



### President’s Message

### A Long Day In The Market Place



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Our contribution to the Billericay Christmas Market on Sunday December 6 began a festive period of much activity at a time for reflection rather than action. The market was well-supported by the public but, as usual, it was a long day for us.

Tasks include erecting and dismantling marquees, selling raffle tickets and writing out the ticket stubs. Malcolm had arranged a bar providing gluhwein and music, and his family and friends were there in force to support our efforts; we are very grateful to them all for their help. Members of the Interact Club and Rotakids also provided valuable help, and the

Rotakids were very pleased to be photographed with RIBI President Peter Davey and District Governor Alan Clark. Special thanks also to Patrick, Peter Greene, James and Roger who were with me from the small hours until the clearing up. This year we were also promoting our Soapbox Derby and, with two soapboxes on display, this proved a real attraction.

The following day at Monday lunch, our own Trevor Stansfield gave an interesting talk on Amateur Radio and on the following Monday we had our Partners Christmas Meal kindly arranged by Norman Bishop. From the proceeds of the raffle and bar, various

donations were agreed - £1,000 to “End Polio Now”, £590 for another ShelterBox, £500 to the Masizame Children’s Shelter (for new school uniforms), £500 to the Rotary Donations Trust to help with flood relief in Cumbria, and £201.78 to WaterAid (this donation will be doubled by the U.K. Government). The winners in the 100 Club Draw were Ken Smith (£100), Peter Strong (£75), Mike Ginn, Trevor Bond and Steve Dodge (£50 each).

#### **District Grant**

Our New Year message on January 4 was given by Rev Daniel Pierce, and we were joined by Mrs Sue Ginn and Terry Rothery. On the 11th (continued on next Page)

## President's Message (continued)

our speaker was Rotarian Grayson Nolan who is a Member of Brentwood Club and a Doctor of Chiropractic. On the 18th we were pleased to welcome Patrick's son Richard to our Business Meeting; a small donation to Friends of Lake Meadows Photographic Competition 2016 was agreed. On Wednesday January 20 PDG Peter Dowse (the current District

Youth Service Chairman), Malcolm and I attended an assembly at Quilters Junior School. Our application for a District Grant had been successful and I was pleased to present a cheque for £2480 to the President of Rotakids (see next month's fuller report). I was also pleased that PDG Peter was able to join us as he had been very supportive of our application

to District. After assembly, Tom Acors took photographs. We welcomed Brenda Wilson to our Fellowship Meeting on January 25. Rev Margaret Fowler kindly bought drinks to celebrate her birthday yesterday and a small donation to Lady McAdden Breast Screening Trust was agreed. Members were given an update on our Soapbox Derby.

## Caption Competition

### When Roger met Clive

Club member Roger Kettle moves in exalted circles! At a recent meeting with England Rugby ex-Manager Clive Woodward, Clive was quick to ask Roger for his advice. (At least we think that was what it was about.

On the other hand, maybe they were talking about this innovative new competition launched this week in our Club Newsletter.

As Clive seems to be thinking, we do hope you can come up with

a better caption than us of what these two said at their meeting. Come on, get those February brain cells working! The winner will have their contribution published in next month's newsletter, with all the worldwide fame which comes with that achievement. Don't rest on your laurels! What inspirational (or just plain funny) exchange can you come up with. Send your contributions by email to the editor, Trevor Bond,



at his normal email address by February 21st, 2016.

## Inner Wheel Report

### *Flood Plight, Cathedral Concert and a Golf Day?*

Hello Rotarians  
It has been a quiet period for us. But, in arranging our own events, we did not lose sight of the plight of others. The flooding in the North has been awful and I know Rotary and Inner Wheel have helped with fund raising as well as practical help. I suspect we cannot imagine it totally but we pray that those unfortunate people soon have the chance to get back to some semblance of normality. In December some members

attended the joint Inner Wheel/Rotary concert at Chelmsford Cathedral. We enjoyed especially the Performing Arts/Mushroom Theatre company performance and the beautiful singing of the Witham Choral Society. There was also mention of the lovely mini orange muffins in the interval – all in, a wonderful event.

For our Christmas lunch on December 9 we chose to go golfing. Well, not exactly to trudge round



18 holes but enjoy the hospitality with guests at Channels Golf Club in Chelmsford. If we had chosen to swing a club, conditions were perfect - a mild and sunny day with the wide sweep of the greens around us. Beyond us! So inside, tables set, not a private room but plenty of space and excellent arrangement. Lovely food and very efficient and cheerful staff. Occasion to meet up with old friends and, yes, a Christmas cracker to launch the festive season. From Inner Wheel, we all send you our best wishes for a happy New Year and success in all your projects.

*By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel special correspondent*

## Speakers' Corner

What is fascinating about being in Rotary, you only discover after chatting over lunch for a long period that the member you are joined with “at the hip” has a secret life – well almost!



I have sat with the “other Trevor” - Stansfield by name - over almost six years of club lunches. Never once has he mentioned that he was a “Ham” or to be polite, an Amateur Radio Geek!

How many of us knew that he had a “Jack the Shack” in his back garden? A Jack the Shack? It is an eight foot by six foot space where he transmits to friends and amateur radio chatterers all over the world. He showed some of his equipment as he talked us through

### *The Radio Secrets in Jack The Shack!*

it at club lunch on December 7. Far too technical for some of us mere mortals to grasp. But the brilliant technical ones amongst us were thrilled, delighted and enthralled by Trevor’s know-how, expertise and knowledge.

OK, he lost me with talk of Megahertz and why one aerial will work and another one will not, but everyone hung on his words about the history of amateur

radio – how it contributed to maritime safety through lightships and other stations such as policing and ambulance services.

Trevor is a Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society member – how many of us knew that?

Chatting to astronauts in space, involved with the London Olympics in 2012 and, coming up to date, links with Phoenix FM.

As he said: “Initially it was all analogue. Now it is digital as we become a digital society.. So, what next – the Moon?”



## The New Year Message from Rev. Daniel Pearce

A famous philosopher once said: “Where ambition ends, happiness begins.” Rev. Daniel Pearce, in his 2016 New Year message on January 4, didn’t agree.”

Daniel (hardly entering the Lions’ Den) added: “I believe in ambition which is why I have chosen it as my topic today. I want my children to have ambition. Everyone should have ambition. It does not have to be to someone or something powerful .... to be a professional footballer at the age of seven but at that age you do not have a plan B. Ambition alone

### *Ambition Not Fear in 2016*

is not harmful. It can be a good thing if it overcomes pride and prejudice and vanity.

Ask ourselves: “What does God want us to do? I like to think he wants us all to have ambition, to

make the most of our talents, to use them for good.”

Recently joining the ministry in Billericay from a post in Teeside, he cited actor Martin Sheen, screen star of Apocalypse Now etc. and of the great TV series, The West Wing, as his model of a person using ambition to take him from a poor life into a good one.



He flourished Sheen’s biography and urged: “Read it. As a child he suffered loss of parents, abuse, poverty, yet became determined to raise himself from all that to be someone. I

## Speakers' Corner (continued ...)

admire his ambition.”

He admitted that he went through a mid-life crisis – “not so much sex, drugs and Rock ‘n Roll, but more wine, women and song”, before his own ambition to find God led him the priesthood. “I urge you to still have ambition through kindness, generosity and friendship.”

Priests make no secret of their secular loves – football. Paul Carr, our stalwart member for many



years, was a Sunderland supporter and how we ribbed him about

that. Daniel hails from Teeside. Who else but Middlesbrough! “My dad came from Manchester and was a big United fan. But our years on Teeside have made all my family Boro’ fans. What a season we are having.”

In 2016, Sunderland down and Middlesbrough promoted?

That’s not ambition – that’s time to get out the prayer mat!

Our sincere thanks to Rev. Daniel for an uplifting message.

**Sit up straight, boys – don’t slouch!** Remember how often we were told that in the schoolroom of our youth?

Some many years on, the message was repeated by Dr Grayson Nolan, a member of the Brentwood Rotary Club and now running his own chiropractor practice in Billericay when he addressed us on January 11.

Dr Nolan began by producing a board under the main headline “Back Pain” and listing every cause from body joints to frozen shoulders, to hip and knee osteoarthritis to general complaints, which prompted one nameless

### *Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones*

member to say: “Dr Nolan, I suffer from everything on that list!”

He was enlightening in explaining how the key parts of the spinal system works with skeleton models of the areas of spine which act and counter-act with the complaint in question

Chiropractice was not an alternative medicine, he stressed. It was an area that private practitioners could assist and perhaps solve some pain problems.

“I have many people who come to me for a consultation because they seek further advice. I am happy to help. I charge a fee but that is usual in private practice.”

One member valued his words so much he booked a consultation.” Back to the beginning. “I can’t stress too greatly the need for good posture if you suffer any kind of back pain.- it is vital in living with it,” he said as he made us all sit up correctly in our chairs at Reids. Like good schoolchildren, we obeyed the teacher and did exactly what we were ordered to do. Nothing changes in life.

**H**ow many of us who, like your editor, living just on the edge of Hornchurch airfield, can remember witnessing those dog-fights as our brave pilots fought the Battle of Britain in World War 11. And how many of us thought: “Gosh, Wish that was me.” I did. But I was only five at the time!

Simon Taylor, Commander of the 2393 Air Training Corps (Billericay) brought such memories flooding back when he talked to members on February 1. Simon, an air cadet at Brentwood School was not even born in those days but he captured the history as he brought us up to date with his career in the ATC and how those

### *Aces High and Looping The Loop*

young cadets played their part in helping to win the war. Simon, who graduated from cadet-ship through various senior ATC roles to Grade 1 Initiation Course at RAF College, Cranwell, related the Corps’ history from being formed in 1938 as the Air Defence Cadet Corps- a pre-runner of the RAF and Fleet Air Arm. He said: “It is appropriate that I speak to you today. On February 5, the ATC will celebrate its 75th anniversary since it was given royal recognition by King George VI.” He added: “The aim of today’s

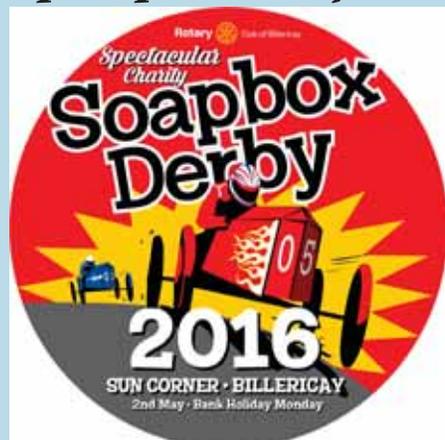
ATC is to promote interest and encouragement in aviation; to foster quality of leadership and adventure and good citizenship. Motto is: Venture Adventure.”

He stressed the ATC’s involvement in community and charity events, parading on Remembrance Sunday and supporting the Stock Flower Show and added: “ Since 1980 we have girls joined up and all the cadets have the opportunity to train with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.”

He closed on a flying note: Displaying some video shots of their gliders, he asked: “Fancy looping the loop in one of those? I have.” No answer to that.

# Soapbox Diary - All Aboard For The Biggest Event of 2016

*All hands to the pumps on May 2*



*Downhill View of the course from the Sun Corner Start*

The Club's sub-committee have now turned their full attention to our major event in 2016 – the Soapbox Derby to be held on Bank Holiday Monday, May 2.

Immediate to the project are planning the layout and organisation of the field and track for the Derby. Design and content of our Entry Programme was completed and it was launched at the Xmas Market where it generated much interest from market visitors.

We now have 57 entries - a great response. These include five pubs, half a dozen automotive related business, about ten schools, colleges and other youth organisations, and even an entry from the remote island of St Helena.

Malcolm Acors has put together some maps and field plans for hosting events on the day at Sun Corner and these will be released along with updated press reports

when finalised shortly, along with the one issue under consideration – safety barriers on the day.

Malcolm says: “Iron barriers and straw bales present a problem in setting up and clearing away. I am considering the use of “sausage” safety barriers – a string of soft impact fenders. We have been in discussion with Dave Randall from Mayflower with his knowledge of safety at the Christmas Market and with other organisations that might advise us. I am sure we will be able to announce the solution very soon.” Our latest progress was featured in the January Rotary page in the Gazette, highlighting all the main areas.

### *Dragging Delight*

Team names range from the purely promotional to such imaginative names as “Complete Carnage” and “The Drag Racers” (a team of men dressed as women?)

Construction of the vehicles is well under way for completion in good time for the deadline for

scrutineering on April 27. Our sub-committee will be allocating club members specific responsibilities for the day and we anticipate having enough manpower by enlisting support from other local organisations. As mentioned, a plan has now been drawn up showing all the viewing points, picnic areas, beer and refreshment areas and car park availability.

On behalf of the sub-committee, Malcolm and Mike Sinclair agreed that all matters relative to the event had been drawn up and approved. But added: “These will require expenditure of time, effort and money to ensure that the inaugural Soapbox Derby is the success it promises to be, in raising our club profile and creating an enjoyable day which brings the community closer together and generates funds for good causes. All club members will need to be involved on the day, Everyone will have a job - marshalling, gate parking, spectator help, programme selling. Much more. “

## RIBI President 2018-19 and the RI Director 2017-19 elections

- **Debbie Hodge** D1260 Rotary Club of Ware was duly elected as RIBI President 2018/19
- **Brian Stoyel** D1175 Rotary Club of Saltash was duly elected as RI Director 2017/19
- **Niall Blair** D1090 Rotary Club of Marlow was elected

(unopposed) as RIBI Hon. Treasurer 2017/18

The election uses weighted votes from each eligible club, with 44% of clubs voting.

Following January's Service Committee Mike Ginn, club secretary, was mandated to vote on behalf of

the club. All the winning candidates were also our selections.

The RI director election was close - if Mr Stoyel had had 5 fewer votes, second preferences would have been invoked and then anything could have happened.

# Billericay's Annual Christmas Market



Father Christmas comes ...



Father Christmas and Helpers



Father Christmas goes ...



The Team ... or the usual suspects?



Drawing the Winning Raffle Ticket



The Crowds were there



Music in the Gluhwein Tent



Selling Raffle Tickets to the crowds



Rotakids Assemble



Presdnt Ed & RIBI Presdnt Peter



DG Mike Helen RIBI Prsdnt RotaKids



The Pipe Band leads the procession



Dance Troup



Parade Participants

# Billericay's Annual Christmas Market



The Rotary Club of Billericay participated again in the Christmas Market, full supporting the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower who organise the event, putting huge efforts into making this a "MUST" event for the people of our town and area. As our local paper, the Billericay Gazette reported, "It was Bigger and Better than ever, with 20,000 visitors, £30,000 raised and Traders reporting bumper sales".

We promoted our own major future event - the Soapbox Derby in May 2016, offering Programs for sale and displaying two soapbox entrants to pique the interest. Many passers-by stopped to ask about the event and vowed to participate, or to attend on the day.

## Popular Demand

There was live music throughout the day at our Gluhwein tent, back by popular demand with the original recipe, and very popular during the day with the public, raising over £1700 for charity (see below). And once again, our regular ShelterBox display demonstrated how well this charity meets the needs of homeless in disaster areas.

We also had a Grand Christmas Raffle for which the major prizes included a 27 gear Mountain Bike, a case of 12 bottles of quality wine, a HUGE Christmas Hamper, and other major prizes, raising over

## Roll Up Roll Up for the Market - We did just that!

£1200 for our chosen charities of Rotary's End Polio Campaign, Shelterbox and other charities supported by Rotary. All the prizes were donated by club members.

The weather wasn't as bad as feared and apart from a brief drizzle, it was very kind to us.

## Young Supporters

Our Billericay School Interact Club was present again with over a dozen members coming along to help sell the tickets and were a great help to us all.

And this year for the first time, the youngsters from our Quilters Junior School RotaKids club were also there with their teacher Helen Kilby and Headmaster Michael Wade, to help out. They had great time selling Raffle Tickets.

## Something for Everybody

The event itself featured a free Santa's Grotto and the traditional Santa's Parade led by Town Crier Jim Shrubbs, a pipe band, with a Santa Claus sleigh provided by neighbouring Brentwood Rotary Club for the first time, and, for the children, a funfair in the main car park and other entertainments. Plus, of course, live entertainment on the stages, Morris Dancers in the High Street, and several

appearances of a "Flash Mob" to surprise and delight the public. Craft stalls in the Library, and of traditional Christmas Fayre, Hog roasts and mulled wine.

Many town shops, restaurants and outlets were open for the day, adding to the spirit of the day - there was a really great atmosphere.

## They all helped

Our thanks to all our members who braved the weather to help during the day, but particularly to Malcolm Acors and family who ran the Gluhwein Tent, arranged the musicians, and printed all the Raffle Tickets and promotion material and at no cost to the Club.

Also, to Roger Kettle, who was our main liaison with Mayflower and worked tirelessly throughout the day as one of the Zone Managers of the event. Our thanks to Patrick Rethon who provided the transport, loaded the display material, managed Marquee erection and then, after a long stint on the street all day, dismantled the display material/marquee and put everything back in the warehouse. And finally, to all the members who did stints on our stands or selling the raffle tickets, and particularly to James, Mike Sinclair, Ed, Peter and Malcolm who stayed throughout the day making a significant contribution to the money raised.

# Our Newsletter – 2015 Review

## Do You Remember These.....?

Last year, in April 2015, we presented a month-by-month review of events highlighted in the first year of our newsletter. Some were serious, some amusing, many charitable and mostly profiling Rotary at its best and as we love it. You seemed to like it, so here goes for our year 2015 - (With apologies for omissions and repetitions).

### *New Year, New Beginning, New Newsletter.*

Hope you enjoy it.

**January, 2015:** In a powerful letter Dr Benjamin Black from



Medecins Sans Frontiers thanked us for our donations supporting its efforts to help combat Ebola and we had an exclusive report from Peter Adams on the plight



and progress of the Masizame Children's Shelter.

The Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris. Not our norm to get involved with

such events but it prompted our president Mike Ginn, quoting Voltaire in his Page 1 address: "I may not agree with what you have to say but I defend your right to say it." to which Mike added (and shared by your editor): "Some people will find views that we hold abhorrent. But they may not take action against us for holding those views. It is an absolute that they must be condemned."

And the launch of "live" RotaKids!

### *Radio Heads*

**February:** At last we were able to announce our first Sand Dam. A



plaque, with our name inscribed upon it, said it all and made all the club's efforts worthwhile. On the youth front, the new radio station QFM was set up by the Quilters Junior School RotaKids.



**March:** We establish a major agreement with the Gazette newspaper group. To promote our activities and those of Rotary in Billericay. We supply copy and photographs. In response they produce a monthly "Rotary News" page. First one appeared in May. Social visit to Royal Opera House



workshops at Purfleet greeted favourably by members.

**April:** First anniversary edition. Reported how once again volunteers and qualified nurses gathered at Waitrose for our annual Know Your Own Blood Pressure cause.



And sub-committee proposals for election of Associate Members was ratified by full committee. And we contributed £1,800 (inc. Gift Aid) out of our own pockets to The Big Dinner challenge.



**May:** Quiet month but we reported on Aid for Nepal, District projects and had an excellent talk from, GB Paralympian Adam Fon-



taine. The Club was honourably mentioned (continued next page)

# Our Newsletter – 2015 Review (continued)

at District Assembly for its Ro-taKids Club, which raised a lot of money on its Mad hatter's day.



## Steam Up!

**June:** President Mike Ginn stands down in style – organising a wonderful day out for members, partners and friends on the lovely Bluebell Line in Sussex – what else from a steam railway buff?



Change for KidsOut as, at the request of Thriftwood school, we went back to Tropical Wings after a long break. Butterflies,



wallabies, monkeys and squawking parrots – the kids loved it.. In thanks the kids produced some wonderful butterfly paintings which we were able to reproduce in a wonderful page in our August issue.

**July:** Ed Harrison takes over for the second time as president. His incoming message: We must relate and co-operate fully within Rotary. We reported on a successful Balloon Race from our tent at the Summerfest and on Roger Kettle's cash-raising success



as our "volunteer" in John Baron's Fun Walk. And a full report on



our support for the Chernobyl Children's Life Line.

**August:** District Governor Alan Clark visited us and we put a members and partners party together to spend a fascinating time at the Gazette officers – meeting Alan Woods and his staff who do so much to promote the Club.



**September:** Four super pictorial pages of the visit to Karlshamn. No need to repeat details here. Just to say that those who went had a wonderful visit and the newsletter brought back all the wonderful moments. It is what we try to do.



Still on the social side, we had a superb fellowship dinner at the Beauvoir Arms at Downham and returned there for our 56th Charter Lunch in November.

We finally announce our big event of 2016 – the SoapBox Derby.

## Walking The Walk

**October:** At last! At the third attempt President Ed completes the Blind Walk in aid of eye-care charity Orbis – a case of "if you



don't succeed, try, try, try and try again!"

Two page spread on personal reflections from the Sweden

trip with our international Rotary colleagues from six Rotary clubs from the UK, France, Italy and Sweden! First full report of plans for the Soapbox Derby.

**November/December:** Bumper issue - 16 pages fully reporting the great highlights – Soapbox Derby, Charter Lunch, Fireworks



Night, Remembrance Sunday, Quilters TV, Young Chef, Cancer Awareness Day, and much more – a full package of what we do and achieve in just one month.

And in a year when we donated £6,700 for and to good causes, we reported these faithfully in our year's messages to members through the newsletter.

# Christmas Lunch



A great time was had by all as the club held its annual Christmas party for members, partners and friends.

Our thanks again to Norman Bishop for arranging a super Christmas lunch at Reids restaurant, our usual lunchtime meeting venue, on December 14. More a party than just lunch.

## **No Speeches**

Good choice of food, not just regular Turkey. I plumped for the steak which was just a fraction chewy but there was good feedback on the other dishes – fish, lamb and the vegetarian offering. No speeches – a little Club business which did not get in the way

## **Letting our hair down**

of the fun – party hats and crackers and excellent table company and conversation.

The service was excellent and thanks was duly paid to the Reids staff who seemed delighted to share our fun. Conversation around the table dwelt on just about everything other than serious Rotary matters. Why not in the festive period?

On our table my wife Jan and Maya Gupta shared observations on cooking for Christmas (amongst other subjects) and Bert French, who gave us one of his clever graces – either composed

for the day or from his magic book of graces – was as enlightening as ever on days gone by (we went to the same grammar school albeit years apart (Bert being a little more aged than me!) and much nostalgia about Billericay in bygone days. Bert and Grace – something symbolic in that lovely partnership. I am sure it was the same on all the tables. Never a dull moment.

## **The 100 Club Draw**

Peter Greene did his usual round of snapping tables – see his excellent selection of photographs here – and Roger Kettle helped fill our festive stockings by announcing the winners of the 100 Draw. Yes, yours truly (continued on Page 11)

## Christmas Lunch (continued)

came out with one of the £50 prizes which paid for our Turkey crown – always nice to be a winner and the 100 Club Draw is



always exciting and, more importantly, a vital addition to club funds. It is well worth supporting this club initiative, and thank you

Roger for all your efforts. Among the other lucky recipients were Ken Smith (the £100 winner); Peter Strong; and Steve Dodge.

We were delighted to have President Angela, Maya, Christabel, Kathryn Burton, Barbara Barratt from our Inner Wheel Club, and Emily Strong, Peter and Christabel's daughter.

President Ed handled it all in his inimitable style but spared us a speech in Swedish!

Sadly we missed the company of some of our stalwart members, Neville Deakin, who was not well,

and Alison, Ben and Mary Curtis and Mike Ginn's lovely wife Sue who was also under the weather. We wished them well.

Finally, it was a time to enjoy friends and Rotary fellowship and bring a fitting end to a year in which, as always, we have punched above our weight and supported so many good causes with further donations of more than £3,140 agreed at this lunch.

Our donations to good causes and charities in the year amount to almost £6,700.

*By Trevor Bond (Editor)*

## District Council Meeting

**W**ell, my first thought was that District Council held at Writtle College on January 7 was different! I shall explain.

There appears to have been a slight problem, first rumbled about in November, as to who might help whom in stewarding the meeting. When president Ed asked me, to be Meeting Organiser, I accepted it as a mega task.

Initial thoughts were that we would help Mayflower Club to steward the event. That did not happen. Suddenly it was just us.

As in life, these things happen and do not always go to plan. We should draw a line under any difficulties and, as within Rotary, move on as we always do and recognise what we, as clubs, are always trying to achieve.

Ed had suggested that I approach Keith Hawkes, our District Secretary, to suggest what my duties would be. Keith, as always, was most helpful in providing a four-page document setting out my duties. I ploughed through it and realised that I needed a team of helpers. Needless to say, club

### Minor Matter of Stewarding, Important Matters of Procedure

members responded brilliantly. Patrick, Roger and Michael Sinclair did car parking duty on the coldest night of the year; Keith Wood and Ken Smith made sure that something like 103 cups of coffee were distributed to attendees, whose numbers fell fractionally short of the expected total. But still a fair turn-out. And founder member Ben Clarke sorted out the registration – a major job. My thanks to Ben.

#### *Tight Security*

Enough of the hassle and the problems, all very minor. It will always be so with important events where organisation is key to making it work successfully. I like to think that we did that.

So to the meeting. At Writtle, 80 people present and a speaker thrown in. Plus a Sergeant-at-Arms (no sign of a bandolier or

the Kalashnikov slung round his neck). He was just sure making no-one spoke too long, not looking out for potential terrorists} – but security was rightly observed.

The speaker from Ethiopia was interesting and might be good for a club lunch. But something I discovered at the meeting, with 80 people present, one person speaking at a time. QED: 79 bored listeners. Just my personal thought. If I am allowed a personal comment, all reports are tabled in advance – that is normal with most AGM's and business meetings – but I question, when the chairman asks whether there is anything to add, there usually is.

I could have voted three times but did not bother as everything was carried unanimously. Can that be right?

On a personal note, my heart skipped a beat when I saw Ben the next day in Basildon hospital in case he had over-exerted the previous evening. Best news – Ben was back with us for our New Year lunch.

*By Michael Ginn*

## Something to Brighten your Day

Morris , an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

**A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.**

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, *'You're really doing great, aren't you?'*

**Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"**

The doctor said, *'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'*

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### Once apun a time (again)

When chemists die, apparently *they barium.*

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. *I just can't put it down.*

I did a theatrical performance about puns.

*It was a play on words.*

I didn't like my beard at first. Then *it grew on me.*

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because *she couldn't control her pupils?*

When you get a bladder infection *you know urine trouble.*

Broken pencils are pretty much *pointless.*

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?

*A thesaurus.*

I dropped out of the Communism class

*because of lousy Marx.*

All the toilets in New York 's police stations have been stolen. As of now, it appears the police have *nothing to go on.*

I got a job at a bakery because

*I kneaded dough.*

Velcro - *what a rip off!*

## Club Tit-Bits

**Birthdays** - Congratulations to club member Neville Deakin (21st) on his birthday in January.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**February Joint Services & Council Meetings** - will be at Michael Ginn's House tonight at 6.30 pm as usual  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Christmas Market** Did you hear about the club member who had

a violent argument with a Pole at the Christmas Market? They shouldn't have dropped the marquee on his head!  
\*\*\*\*\*

How many Rotarians does it take to carry a ladder 25 yards? Only one, ..... unless it's our club webmaster.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Questions on a Cruise Ship Quiz**

One night the official question, for which the answer was Fort Knox:

**"In the USA, what is name of the famous Golden Suppository?"**

Where should the answer should go?

**"What type of ship was the Ark Royal?"**

The answer the quizmaster gave: "Carrier Bag!"  
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**Combining a two-month issue into one means some contents have had to be held over until next month.**

### 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 8

Fellowship Meeting  
Sally Davies OBE - Thriftwood College has had to cancel

February 8 (6.30-8.30 pm)

Club Council & Services Meeting

February 15

Business Meeting

February 22

Fellowship Evening with partners at the Giggling Squid in Billericay High Street

February 29

Dawn Roche - Dagenham Girl Pipers

March 7

Ben Clarke - Subject to be confirmed

March 10

Visit to Billericay Mayflower Club

March 14

Ruth Andoh Baxter – SENSE

#### **Other dates for your diary:**

May 2

Soapbox Derby

May 27

Royal Opera House Visit