secretary.

From that date they met weekly at the Chantry Cafe for the use of which the Club members were grateful to John Dunne. Gradually further men were invited to join until, when 28 men were attending regularly, Bert advised the District Chairman that an Inaugural Meeting should be held at which it would be agreed to form a Club covering the area of Billericay north of the A. 127, and Stock.

The Inaugural Meeting

The Inaugural Meeting of the Billericay Rotary Club, the 51st. Club in District 108, was held at the Masonic Hall, Hutton on June 25th, 1959, with Frank Winfield in the chair.

Apart from the resolution to form a club, officers were elected:-
Acting President - Felix Rotheron,
Vice-President - Stan. Harvey,
Treasurer - Ken Hallows, and
Secretary Albert Gale.

In his address, Frank Winfield informed the potential members that, by accepting the responsibilities and by sharing in the privileges of membership, and by conscientiously discharging their obligations to their fellow men, they would be spreading the influence of Rotary in a community where hitherto it was unknown. Felix, in his address said that they knew little of Rotary in action but

they had been impressed by the wonderful fellowship expressed by the presence of so many Rotarians.

“For us this is a grand leap into Rotary and we offer you our friendship and hope that we shall prove to be apt pupils of Bert Raven who has done so much to bring this Club into being”.

Eleven Clubs of District 108 and two from 113 were represented.

Laugh along with Roger

The English Abroad

On a beautiful summer's day, two English tourists were driving through Wales .

At the town of:

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllylantysiliogogoch they stopped for lunch, and one of the tourists asked the waitress,

“Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?”

The girl leaned over and said, “Burrr.... Gurrr.... King...”

It's just too hot to wear clothes today,' Jack says as he stepped out of the shower, 'honey, what do you

think the neighbours would think if I mowed the lawn like this?' 'Probably that I married you for your money,' she replied.

Bob Hope in Heaven -

On turning 100: I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

Rotary takes to the road in tax disc campaign

We all know that we no longer need to show a tax disc on our windscreens, so do we just get rid of the empty tax disc holders or is there a better use?



Why not help publicize Rotary and help to attract new members?

RIBI has launched a new tax disc campaign where Rotarians, their friends and families are being asked to display a specially designed Rotary wheel in place of the tax disc and take to the road to promote the good work Rotary does in local communities. The distinctive Rotary wheel is a perfect fit for the now defunct tax disc holders. We've included a sheet of 6 Rotary Discs in this newsletter - why not take part, cut out a disc, and slip it into your existing holder. If all 50,000 Rotarians take part we can promote Rotary to potentially millions of

people - and it is free! RIBI's target is that 20,000 of its 50,000 members in Great Britain



and Ireland will be displaying the disc by Christmas and the rest by

International Rotary Day on 23 February 2015.

For more information follow: <http://www.ribi.org/rotary-road-tax-disc-campaign/>

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

Oct 27

Simon Hirst from “Open Door”

Nov 3

No Meeting following the Charter Lunch

Nov 10

Speaker to be confirmed

Nov 10

Joint Services & Council Meeting

Nov 17

Speaker to be confirmed

Nov 24

Business Meeting & S.G.M.

Dec 1

Speaker to be confirmed

Dec 8

Speaker to be confirmed

Dec 8

Joint Services & Council Meeting

Dec 15

Christmas Meal

Dec 22/29 - No Meeting

Other dates for your diary:

Nov. 2 (12.30 for 1.00 pm)

55th Charter Lunch - The Chichester,

Nov. 8

Lake Meadows Firework Display

Dec. 7 (11.00-17.00)

Christmas Market