



Rotary Club of Billerica

News



September 2015

“Service Above Self”

Best Club Website
in District 1240
2014-15 & 2015-16

President’s Message

The Rotary Force was with us in Sweden



The highlight of the month was a trip to Karlshamn billed as a Double Triangular Visit. Although Basildon Club have had a link with the Rotary Club of Karlshamn for many years, this was the first occasion on which the Swedish Club have hosted Alba, Beausoleil, Ovada and ourselves as well. A party of 20 representing our Club flew to Copenhagen on the morning of September 3 and were met by our good friend Bengt Norman at the airport. We took a train to Karlshamn and were driven to the hotel by local Rotarians. After an information meeting run by Bengt, we had a light meal. On the following morning we went by public bus service to Mörrum, a noted salmon fishing area and a beautiful location. On

return we attended the host Club’s Rotary Meeting at NetPort Science Park and were warmly received by President Maivor Johnsson. Each of the visiting Presidents had been invited to speak for 3 minutes and after exchanging Rotary pennants, we enjoyed an excellent lunch at Restaurant Gourmet Grön in the same building. That evening we were home hosted and all of the Presidents were guests of Bengt and his wife Kerstin. On Saturday morning we visited the Naval Museum in Karlshamn and enjoyed lunch in the museum restaurant. We had some free time in the afternoon and in the evening we attended a superb meal at Restaurant Gourmet Grön. The event ended with various songs (including “Auld Lang Syne”) being sung, some more

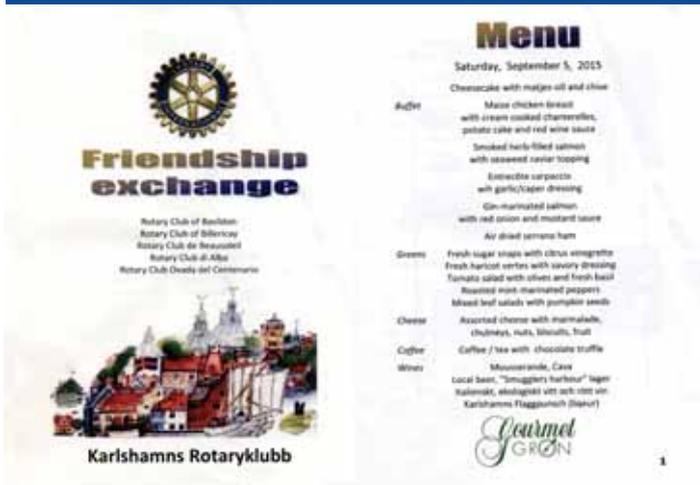
In This Month’s Issue

- 1/2 President’s Message
- 1 Contents
- 2. Inner Wheel
- 3 Speakers Corner
- 3 Youth Competitions
- 4 Great Balloon race
- 5-9 Karlshamn
- 10 Carry on Cruising Part 2
- 11. Soapbox Derby
- 11 Fellowship - the Beauvoir Arms
- 12. Brighten your day
- 12. Club Tit-bits
- 12. Forthcoming Events

successfully than others, in Swedish, French, Italian and English! President Paolo Safredi formally invited those present to visit Alba next year.

On Sunday morning we walked the (continued on next Page)

President's Message (continued)



“fika” were served in the adjacent room which is the boardroom of an aquavit company. Bengt proved himself to be a man of many parts. Dressed in period costume, he portrayed Lars Olsson Smith (he

At our Fellowship Meeting on Monday 7th September I was delighted to present a cheque for £100 to Kirsty Eatherton, the winner of the Balloon Race which we had staged at the Billericay Summerfest in July. (See page 4).

At our Club Lunch on 14th September Sylvia Kent gave a presentation entitled “Writing the Past”. This mainly covered her latest book “Barking & Dagenham from Old Photographs”. (See page 3). We were pleased to welcome PDG Grahame Rudkins and Dr Grayson Nolan, both Members of Brentwood Club.

At our Business Meeting on 21st September Members agreed that we should donate £1,000 to Hope & Homes for Children to assist their project in Romania, and £250 to South Woodham Ferrers Rotary Club to help them complete a project in The Gambia.

short distance to a museum in Vinkelgatan where Rolf Parlhem gave a very interesting presentation about Alice Tegner, “the mother of Swedish children music”. Her compositions include “Baa baa black sheep” and some of her songs were sung by the Swedes present. Alice was born in Karlshamn and Rolf, who is chairman of the Alice Tegner Society, lives in her old house. Morning coffee and Swedish

Smith after his foster father Carl Smith), one of Karlshamn’s most famous sons. L. O. Smith was a Swedish spirits manufacturer and politician and was called “The King of Spirits”. He started production of Absolut Rent Brannvinn, later renamed **Absolut Vodka!**

Around midday the visiting Rotarians were driven to Karlshamn railway station for the journey to Copenhagen Airport.

Inner Wheel Report

Supporting the battle against dementia

Hello Rotarians,
At our last meeting we discussed the District Chairman’s charity “Dementia Friends”. We were asked to hold an information meeting about dementia, as a service for the local community where a trained Dementia Friends Champion would speak, and we thought it would be good to join with another club to do this. Our District’s Daphne Cole Trophy competition this year is a piece of creative writing which includes dementia in the theme. Any funds raised would go to a local dementia project. Inner Wheel’s president’s charity this year is Parkinson’s UK and



we have been asked to hold coffee mornings on January 10 which is Inner Wheel founding day. We are looking at both of these. We celebrated our club “birthday” this month at Little Channels in Chelmsford, easy to find if you don’t lose count of the number of roundabouts you have to negotiate

to get there! It was a lovely sunny day and we were in a spacious room which was obviously a restored barn. The service was excellent and we all agreed the food was very good.

By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel correspondent

Speakers' Corner

Piping in a Pictorial Past

Sylvia Kent, journalist, historian, researcher and profound writer, delighted us as our Monday lunch speaker on September 14. Her title: Writing The Past.

"So far I have written 10 books and just about to start on my eleventh," said Sylvia who updated us on her latest book – a pictorial history of Barking and Dagenham which is also being made into a documentary film.

But it was much more pictorial than written – and none the less interesting for that.

She illustrated her talk with a fascinating video show of some the book's most memorable, ancient and newsworthy photographs. Not least some wonderful shots of the famous Dagenham Girl Pipers, past and present – including one of the time they were presented to the Queen. And a shot of a Roman



Sylvia highlighted the town's most famous Dame, the lovely Vera Lynn whose contribution to the War effort never ceases to be acclaimed.

coffin dug up close to the beautiful St Margaret's Church, Barking where Sylvia was married (as was the mother of your editor!).

Other photographs showed the rise of the Becontree Estate and the once magnificent building of Barking Abbey, now a ruin, which was a cornerstone of the area

north of the Thames in medieval times and gave birth to one of Britain's first grammar schools, Barking Abbey School.

Sylvia has been our lunch guest often, but it has been some time since she last came as a speaker. She will always be welcome as both.

Schools support Youth Competitions

Young Chef Competition

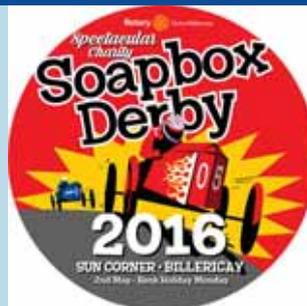


Our Youth Officer, James, has confirmed that, after a meeting with the

new headteacher of Billericay School, the Young Chef competition will go ahead on Wednesday, November 11 at Billericay School. Mayflower School is also supporting the project. "I will be pursuing St John's and other schools to join us" added James.

Soapbox Derby

Billericay school is also keen to enter the Soapbox Derby next



year (see separate Soapbox Derby report). Quilters RotaKids have also

agreed to sponsor their teachers to go down the Soapbox Derby course. What a fun attraction that will be.

Quilters Rotakids

We are currently organising badges for presentation to the new RotaKids, and the plaque recognizing our sponsorship of QFM and Quiltonians RotaKids has been delivered and fixed in the QFM studio.



We have met with Helen Kilby, the new dedicated teacher for Rotakids to explore next steps for the RotaKids in this new School year, in particular the enrolment ceremony at the school.

Young Photographer

This competition is going ahead as normal. Entries have to be in by December to support judging early in 2016.

Good Detective Work Solves The Mystery

Balloon race winner Kirsty finally gets her prize

Up, up and away sailed her beautiful balloonall the way to Germany a total of 334 miles. Except Kirsty Eather-ton, whose name tag was on the balloon, knew nothing about it until our own super sleuth Peter Greene unearthed her in a series of bizarre searches.

The Facts of the situation:

- Kirsty's balloon travelled 334 miles to land near Dortmund.
- Nearest balloon also reached Germany – distance of 288 miles
- Next closest was 229 miles to the Netherlands.

He discovered that:

- It was Kirsty's father, Kevin who bought the balloon in her name at our balloon race stall at Mayflower's Summerfest.
 - Address given was in Devereux Way, Billericay. He checked that – nobody in and a "Sold" sign laying in the front garden
 - Trace of Kirsty's father, Kevin, through web sites, put him at Hannikins Farm where he had run the community association.
 - At Hannikins, Peter was told that the family (mother and father) had moved to France.
 - He obtained Kirsty's mobile number and reached her at the second attempt only to discover that:
 - Kirsty herself had moved – to Tiptree!
- Peter takes up the story: "I told her she had won the balloon race which came as a great surprise. I got the impression that her dad had forgotten to tell her about



buying the balloon. She was thrilled with the news – especially when I told her that she had won the £100 first prize."

Tuition fees

The story does not end there. On Monday, September 7, Kirsty and



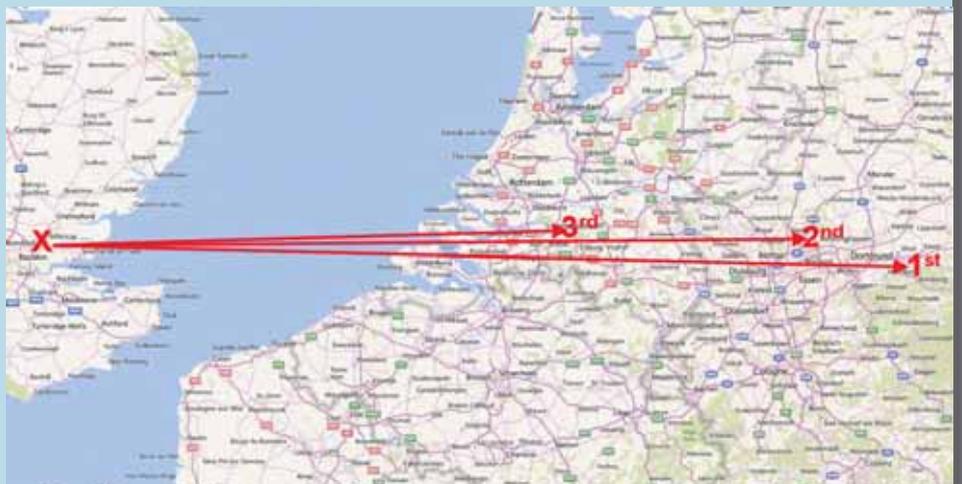
her friend Louise Marsh were our guests at lunch at Reids and president Ed handed over the cheque. Kirsty, aged 20, works in the area

as a full-time carer but "a good boss" gave her time off to join us. She is due to start a three-year course in psychology at the University of Essex. Asked what she would do with the money, her answer was as expected: "It will go towards my tuition fees".

A worthy response to a worthy Rotary venture and cause.

NB: As Peter explains: "This all started because the Billericay Gazette rang me to get Kirsty's contact details as they wanted to do a story about her and winning the race. Which again emphasises what an excellent and helpful relationship we have with the local press."

By Trevor Bond



Crossing Borders - Tack så Mycket Karlshamn



A Swedish Sojourn

As we reported a year ago, the Rotary Clubs of Billericay and Basildon have maintained international links with other European Rotary Clubs, starting with Beausoleil in 1965, and including Italy (Alba and last year also Ovada), and Sweden (Karlshamn) in more recent years. Following the very successful 2014 visit to Beausoleil, it was Alba's turn to host everybody in 2015. But plans changed, Karlshamn asked if they could host all the clubs this year, which would mean Alba would delay until 2016. Alba agreed because it would mean all clubs would be visiting Alba in 2016, the year of its 60th anniversary.

An Airport Experience

Six of us (Malcolm and Sue Acors, Chandra and Maya Gupta, and Peter and Wendy Greene) travelled down to Gatwick on Wednesday September 2, to stay overnight at a local hotel where they enjoyed an excellent Indian meal. The rest of the party, Ed and Margaret Harrison, Mike and Liz Sinclair, James and Debbie Ilesley, Keith and Gillian Wood, Patrick and Carol Rothon, Roger and Sarah Kettle, and Peter and Jeanne Robbins met

up at Gatwick in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Most of the party had an uneventful passage through security and passport control, but one pair had to undergo the indignity of a full scan, and an extensive search of their hand baggage. Eventually, we were all through and it was off to an airport restaurant for a tea or coffee and a speedy breakfast to set us up for the flight. All safely boarded and spread out across the plane, we had a delay of almost 3/4 hour before we were at last on our way. An augury of what was to come? Not a bit of it!

Faultless Arrangements

We arrived only slightly late at Copenhagen Airport, Denmark where we were met as expected by Bengt Norman, well known to us all from his visit to the UK exchange, and from last year's visit to Beausoleil. Bengt was in charge of all the arrangements for the visit of all the clubs.

He already had tickets for our

train but we had over half an hour before it departed so there was time for a snack. Some opted for a sandwich and a coffee (from W. H. Smith!), others choosing a hot-dog from a nearby stand (much to the amusement of some of the



party), or a Burger King snack, before we wandered down to the station and boarded the train for the two and a quarter hour journey to Karlshamn, on the southern coast of Sweden. No reserved seats, but we were all swiftly seated throughout the train and crossing the bridge to Sweden and our final destination.

Arrangements were faultless, we were met at Karlshamn station at



Crossing Borders (continued)

Thursday Arrival



Copenhagen Airport



Train to Karlshamn



Carl Gustavs Church



Welcome to Karlshamn

Friday



On the Bus!



This way to the Fish



It was this big!



Net-fishing for salmon



Here's one I caught earlier

Crossing Borders (... continued)

the appointed time, and conveyed by club members in their own cars to the "First Hotel" in the centre of Karlshamn, where we were all speedily checked in.

The first day - a welcome and a light meal

With four hours free time, most of the party opted for a walk around the town, taking routes down "Queen Street" for the shopping and the local tourist spots, while others took the riverside route. What a surprise - both ended up



at the same riverside bistro for a few drinks and crisps.

Then it was back to the hotel for a quick freshen up before all five visiting clubs - Alba (Italy), Basilidon (UK), Beausoleil (France), Billericay (UK), Ovada (Italy) - assembled in a hotel conference room for a welcome and a review of the Program, before retiring to the restaurant for a light meal (or



"not such a light meal" as Bengt remarked!), laid on by our hosts. and so to bed.

Salmon Fishing in Yemen Mörrum!

An early start on Friday as we had to be at the public bus stop by 10 minutes past 9 a.m. to catch the



local bus to Mörrum, site of the salmon fishing facility 6 miles away. Arrangements worked faultlessly and we were soon



walking down to the Laxenus for a tour of the facilities.

Split into two groups, one toured the museum to learn about the site - there had been fishing here since 1231 AD. There were exhibits



of fishing equipment through the ages, and models of record-breaking fish. The other group had crossed the river to see net-fishing and live salmon in the fish tanks. We all met up for a coffee



and a cake before retracing the other group's steps. Verdict - an informative and interesting visit. What next - back on the bus to

Karlshamn and we were all guests of the Rotary Club of Karlshamn at their weekly Friday lunch time meeting. A welcome from President Mrs Maivor Johnsson, and responses from the Presidents of all the visiting clubs, and an exchange of Rotary club pennants and gifts. Finally, a delicious



buffet lunch at the Gourmet Restaurant Grön and a few hours of free time to wander round the town and view the sights, and even the odd libation!

Heard the one about the Englishman, the Italian and the Swede?

That evening, it was "Home Hosting" by our Karlshamn fellow Rotarians as we were all split into multi-national groups to be entertained and fed in a true Karlshamn home. Fellowship, hospitality, great food, great conversation (sometimes with the aid of an iPhone Translation "App"). Altogether, brilliant evenings. (*More of our members' experiences in next month's issue*). And so to bed!

Saturday

No public transport this time, but a later start at 10.00 a.m. and a 45 minute coach ride to the marine museum at Karlskrona, to the



Crossing Borders (continued)

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning



All Seated for the Gala Dinner



President Ed's Speech



Beausoleil presentation to Karlshamn



Swedish Songsters



Lars Olafsson Smith reborn!



The sun didn't always shine

Crossing Borders (... continued)

east of Karlshamn. We assembled inside and most of us were split into two groups, each with a Guide, to make the numbers manageable. However, some opted for a self-service tour using the "App" in English, downloadable from the Museum website.

The museum gave a fascinating insight into Swedish naval development on the ground floor, ending in the Figurehead Hall.



The second floor comprised exhibits from the cold war era, complete with a simulation experience (which some of us tried) to pilot a warship out of harbour under gale conditions!



Safely negotiated it was lunch time. Tables reserved, seating provided, and local Swedish dishes on offer from a buffet in the Museum restaurant.



Finally, time for a tour of the submarine shed featuring Sweden's first submarine, the Hajen, dating from 1904, and the cold war era Neptun (which we were able to board) dwarfing the older Hajen. "Awesome!" as our American friends would say.



Then back on the coach for the trip back to Karlshamn to dress in our finest "Bib and Tucker" for the Gala Evening at the Gourmet Restaurant Grön.

A Gala Celebration

A short walk in the rain from the hotel to the restaurant, to be greeted by a crowded bar, and an elegantly laid out dining area complete with white table cloths, candelabras, and a really buzzing atmosphere.



Again, our Swedish hosts produced a table plan mixing English, Swedish, French and Italians and ensuring we had new table companions.

After a short introduction and



welcome from Bengt, we were all seated, drinks orders were taken and a short welcome address by Karlshamn President Maivor set us up nicely for our meal.



Pretty soon conversation was flowing across the national divides, and we were all enjoying the fellowship and the good food and drink.

What else? Time for presentation of gifts from the visiting club Presidents to our hosts, and short speeches of appreciation for such a well-run and not over stressful Program.

Saturday Serenades

Final event of the evening, each club led the group in a typical song from their country, in which everybody joined in gustily. The culmination, a choir from the Karlshamn club treating us, and what a treat, to a beautiful local song.



All good things ...

Sunday was the last day, and just time for a presentation on a renowned Swedish children's composer native to Karlshamn, and a talk by a resurrected Lars Olsson Smith, famed Karlshamn industrialist and inventor of "Absolut" Vodka. Then train, and plane, and car, home!

What a trip!

Still Carrying on Cruising

Homeward Bound - Mike Ginn completes his story and recalls Dublin delights

From Liverpool we went on to Dublin. The Captain had to back Britannia five miles up the Liffey so that we could dock close to the City Centre. There was a shuttle bus service all day to take us to the city centre. Just like in Belfast when we went to the Rotary Conference there, the people are unbelievably friendly. We experienced the same friendliness later in Cobh and Cork. There was even a leprechaun by a pillar box.



(He did say he was a leprechaun!)

In Dublin's fair City

We went on a "hop on hop off" bus round Dublin. While waiting for the bus to arrive, I took this picture of the façade of Trinity College, Dublin. I actually took it in three sections, but it has been stitched together using Photoshop

by a friend. To me this is a worthy façade for an academic institution. We were sad to leave Dublin, but overnight, we went on to Cobh.

In a Time Warp

This used to be called Queenstown and was an important base for the Royal Navy. It was also the last port of call for the Titanic.

Cork seemed to me to be a time warp. A train took us from Cobh to Cork. Probably Billericay at the time our club was founded looked a little like this.

Strange thing I noticed in Eire. There is no "red and amber" phase on the traffic lights. They go straight from red to green. But it was back to Cobh and then away to Guernsey. Overnight to Lands End. Then show off Britannia to the people of Penzance and Falmouth before setting off for St Peter Port.



There is about 25 feet of tidal rise and fall in Guernsey. Britannia had to anchor out on the bay and we were brought ashore by tender. It was OK on the journey in, but

the gangway to get down to the tender must have been at about 30 degrees on the return journey and was awkward. There was a massive statue of Prince Albert there.



(Queen Victoria's consort). I wondered if he had ever been there.

Carry On Cruising?

So, what did I think of cruising? There must have been about 100 wheelchair users on the ship and they were well looked after. The food was excellent. The cabins were comfortable but were slightly on the small side. We had an outside cabin with a balcony. We were on the 15th floor. (No kidding!) Our restaurant for breakfast was on the 16th floor. There was no staircase in the centre of the ship – only at the front and the back. So we had to take a lift despite only going one floor. The holiday overall worked for us. I would not travel again on Britannia. It is just too darned big, but I would definitely go cruising again. It was getting addictive.

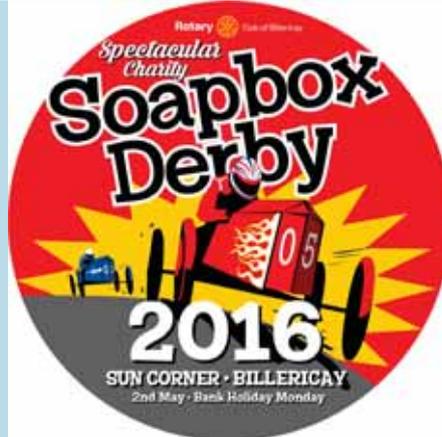


Soapbox Diary - All Aboard For The Biggest Event of 2016

Ready, Steady, Go, for the Ride of Your Life

Next year, Billericay's own Soap Box Derby will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 2 and the club is hard at work organising the biggest charity event it has held for many years.

President Ed Harrison says; "It is exciting but it will take a lot of hard work by all our members. But our sub-committee is already on the ball regarding putting in place the nuts and bolts before we consider the racing day itself."



That includes seeking sponsors and advertisers for a special programme, branding at the event and promoting the event.

The competition will be open to:

- Students (ages 12-21)

- Corporates (including schools, businesses, etc.)
- Wacky racers.

The Club already has permission from the Essex Highways Committee to close the race route - London Road from Sun Corner to Western Road cross-roads to vehicular traffic on the day.

Initial interest has been staggering, with over 50 entrants already stating their interest and some major sponsors already committing themselves to the event.

This is the first of a series of regular features on this event - watch this space for more details.

Fun and Fellowship

To prove that our Rotary lives are not just about raising money to support worthwhile causes, and mounting projects, we do sometimes let our hair down. Such an occasion was August Bank Holiday Monday when a party of 22, members, wives and friends, enjoyed an evening meal and conversation.

With no lunch that day (as the fifth Monday in the month) we met at the Beauvoir Arms at Downham for a splendid three-course dinner, wine and drinks.



It also served to acquaint ourselves with the venue to which we shall be returning on Sunday, November 1 for the annual **Charter Lunch**.

We were twenty two in the pri-

vate room. A little tight and some concern was expressed that it wouldn't accommodate the larger number of forty or so for the **Charter Lunch**. But organiser Norman Bishop has since met the managerial staff and has assurances that the room can be "opened up" to allow enough space.

Norman says: "The main restaurant would not be ideal on a Sunday when they are celebrated for their traditional Sunday roasts and already have parties booked. Also, we plan to have a speaker and that would prove difficult there."

Full details of the menu for the Charter Lunch have been circulated to members, and comprises:

Starters

Soup of the day

King prawns in a spicy picanta sauce, with toasted Italian bread.

Lightly Spiced Beer Batter Calamari, sweet chilli and lime mayo.

Avocado & Prawn Timbale with marie rose sauce endive salad.

Meatballs cooked in pomodoro sauce served with bread.

Bruschetta diced chicken with creamy spinach, oven roasted tomatoes and (vegetarian option too)

Baked Camembert, red onion & fig marmalade, toasted ciabatta

Mains

Pan Fried Fillet of Sea Bass

Chicken breast stuffed in mozzarella, sundried tomato and ham-wrapped courgette.

Chargrilled Rib Eye Steak .

Wild Mushroom Risotto (V)

King prawn, crab meat, crayfish and mussels in a tomato sauce.

Braised Lamb Shank with a vegetable medley, mash & red wine jus.

Penne Mediterranean mushrooms, spinach, sundried tomatoes, caramelized onions, feta cheese, pine nuts & a light vegetable broth. (V)

Dessert

Cheesecake - Tiramisu - Trio of Ice-cream's - Pannacotta

Members have been asked to identify their choices and either email Norman, or note them on a board being circulated at our Monday lunch time meetings.

Something to Brighten your Day

It comes to all of us ...

Couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair.

'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a large bowl of

ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a large bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm

certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I've got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

Club Tit-Bits

Congratulations to club members Chandra Gupta and Peter Strong on their birthdays this month.

Club Webmaster Peter Greene and District Webmaster David Cope conducted a workshop on September 19 titled "Getting the message out through Websites and Social Media". Objective was to encourage clubs in the District to make better use of these tools to publicize what their clubs do, and

to exploit the District Facebook Page and Twitter Feed. Approximately twenty Rotarians from around the District attended.

Most comments from the delegates were positive, including "Informal and informative", "Covered a lot more than I expected", "Really useful", "Well structured presentations that have provoked a lot of ideas", "Excellent content, well organised and relevant." What would they take away from the session,

"How much this is needed", "I am now on Twitter and looking forward to tweeting to more followers."

We are very sorry to hear about James Ilesley's illness and wish him a speedy and complete recovery. Flowers are being sent to him at home. Quilters School, with whom he has done such sterling work, made a point of expressing their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Rotary Club of Billericay - Forthcoming Club Meetings and Events

Location - Reids Billericay



We meet on Mondays at 12.45 for 13.00
If there is a fifth Monday in the month, please

check the website for information.

Reids, 66-68 Laindon Road, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9LD Tel: +44 1277 632378

Sept 28

Samantha Davis - the Dogs' Trust

October 5

Mike Dryland - Working the line - Greenwich Observatory and how it all came to nought

October 12

Fellowship Meeting

October 12 (6.30 pm)

Service Meeting and Club Council

October 19

Business Meeting

October 26

Barry Linger - Ambassador & Trustee J's Hospice - An update

Other dates for your diary:

November 1

Charter Lunch

November 11

Young Chef Competition (Billericay School)

December 6

Christmas Market