



Rotary Club of Billerica

News



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

February 2016

“Service Above Self”

President’s Message

May Day! May Day!



In This Month’s Issue

- 1/2 President’s Message
- 1 Contents
- 2 Sebastian Pallier
- 3 Soapbox Diary
- 4-7 Diary of a Novice Cruiser
- 7 Charities and Good Causes
- 8 Hope & Homes for Children
- 8 Club Events
- 9/11 What a Giggle
- 10 Masizame - a Uniform Thanks
- 11 Quilters Radio Grant
- 11 Rotary News goes Around
- 12. Brighten your day
- 12. Club Tit-bits
- 12. Forthcoming Events

Our big event of the year is the Soapbox Derby on Monday May 2. The logistics involved seemed quite formidable at the outset and, because we have never run an event quite like this before, the sub-committee chaired by Vice President Mike identified more issues as we went along! Significant progress has been

made on all fronts and we are confident that our offering will be well-received by the public, and will help to raise the profile of Rotary. We will require a lot of manpower on the day and it is very encouraging that we have received offers of support from local Rotary Clubs, as well as the Lions and Round Table. We will certainly need all the help we can get and the full commitment of our own Club Members.

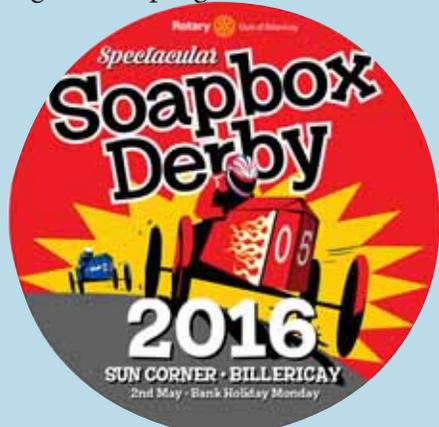
I have had one personal and special pleasure this month – presenting Peter Greene with a Paul Harris Fellowship Certificate and pin (see Page 9) in recognition of his tremendous contribution to Rotary at both Club and District level.

This was at a very successful Partners Meal on Monday February 22 at Giggling Squid, a Thai restaurant which opened recently in Billerica High Street. We were delighted to welcome Assistant Governor Nick Sillitoe and Jane, as well as three of our friends from Basildon Club - Don Smith, Peter and Lesley Townsend.

Welcome Terry

At Club Lunch on Monday February 1 our speaker was Simon Taylor who is Training Officer for the Billerica section of the Air Training Corps. We were also

(continued on next Page)



President's Message (continued)

pleased to welcome Peter Kent who has been involved with the ATC for many years, and Terry Rothery who will become our second Associate Member in the near future. Founder Member Ben Clarke kindly bought drinks to celebrate his birthday that day.

A Bridge too Far

The following Monday proved to be a somewhat frustrating day. Our speaker had to cancel her presentation at short notice and it was agreed that we should have a Fellowship Meeting instead.

In the morning VP Mike, Malcolm and I had driven to West Thurrock to meet a fencing contractor in connection with our Soapbox Derby. Unfortunately the Q.E. II Bridge had been closed due to high winds and we were stuck in a traffic jam on the M25. The meeting in West Thurrock



proved to be very successful, but we were on the road so long that we missed Club Lunch altogether! In our absence there was some discussion about the Club staging a public debate on whether we should leave or stay in the European Common Market. A case of watch this space.

At our Business Meeting on

February 15 members agreed a donation to Childreach International, a relatively small charity supporting a wide range of child health and education projects in some of the poorest regions in the world. We were contacted by Ashleigh Ellis, formerly a pupil at Mayflower High School and Westcliff High School for Girls, and a registered fundraiser for the charity.

Ashleigh is currently studying at Brunel University and will give a presentation at a club lunch later in the year.

Finally, as you digest this newsletter, we will be looking forward today to a presentation by Dawn Roche, a former member of the Dagenham Girl Pipers. Established in 1930, the Pipers were the first female pipe band in the world and are still going strong.

Sebastian Pallier

As promised, some more information on Sebastian Pallier's progress in fencing.

Since Christmas, Sebastian has been training 2 – 3 nights a week at Fencers Club London. He's also been invited to train with the GB senior squad at Hendon whenever they're there, something he's been doing on a regular basis.

Recently, Seb took part in the U17 and U20 British National Championships, over the weekend of the 5th/6th February. He came away with a silver in the U17 on the Saturday, and then followed it up with another silver in the U20 tournament the next day. As you'd expect, he was disappointed about not winning both, but he fenced very well and has learned some lessons to take forward.

We have had confirmation that



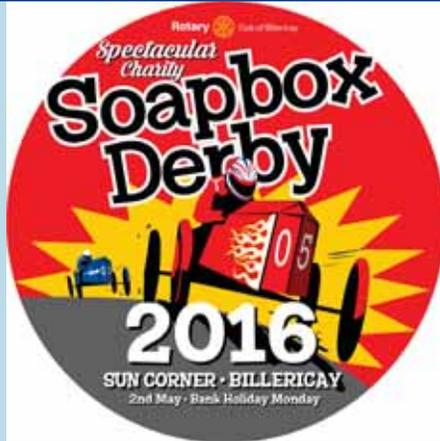
he has been selected for both the European and World Cadet (U17) championships. The first is as part of a four man team travelling to Novi Sad in Serbia, over the week of the 29th of February – where he'll go into the tournament as the British #1. The World's this year is in Bourges, France, at the beginning of April. As well as the GB squad coaches, they'll be sending out coaches from his club, to maximise his chances of success!

See the link below for a short video of a couple of the more spectacular hits from last weekend's competition, as well as a photo.

<https://www.btcloud.bt.com/?shareObject=f43b-c8fd-5806-0992-d0f7-ec76c6b0c.cab>

Thank you again for your support.

Soapbox Diary - All Aboard For The Biggest Event of 2016



Safety First – We’ve Done It!

So we are up and running and on for the big Club event of the year – the Soapbox Derby on Bank Holiday Monday, May 2.

Chaps and colleagues and all the family and friends you will bring along to our Spectacular Derby Day, here’s what we all wanted to know. Your super Soapbox committee have cracked the final problem.....safety above all.

Through Mike Sinclair, they have issued a report that puts in place their main concerns – safety barriers . It reads:

Just about eleven weeks to go to our Spectacular Soapbox Derby on Bank Holiday Monday, May 2. The countdown is under way.

We have placed the order for our innovative track safety barriers,



They will consist of seven metre long inflatable tubes which will link together on either side of the road for the whole length of the course from Sun Corner . As the committee says: “It might seem

Final barrier problem solved It’s all go for the Spectacular Soapbox Derby

excessive but we’re making the safety of our soapbox drivers and indeed, spectators of paramount importance.“

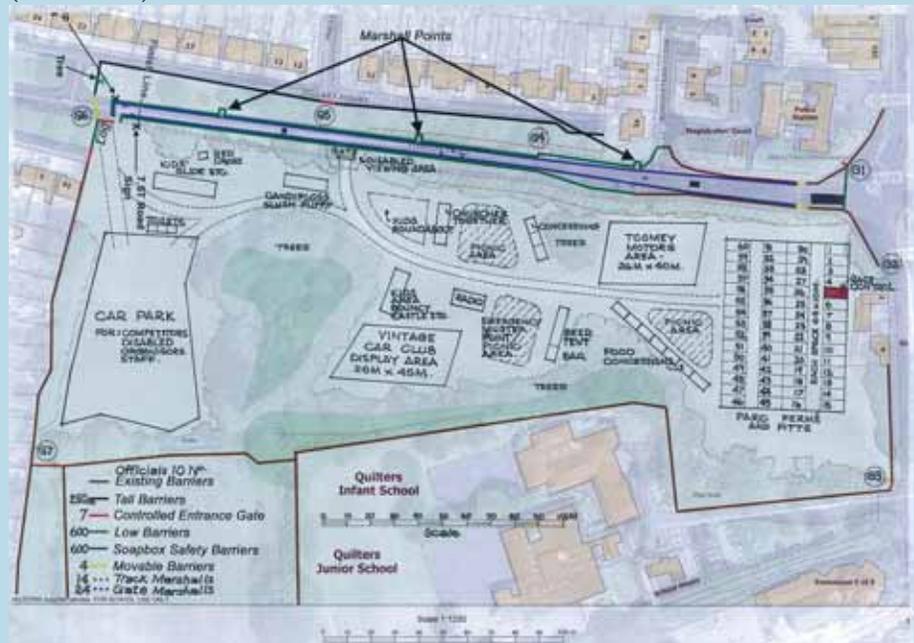
The tubes will also provide a great medium for businesses to promote themselves on the day. Enquiries may be made through the Rotary Club of Billerica website: www.billericayrotary.org

Our field plan is coming together (see below).

Toomey Motor Village Basildon. The soapboxes can also be viewed there.

Expect soapboxes of every description, each worth a cheer as they race down. And there are prizes for the wackiest as well as the quickest.

All in all, a great day out for the whole family is promised. Programmes will shortly be going on sale and can be obtained from



Children are being catered for while they wait for their favourite soapbox to take its turn down the track. Entertainments are planned for the field at Sun Corner and food and drink outlets will be on hand as well as displays of classic cars from the 40s to the 80s and also an array of new cars from our sponsors at

members of the Rotary Club of Billerica and at selected retail outlets. Enquiries may be made through the Club’s website.



The Cruise which captured National Headlines

brentwoodgazette.co.uk 01634 801461

News

Gazette, Wednesday, January 6, 2016 3

Parents will go to the ends of the Earth to see their daughter

Isle one of world's most remote spots

Guy Bell

guybell@brentwoodgazette.co.uk

A PAIR of doting parents will embark on a month-long boat trip to one of the world's most remote islands just to see their daughter - for one day.

A recent clear-out of clutter by Peter and Wendy Greene resulted in a speculative booking to take a 5,000-mile cruise to St Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean - almost equidistant from South America and Africa.

Daughter Helen Wallis set up a second life on the picturesque island after accepting a job teaching English there.

The Billericay-based family will be reunited for a matter of hours when they meet on the island ahead of the couple's return in March.

Wendy, 73, said: "I think we will be the only ones on the cruise who are going just for St Helena. A few months ago I was throwing some stuff out and I saw a leaflet for a cruise which mentioned Jamesstown, which is in St Helena. It left from Southampton and went to places like Porto and Madeira. I said why don't we go on the cruise and see Helen and Richard [Helen's husband], and Peter and Wendy.

The two had toyed with the idea of travelling to the island, which is situated between South Africa and Brazil, but had a nightmare booking flights and boat journeys. A flight to Cape Town with a connecting five-day trip across the South Atlantic Ocean is the only direct route to their daughter's home of three years.



WE CAN'T WAIT: Peter Greene and Wendy Greene packed and ready to go

only: We are only there for a day, it is nuts, but it is the only way we can get to see them before they leave.

St Helena's finest athletes took a ten-day trip to Glasgow for the 2014 Commonwealth Games and Peter is not underestimating the time he will be spending on the sea.

The ex-Ford worker said: "They are building an airport at the moment but it isn't certified for use yet. Helen and Richard were meant to come home for Christmas but the workers at the airport took up all the spaces on the boat.

"We speak to them monthly on Skype but the trouble is you have to be around the computer when they call. I always tell them to email me to say what time and to make it work."

Billericay Gazette Report

Club member Peter Greene and wife Wendy came across a cruise which would be calling at St. Helena, one of the most remote islands in the world, the island where their daughter was living.

They decided on the spur of the moment to visit her there - in the middle of the South Atlantic.

Before they left they were interviewed by the Billericay Gazette. Little did they know that news of their trip would get out and be reported on-line and in national newspapers.



Napoleon died in St Helena

- The island was founded in 1659 and has a population of around 4,300.
- It is famous as the place of Napoleon Bonaparte's exile and death.
- Islanders hold an annual race up the 699 steps of Jacob's Ladder.
- Saint Helena is Britain's second-smallest overseas territory after Bermuda.
- The capital of the island is Jamestown.
- It measures just 47 square miles.
- It has very little crime.



Parents plan 10,000-mile round trip to spend ONE day with their daughter

Peter and Wendy Greene are planning to board a cruise to visit their daughter, Helen Wallis, who is a teacher on the remote island of St Helena



Mrs Greene added: "If you manage to get a place on the boat, you still have to make sure it links up with the flight, otherwise you will be stuck."



Excited Mr Greene has spent the last three years speaking to his daughter on Skype and admitted the lack of an airport made the challenge of visiting the island a daunting one.



The cruise departs from Southampton this month and also takes in Madeira, Tenerife, Praia as well as the South African coastal destinations of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban.

Doting parents are planning a 10,000-mile round trip - to make sure they spend ONE day with their daughter.

Peter and Wendy Greene are planning to board a cruise to take in the remote island of St Helena, in the South Atlantic Ocean, where daughter Helen Wallis works as an English teacher. The family, from Billericay, Essex, will be reunited for a matter of hours when they meet on the island in March.

Wendy, 73, said: "I think we will be the only ones on the cruise who are going just for St Helena. "A few months ago I was throwing some stuff out and I saw a leaflet for a cruise which mentioned Jamesstown, which is in St Helena. "It left from Southampton and went to places like Porto and Madeira [so] I said to Peter: "Why don't we go on the cruise and see Helen and Richard?"

The pair had previously toyed with the idea of travelling to the island, which is situated between South Africa and Brazil, but found it hard to book connecting flights and boat journeys. A flight to Cape Town, on the west coast of South Africa, with a connecting five-day trip across the South Atlantic Ocean is the only direct route to their daughter's home of three years.

There is currently no usable airport on the island - known as the place where Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled and died.

The mum-of-three also revealed the island is so remote that she has to send her Christmas presents to Helen in October. "We sent them too late last year and they had to have Christmas in January," she said. "There is no way of telling the things you send get there and you just have to rely on them letting you know."

The loving parents were sad to see Helen, 36, leave for the tiny island to begin her job with the St Helena Government in April 2012.

Husband Richard, originally from Zimbabwe, is now an editor at a St Helena newspaper.

Read more: [The Mirror visits St Helena on historic Royal Mail Ship](#)

The pair's stint in St Helena was due to come to an end in September, but Helen was asked to stay while the school searched for a suitable replacement for her.

The 70-year-old said: "There are only around 4,000 people on the island.

"Because there are so few people there is no crime and everyone knows each other.

"We are only there for a day, it is nuts, but it is the only way we can get to see them before they leave." The ex-Ford worker added: "They are building an airport at the moment but it isn't certified for use yet.

"Helen and Richard were meant to come home for Christmas but the workers at the airport took up all the spaces on the boat.

"We speak to them monthly on Skype but the trouble is you have to be around the computer when they call. "I always tell them to email me to say what time and to make it work."

Diary of a Novice Cruiser

Extracts from Mrs. Greene's Diary

How did it happen?

St Helena is said to be one of the most remote inhabited islands on earth. It is where Napoleon was sent to end his days – no escape. Our daughter Helen has been teaching there since 2012.

The only way to reach the island, is via the mail boat RMS St. Helena. All visitors and supplies to the island arrive via this boat. There is only one. It leaves Cape Town and sails for five days to reach St Helena. It stops there for a day before sailing for three days to Ascension Island, stops for day and then three days back to St. Helena. Only then can visitors return (another five days at sea) to Cape Town. It's an expensive three weeks.

We attempted to go there in December 2014 but found it too difficult to organize and decided to visit when the airport is ready to accept passengers. Helen and her husband Richard would have left by then. ***(I think their plan was for us to pay for them to come with us – Peter)***.

Just before Christmas I was throwing out some old magazines. One had a cruise advertised on the back and I spotted "Jamestown"



as one of the stops. Jamestown is the main town on St. Helena. To be brief, we decided to book the cruise. There was a snag – we would have to sail for 30 days in order to spend a few hours on St. Helena. This would be too crazy

for most people, but we are probably more crazy than most. ***(Absolutely!! – Peter)***. I also dislike boats and expanses of sea.

Day 2 - the News gets out

The Bay of Biscay in a Gale. Peter is seasick. I am OK, although it's difficult to stay upright.

When we boarded there was a familiar face in the queue – someone from television. He's listed as one of the lecturers -John Sandon from Antiques roadshow. Good.

Before we left, we agreed to be interviewed by the Billericay Gazette ***(They had been told about our trip by a certain club member for PR who shall be nameless, but we didn't want to upset them since they have been so helpful to Rotary! - Peter)***. Nobody will see it, we thought. Our mistake! Today, we see that my niece has posted on Facebook that the Daily Mirror has published the story on-line. She nearly fell off her chair as she read about the "devoted" parents who are travelling 10,000 miles to see their daughter for a day "My God, that's my Auntie!". And it's in the Daily Mail too.

Day 4 - Half a day in Porto -



We get soaked to the skin.

Day 5 A day in Madeira - Lovely island and the sun comes



out. Lunch at Reid's - beautiful.

Day 6 - A day in Tenerife - Beautiful Scenery. Hot weather.



Day 8/9 Cape Verde Islands - Islands a welcome relief from the boat – beautiful scenery, colourful people, colourful buildings and



washing lines. I got some odd looks when I said "Oooh! look at that lovely washing line".

"Sail Away Deck Party" leaving Sao Vicente for Santiago.



Unfortunately, Peter was taken ill with Norovirus and had to return to the boat whilst on a tour of Santiago. We are both confined to our cabin for two days. Fortunately, we have a balcony. ***(WiFi Hot-Spot on the balcony so I was happy! - Peter)***. Six days, seven nights before we get to St. Helena.

Day 13 - Freedom!

Released from our cabin at last – I did not get the virus but many have. *(continued on next page)*

Diary of a Novice Cruiser (cont.)

Day 16 - Still at Sea -

Peter has become a solver of iPad problems, with a following of some of the women – some passengers are not sure who exactly is his wife. British night tonight. Peter wears his Union Jack Tie.

Day 18 - St. Helena -

The boat cannot dock here – we have to go ashore by Tender. Peter and I made sure we were at the front of the queue, as getting to St. Helena was the main purpose of our trip. At 8.15 we boarded the first boat. We wondered how

some of the disabled people would manage. Unfortunately, the crew failed to moor the boat and returned us to the cruise ship – cries of disappointment all round. This could **NOT** be happening!

After two hours the Captain decided to take a tender across himself, discarding anybody with mobility problems. This time we made it, although getting off the boat was a bit hairy. Helen and Richard met us, accompanied by the Bishop of St Helena. Helen told us she had got him to use his professional “pull” to pray that we

would get ashore – it worked! Helen and Richard had arranged a comprehensive tour of the island for us, beginning with a visit to the new airport (not yet operational). It was out of bounds to everyone else. We saw the almost extinct Wire bird, only found on St. Helena (*we saw five of them, and our guide quipped, you’ve seen half the world’s population!* – Peter). Then there was Napoleon’s last abode, Jacob’s Ladder (we watched others climb), and the island’s most famous resident – Jonathan,

(continued on next page)

Photo Montage of St. Helena



Approaching Jamestown, St Helena



Dolphins in the Harbour



Entrance gate from the port



Airport - Finished but not Certified



Jacob's Ladder (699 Steps)



Napoleon's Last Residence



A Wire Bird



Jonathan and companions

Charities and Good Causes Supported

The club has been very busy raising funds for good causes during this Rotary Year. With the inclusion of the donations of over £3140 agreed at the Christmas Lunch, nearly £6,700 has been donated to the following:

- Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled
- The Royal British Legion
- To Chloe Gallagher attending the Australian Scout Jamboree (with a promise to talk to us about her experience)
- Chernobyl Children's Life Line
- Hope and Homes for Children
- Dogs Trust
- Lennox Children's Cancer

- Fund
- South Woodham Ferrers Club Charity Account to help them complete a project in The Gambia
 - The J's Hospice.
 - Orbis
 - NARA (the breathing charity)
 - Shelterbox Trust £590

In addition, we agreed donations at the Christmas lunch of:

- Water Aid £201.78
- Chernobyl Children's Lifeline £385
- 3rd Burstead Guides £100
- St. Luke's Hospice £255
- Marys Meals £700

- Rotary Foundation UK End Polio Now £1,000
- Cumbria Flood Relief to the Rotary Donations Trust £500
- Masizame Children's Shelter £500.
- Additionally we have sponsored Young Chef competition for £50 and paid £100 to the Town Council as a contribution towards the Xmas Lights.

And finally, we have successfully applied for and received a District Rotary Grant of £2480 which has now been presented to Quilters Junior School to fully fund its radio station (see report Page 11).

Diary of a Novice Cruiser (cont.)

at least 183 years old and the oldest creature on earth. The island is very beautiful and rich in wildlife and marine life. Some islanders are unhappy at having an airport as it might interfere with their very relaxed way of life. They are not materialistic, they only want to earn enough to live on. Restaurants generally only open if somebody has booked. Waiting time to be served could be 30 minutes, or two hours. Our lunch - an hour.

We are so pleased to have experienced the island before Helen and Richard leave. They will holiday in South Africa and then Miami, before returning to the UK.

But in August they are going to work in China!!!

Should we be booking a berth in a slow boat to China? - Not me!

Day 21 - Rotary

This morning I noticed some tables set up for lunch with notices on them saying "Rotary". Peter made enquiries and "yes", the tables are for members of Rotary. Well, it is Monday!

We were on a table with a very

round (like a ball) Rotarian who had been a Girl Guide Leader and



could make a dinner from scratch in the open on an open fire made from wood she had collected. She was also an OFSTED inspector!

Official entertainment on the boat is a bit "iffy". Peter has commented that he can now see what Simon Cowell means when he tells contestants on X Factor "You should stick to Cruise Ships".

There is a nightly quiz. We've teamed with a Wing Commander, his wife Judy, and a group of very nice Dutch people. They don't know many answers but are very nice and one is from Liverpool so she's useful for Beatles questions.

Day 23 Namibia -

We have had two stops in Namib-



ia. Some people think they have "done" Namibia - I think not, but what we did see was great. Flocks of Flamingos, huge Sand Dunes,



the oldest plant (2,500 years old) in the world. Further south, a



complete "Ghost Town" being taken back by the desert.

**What about Burns Night?
How did Peter's brother appear? What new best friends did we make? How did Edwina Currie feature?
Chaos at the airport!
Watch This Space in March for a final instalment.**

Hope and Homes for Children

Unlocking Futures - Our Thanks to Rotary



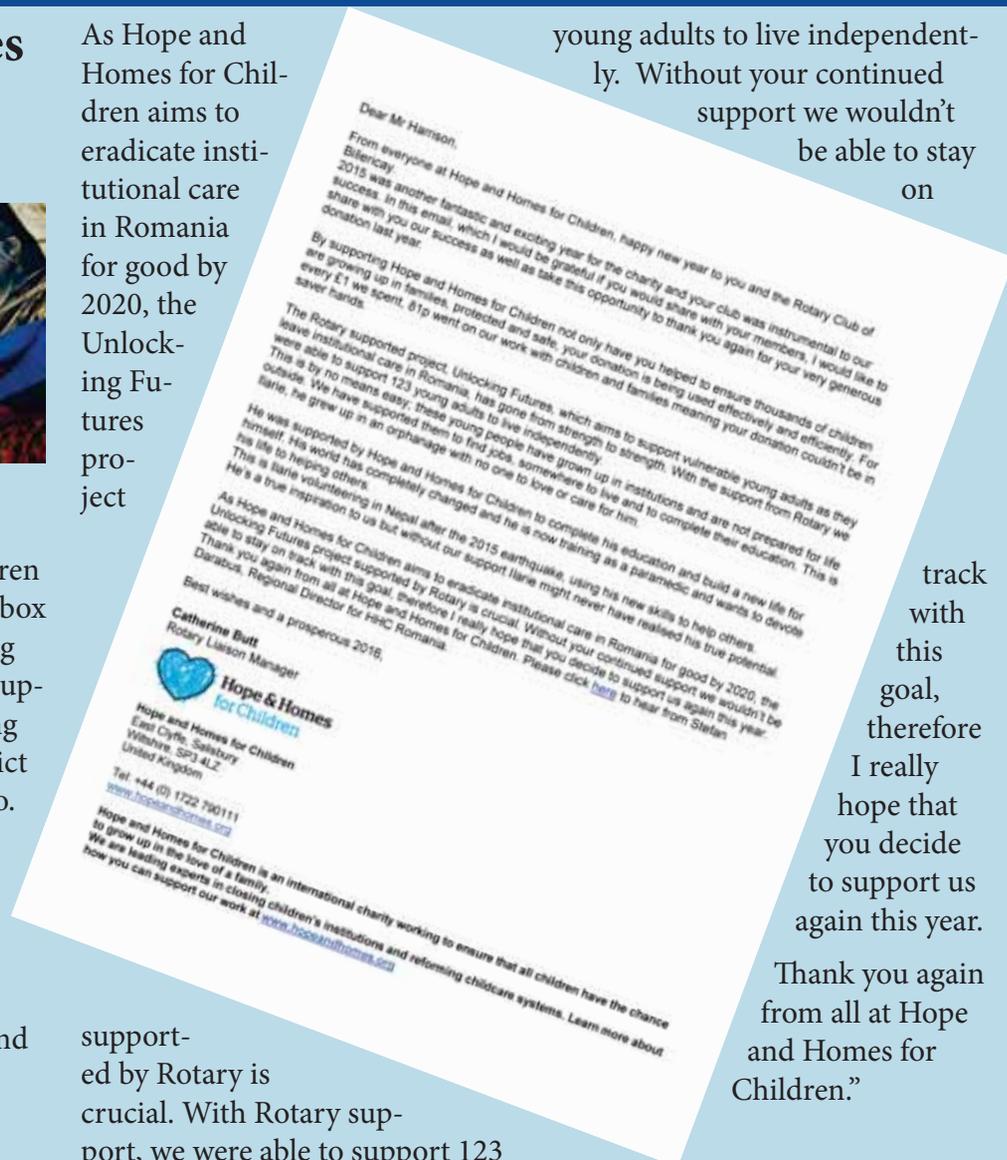
Llarie - ex-Orphan and now training as a paramedic

Hope and Homes for Children is one of our chosen Soapbox Derby charities. Our club, along with other Rotary clubs, have supported this charity over the long term, and it is one of our District Governor's chosen charities too. We were delighted recently to receive a message of thanks from Catherine Butt, their Rotary Liaison Manager. She says: "I would like to share with you our success in 2015 and thank you again for your very generous donation last year.

As Hope and Homes for Children aims to eradicate institutional care in Romania for good by 2020, the Unlocking Futures project

supported by Rotary is crucial. With Rotary support, we were able to support 123

young adults to live independently. Without your continued support we wouldn't be able to stay on



track with this goal, therefore I really hope that you decide to support us again this year. Thank you again from all at Hope and Homes for Children."

Club Events



Royal Opera House Visit

Following our enjoyable visit to the Royal Opera House workshops at Purfleet in 2015, we are going for the big one in 2016 - to tour the ROH on its home site- at Covent Garden. A party of 20 members and friends have signed up for the visit on Friday May 27 at 12.30 pm with the promise of

a super lunch afterwards at one of Covent Gardens/Fleet Street's famous watering holes.... Rules, the Cheshire Cheese, - members choice.

Any queries please come back to Trevor Bond on 01277 651708.

Supporting Each Other In Rotary

I am not sure we can compete with our good friends in the Basildon Club re staging events but we are delighted to promote their programme in our newsletter. So here is a list of their events which speak for itself.

We wish them financial success with all their events. They are

The Rotary Club Of Basildon		Forthcoming 2016 events	
4 MAR 2016	FABULOUS RACE NIGHT! 8.30pm - 10.00pm Any Children 8 Chaps incl. Bring your own drink. (Please Mail Community Mail, London. Only £8.00 per ticket.		
17 MAR 2016	An evening talk by JIM BUTTRESS £14.00 including 2 course meal.		
8 APR 2016	Comedy Night 3.30pm - 10.00pm An evening of top Magic with 4-10 magicians. Table magic & Cabaret. Meal included. Children welcome.		
21 APR 2016	St. George's Day Celebrations & Quiz Night. All welcome. £14.00 including 2 course meal.		
13 MAY 2016	An evening of top Magic with 4-10 magicians. Table magic & Cabaret. Meal included. Children welcome. £17.50 Adults £12.50 Children		
All our events take place at The Langdon Hills Golf Club, Lower Dunton Road, RM14 5TY unless otherwise stated.		For more information and to book places speak to any club member or please call 07970379985	

good friends and it would be good to support them where we can.

What a Giggle!

Partners' Dinner Our Fun Night

As we have often said, we know when to let our hair down. Monday, February 22 was no exception when we filled a long table of members and friends at the Giggly Squid Thai restaurant in the High Street.

No speeches – well, just one (see special panel) when president Ed presented Peter Greene with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Mike and Sue Ginn, and Jan and Trevor Bond “chaired” one end of the table with Nick Sillitoe and his lovely wife, Jane, from the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower, Basildon’s Peter Townsend and wife Lesley, and old friend Don Smith.



Conversation flowed at our end as it will have done all along the assembled lines. Nick, who will be District Governor in two year’s time, regaled us with tales of his moving from Waitrose in Bishops Stortford to manage the newly-opened Billericay branch.

Now retired, he admits he came in with some “fresh” ideas which “seemed to go down well at the time”. He is now also a member of The Bench, a magistrate at Basildon and Southend (some comparison exchanges made with



For Peter From Paul In Fellowship

How do you keep a secret? With difficulty. We members all had to when President Ed told us back in January that Peter Greene was being awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for his brilliant work on establishing our two years in succession award-winning website.

We were helped that Peter could not attend any meetings in January since he and Wendy were somewhere in the South Atlantic on a cruise that took them into St Helena for ONE day to see their daughter and son-in-law and a return to South Africa – a voyage that grabbed newspaper headlines locally and internationally (see wonderful spread of their exciting trip on Pages 4, 5 and 6).

our own Patrick Rothern, three places along on the table, who sits at Chelmsford).



Nick told us: “I sit mostly on family cases involving parental disagreements. Most times it is as simple as suggesting they go outside, knock their heads together and agree. It often works.”

Between us we discussed train journeys we have loved (what else when you sit with Mike Ginn), West Ham United and the move to the Olympic Stadium in August,



Editor Trevor Bond adds: “I was with Peter at lunchtime on Monday discussing the newsletter contents. Mum was the word and I realised that Peter had no idea of what the evening would bring. I am thrilled for him – he is a great collaborator, great friend and thoroughly deserves his Fellowship citation.”

President Ed Harrison echoed all this when making the presentation to our 2016-17 Vice-president, a gob-smacked Peter on Monday night – a fitting moment.

travel and, above all, the great relationship the two Billericay Rotary clubs now share.

How delighted we are to share such exchanges with our Rotary friends. If conversation in the middle and at the other end of the table was as amusing and as interesting, as the saying goes: A good time was

had by all.



From someone who has never tasted the delights of Thai food, I could not (continued on page 11)

Masizame - A Uniform Thank you



PROTECTING CHILDREN OF PLETTENBERG BAY SINCE 1992

Our support for the Masizame Child and Youth Care Centre in Kwanokuthia, South Africa, has been recognised in an email to our club. (Members may recall that Peter and Wendy Greene, personally visited the centre in Plettenberg Bay in December 2014.) We are delighted to circulate it in our newsletter for all club members and friends to read.



The centre has been protecting children since 1992. In 2014 it received over £1,000 in our club's name to fund school uniforms, helping enable the children's wish to attend school.

In December 2015, we donated

another £500. Nicholas Coleman, Marketing and PR Officer for the Centre, writes: "The staff and children of the Masizame Child & Youth Centre would like to thank you for the generous donation of R 10,772 for the purchase of school uniforms for the children. We are firm believers in the power of education and uphold the rights of our children to receive an education by ensuring that all school going residents of the Masizame CYCC attend formal schooling.

"I am delighted to announce that all the children have attended school without disruption in the school year. With the exception of three special needs children, all the others are holding their own and progressing as per standard at school. Some who were really struggling in Term 1, had tears of joy when they passed their Term 2 assessments.



Our first donation- uniforms for 2015

"The school uniforms you sponsored last year, made a tremendous impact on their self-esteem. From their first day, their self-image has given them the confidence to face their schooling challenges. Our photographs of them on their first day at school say it all.

"Our need for school uniforms is a year-end priority Which is why we appreciate your Club's kind donation of £500 in 2015, We are preparing for three new intakes into residential care and our existing children will need new uniforms. We do redistribute any too-small or past uniforms, laundered, to other community welfare organisations,

We thank The Rotary Club of Billericay for helping to protect and educate the vulnerable children of Plettenberg Bay through such donations."



MCYC children in 2016 Uniforms



Formosa School 2016 Uniform

RotaKids Venture Now Fully Funded

On Air! Quiltonians Granted Their Dream Ticket

Wednesday, January 20 was a red-letter day for Quilters Junior School – and for us. It saw President Ed Harrison present a cheque for £2,480 to the school's RotaKids President as the final instalment to help them establish their ambitious and successful "Quiltonians" radio station.

Having launched the thriving RotaKids Club at the school in November 2014, we initially donated £1,572 to help the station purchase the sound-desk needed for it to be set up. But the balance of the equipment required had been funded from school funds. This

needed to be replaced since it was from the funds dedicated to books and learning materials.

On that basis we applied for a Rotary District Grant and, happily, it was agreed. Current District Youth Service Chairman and Past District Governor Peter Dowse, who had presented the RotaKids Club charter in 2014, attended the cheque hand-over at the school's morning assembly and spoke about how District funds work.

The station records and broadcasts every two weeks with the help of a technician on loan from PhoenixFM. Each broadcast is approximately an hour long and a mix of stories, interviews, jokes and features compiled and recorded by the pupils. Major interviewees have been local MP, John



Baron, snooker legend Steve Davies and Lauren & Lewis Platt (X-Factor and Britain's Got Talent finalists).

In our application for the grant, we stressed: "As the first chartered RotaKids club in our District, we should support its first major initiative. We want the club and the radio station to succeed and, having seen the enthusiasm of the Kids in recording and operating the station, we are convinced this is a very worthwhile cause which Rotary in our District should support."



Rotary News goes around!

Not least with our close friends in Beausoleil and Ovada, who are sharing their Newsletters with us. International Fellow-

ship at work. No, we can't translate them either but some of our club members can. Great to receive this from our International friends.

What a Giggle (cont.)

believe the volume, the options and above all, the delicacy. Fitting dishes piled high with duck, chicken, beef, prawns and noodles took much manoeuvring of glasses, plates, water jugs – a real challenge! Speaking for our small section, Jan loved it, Mike Ginn couldn't resist keeping dipping into the chicken curry and Nick ate for all of us. Verdict: Delicious!

Restaurant staff were brilliant, atmosphere great. A superb night out. Sure you all agree.

Our thanks to Mike Ginn for arranging. Five stars, Mike.



Something to Brighten your Day

It's an old one but a good one ???

Medical advice

- Do you have feelings of inadequacy?
- Do you suffer from shyness?
- Do you sometimes wish you were more assertive?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, ask your doctor about **Cabernet Sauvignon**.

Cabernet Sauvignon is the safe, natural way to feel better and more confident about yourself and your actions. It can help ease you out of your shyness and let you tell the world that you're ready and willing to do just about anything.

You will notice the benefits of Cabernet Sauvignon almost immediately and, with a regimen of regular doses, you can overcome

any obstacles that prevent you from living the life you want to live.

Shyness and awkwardness will be a thing of the past and you will discover many talents you never knew you had.

Stop hiding and start living.

Cabernet Sauvignon may not be right for everyone. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not use it. Women who wouldn't mind nursing or becoming pregnant are encouraged to try it.



Side effects may include: Dizziness, nausea, vomiting, incarceration, loss of motor control,

loss of clothing, loss of money, loss of virginity, delusions of grandeur, table dancing, headache, dehydration, dry mouth, and a desire to sing Karaoke and play all-night rounds of Strip Poker, Truth Or Dare, and Naked Twister.

Warnings:

- The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may make you think you are whispering when you are not.
- The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.
- The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to think you can sing.
- The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

Club Tit-Bits

Birthdays - Congratulations to four club members - Ben Clarke (1), Bert French (16), Peter Greene (21) and James Ilesley (23)

on their birthdays in February. *****

Questions on a Cruise Ship Quiz
One night, one of the official questions was:

“What two elements make up Sulphuric Acid?”

Only two elements ???!!?
Much audience hilarity. *****

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

February 29

Dawn Roche - Dagenham Girl Pipers

March 7

Special Soapbox Derby Meeting

All club members if possible

March 10

Visit to Billericay Mayflower Club

March 14

Ruth Andoh Baxter – SENSE

March 14 (6.30 pm - Unbar Rothon)

Joint Services Meeting & Club Council

March 21

Business Meeting

March 28

Bank Holiday - No Meeting

April 4

Katie Wilkie - Cater Museum

Other dates for your diary:

May 2

Soapbox Derby

May 27

Royal Opera House Visit