



Rotary Club of Billericay

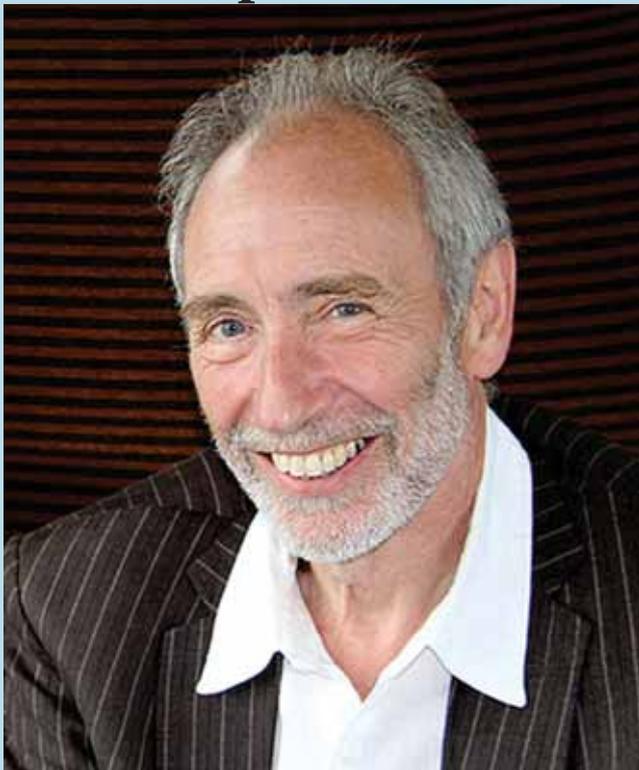
News

July 2016

“Service Above Self”

President’s Message

Fellowship(Awards) at Home and Reaching out to France



Handover lunch on 4th July saw the seamless transition from Rotary Year 2015/16 to 2016/17 with the chains of office being presented appropriately.

I was extremely honoured to receive a Paul Harris Fellowship award alongside Trevor Bond who also was a happy recipient. It was pleasing to see Tom Acors inducted as a new hon-

orary member, in recognition of all of the hard work he has conducted for the club over a long period. Congratulations to him on his achievement.

Having become your President, one of my first acts was to depart for a holiday to the Lake District where the scenery is stunning and the people friendly. Keswick is a nice little town and provided a good base for us to explore the region.

Liz and I will definitely return there.

Whilst we were away the tragic events took place in Nice on Bastille Day during the traditional celebrations. This struck a particular cord because of its proximity to our associate club at Beausoleil. We visited Nice during our last visit to Beausoleil and those of us who went will remember the particular location of the event. Last year’s President of the Beausoleil Club is Marie-Dominique who lives in Nice and our Secretary has conveyed to her the Clubs sym-

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pathies and support following the atrocity, and we have also placed a message of sympathy and solidarity with them on their facebook page. It generated a message of “Thank you for your support” from Beausoleil Club.

Back to Billericay to attend a soapbox committee meeting and learn that within 24 hours of opening the online list for entry into the event we have five entrants from last year’s participants – an encouraging start, but much still to do. The sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Peter Greene is busy reviewing

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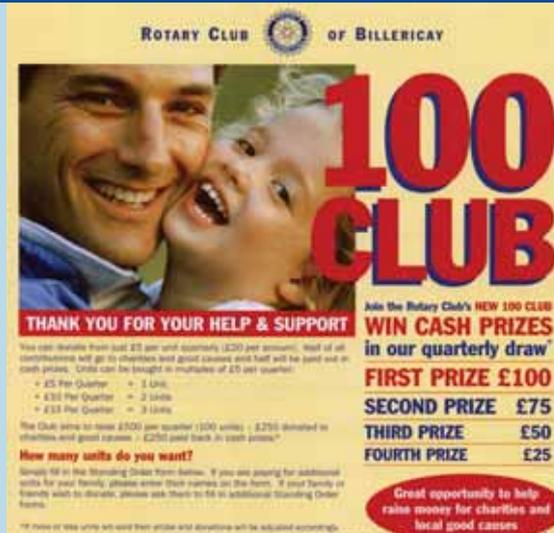
President's Message (continued)

plans and considering where improvements can be made.

It is very reassuring to see the machinery of our small club clicking into action at the start of another year and even with the inevitable holiday absences, we move forward in positive mode.

New members are important to safeguard the future of our club and it is encouraging to see signs of activity in this area. I look forward to more progress as we get up to full speed.

Whilst on the subject of membership I will take the opportunity to again promote the 100 Club. Membership of the 100 Club is not restricted to members of our



ROTARY CLUB OF BILLERICAY

100 CLUB

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP & SUPPORT

Join the Rotary Club's NEW 100 CLUB
WIN CASH PRIZES
in our quarterly draw

FIRST PRIZE	£100
SECOND PRIZE	£75
THIRD PRIZE	£50
FOURTH PRIZE	£25

Great opportunity to help raise money for charities and local good causes

You can donate from just £5 per unit quarterly (£20 per annum). Half of all contributions will go to charities and good causes and half will be paid out in cash prizes. Units can be bought in multiples of £5 per quarter.

- £5 Per Quarter = 1 Unit
- £10 Per Quarter = 2 Units
- £15 Per Quarter = 3 Units

The Club aims to have £500 per quarter (100 units) - £250 donated to charities and good causes - £250 paid back in cash prizes.

How many units do you want?

Simply fill in the Standing Order Form below. If you are paying for additional units for your family, please enter their names on the form. If your family or friends wish to donate, please ask them to fill in additional Standing Order forms.

*If more than 100 units are used their price and donation will be adjusted accordingly.

Club and is open to friends and relatives too. The cost is £20 per annum for each unit for a chance to win a cash prize at each of four draws per year. The object is for half of the proceeds to fund the

prizes with the other half going to our Benevolent Account where it is used to help support our good causes. If anyone is interested in subscribing for units or indeed knows of anyone who would be interested, please contact Roger Kettle who will deal with the minimal paperwork painlessly.

Finally, we were all very sorry to hear of Trevor Bonds unfortunate accident and through Jan, wish him a speedy recovery and a return to our team, where he is sorely missed.

I hope to have more to report next time as the year gets into full swing.

By President Mike

Inner Wheel

Hello Rotarians:

July 8th and once again we welcomed the children who come here through the Chernobyl Children Lifeline. This year they were from Ukraine, living by the exclusion zone of Chernobyl; 12 boys and girls and Svitlana the interpreter.

This time we arranged for the children to spend the whole day at Basildon Sporting Village where we joined them with food and drinks. The children were to swim in the morning and we were a bit disappointed that we were not allowed to watch, obviously due to Safeguarding protocols.

The Sporting Village is an excellent venue. The staff at South Essex Gymnastics Club really enjoyed the children going there and helped us with heating food and preparing fruit. We set up outside the gym in an enclosed area in case some of the children preferred to play with the games brought but it was quite windy



and the foam balls played their own game!

We gave the children hot dogs and drinks at lunch time before they started in the gym and gave them a break in the afternoon with fruit and cake. The children didn't seem tired from swimming and did their warm-up exercises with great enthusiasm as usual. No one chose to sit out and they did everything the coaches asked, their trust in them staggering as they threw themselves over the equipment,

walked on beams, swung on parallel bars and bounced on trampolines all with help from the coaches. We were a very appreciative audience and feel privileged every year to host these young people who, after all their exercise, were having a party in the evening as this was their last activity before returning home. We wish them well and look forward to seeing the next group in 2017.

*By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel
Special correspondent.*

Quilters, Alive and Well, ... and Safety First

I had never been inside Quilters Junior School until I joined Peter Greene there to meet Helen Kilby, the leader of the school's successful Rotakids club, which, thanks to our club's efforts, was the first of its kind in the town.

I say this to kick-off a report of the second year of their Rotakids Club because I believe first impressions are the best impressions. Five minutes inside the waiting hall and I began to understand why the school, under the leadership of head teacher Mike Wade and his excellent staff, not only excels as an academic institution, but makes its mark in areas, like RotaKids, outside the classroom. Pupils were still buzzing around, perhaps looking to go home but others waiting patiently to take part in an after-school activity, in the gym perhaps. Some have just emerged and changed from swimming. "Have you remembered your swim bag,?" One anxious mum to one bewildered son. It was always thus in school.

Outdoor Learning

The cash prize from their success at the Soapbox Derby, added to our club donation of £2,000 is being used to help create an Outdoor Learning Space, areas in the playgrounds and surrounds where



pupils could express their artistic instincts. We saw the potential when Helen showed us the area where this will all happen.

"It will take time," says Helen. "But, in my colleague, Jill Busby, we have a wonderful painter.

With the Soapbox Derby, pupils



By Editor Trevor Bond

were asked to suggest a design for our entry. They responded and we had some great ideas. The final soapbox design came down to all of those put together. And Jill organised the painting"



So what have Rotakids pursued, and achieved in the past year?

Helen says "We have not been able to do all we hoped but we were involved with Rotary at the Christmas Market and the Soapbox Derby, and would have contributed to the Summerfest but for the timing. And we have continued to support community and charity events where we can assist.

Also, we have kept our contact with our media projects strong. TV or Radio programmes go out every other week and the children still run it. We have maintained a

series of programmes which range from serious discussions to areas of interviews and fun. It seems to be working well", she says.

Helen spelt out in detail how RotaKids works within the school. Members are all from the School Council, all years, made up predominantly from year 6, but with four members (two boys and 2 girls from each years 3-5) - all members of the School Council. They make the decisions on the projects to support.

Helen said. "We may have to look at this to ensure pupils in years 3 to 5 have more of a say when decision are made.

Safety Squad



A great innovation by the school. How safe do pupils feel? Pupils are asked to complete a questionnaire asking where they felt Very

Safe, Safe or Fairly Safe.

Answers ranged from:

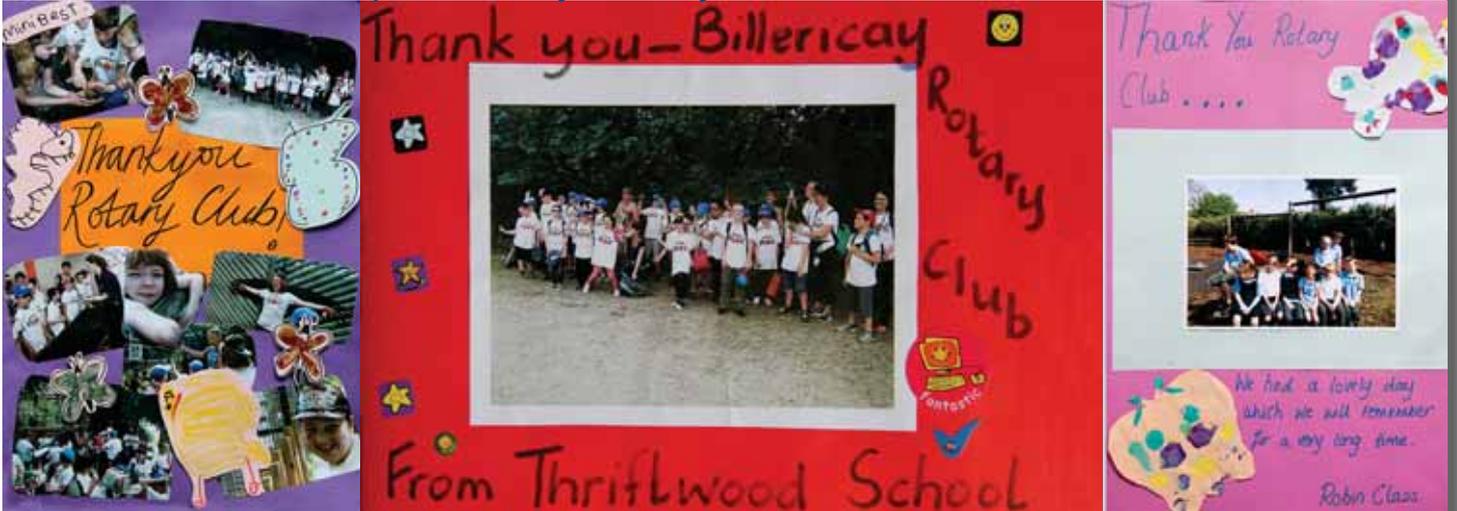
- Thank you for keeping the toilets clean
- I feel safe inside school.
- I don't always feel safe out of school
- Slippery floors on rainy days!
- Playground... feel safe, thanks to teachers being with us.

Not just a RotaKids issue, But an aspect that all schools now have to take on board. As Helen told us: "I taught at another Billericay school for eight years, mostly happy ones. I have been here for a year. It's a good school and our range of learning extends

(continued on page 11)

KidsOut at Tropical Wings

Thank you booklets from Thriftwood's three classes - the covers



Thank you booklets - photos of their 'best' activities



Thank you booklets - Thank you notes



Dear Rotary club
 Thank you
 For taking us to the
 butterfly park.
 from talk

Dear Rotary club
 Thank you for
 The chance to take us
 to Tropical Wings. My
 Best Bit was the goats from
 Samuel.

KidsOut at Tropical Wings

Thank you Rotarians

We took a 34 children from Thriftwood School, accompanied by 11 Teachers and Carers, to the Tropical Wings Zoo at South Woodham Ferrers as part of "KidsOut Day" last month.

As members know, KidsOut Day is a national collaboration between the Kids Out charity and Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) to provide children with an experience that brings both fun and happiness into

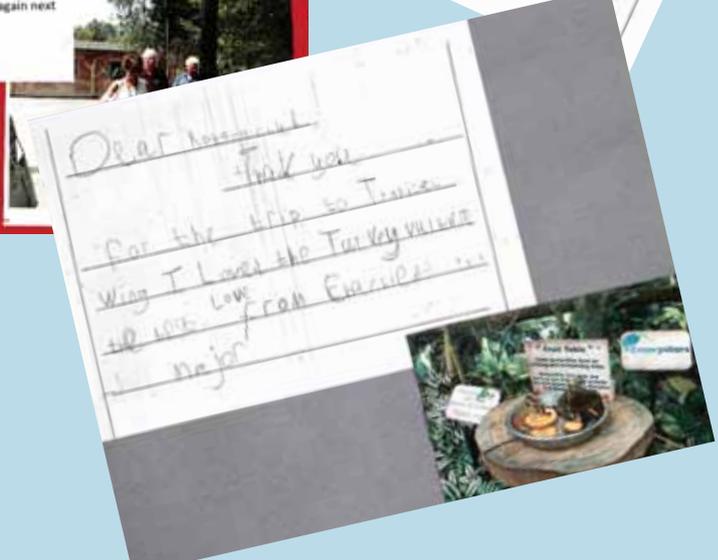
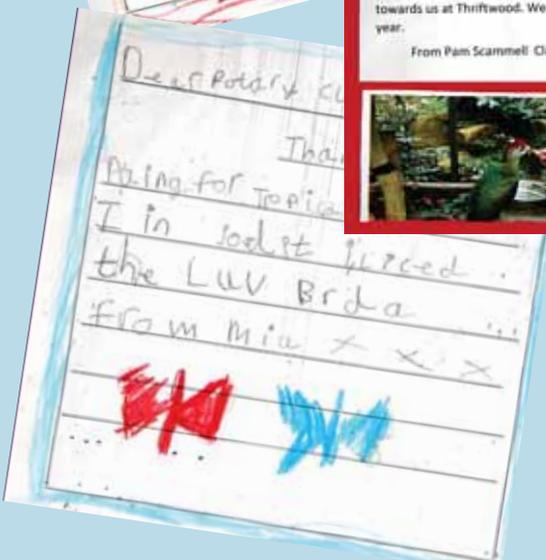
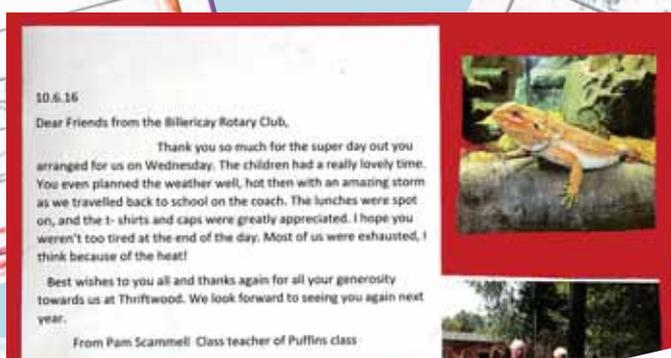
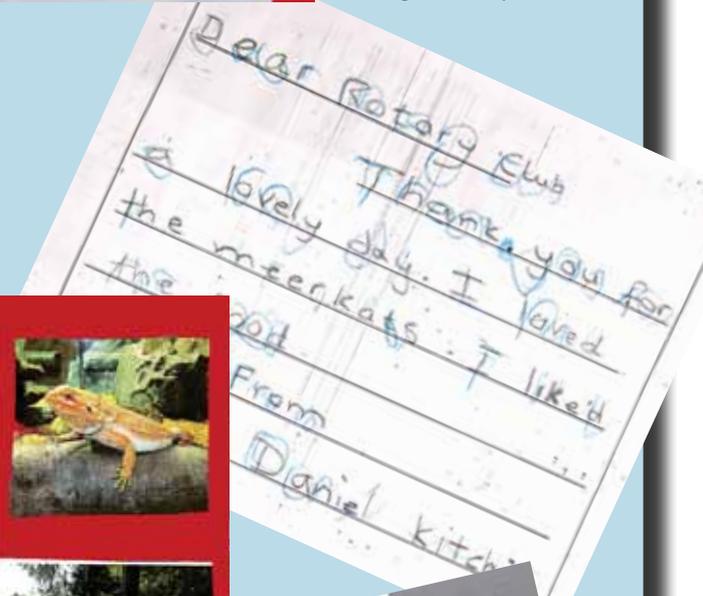
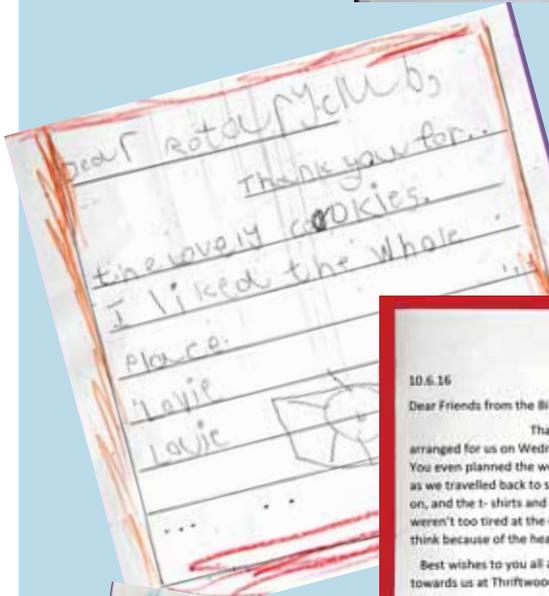
their lives. This is often a once in a lifetime experience.

It was great to see the kids in their smart KidsOut T-shirts with the smiley face logo and their blue caps (all specially designed by Rotary for the event). A superb bunch of excited, well-behaved

and happy kids – it was a delight to be with them.

Laura Bazley, leader of the school teachers and carers, thanked us all personally and subsequently wrote to say. "Thank you so much, Trevor and the Rotary Club, for today. Weren't we lucky with the

weather! I am sure we will be in contact in the Autumn term to confirm a date for next year." We show on the facing page and here, some of the children's "thank You" notes and booklets, and some of the photographs picked out by the children in thanks for their great day.



Chernobyl Children's Child Line

Rope Runners Experience



Chernobyl Children's Child Line

As we reported last month, for the last three years, the Rotary Club of Billerica has been supporting the local branch of the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline. It is worth repeating that this charity brings twelve children here each year from the areas of Belarus and Ukraine where the population's lives were forever changed by nuclear disaster of April 26, 1986. The children this year are from Borodyanka in the Ukraine.

Although they live outside the exclusion zone, these innocent children live in areas contaminated by

the radiation from Chernobyl. It has been calculated that each visit of 4 weeks is enough to give the children another 2 years of life!

Following the "Welcome" Barbecue reported last month, we had originally planned to sponsor a trip to the theatre in London, but the headquarters of the charity mandated that this was too dangerous in the current climate and it had to be cancelled.

So, instead, we sponsored two events instead - the High Ropes and Strawberry Tea on June 27, and the visit to Chessington

World of Adventure on July 4.

After a very full agenda, including the event organised by Inner Wheel (see report on Page 2), the visit ended with the traditional farewell party at the community centre in Queens Park where the children had a lot of fun and entertained the audience of hosts, helpers and sponsors (we were represented by Ed Harrison and wife Margaret, and Peter Greene and wife Wendy just made it before the party ended!).

We wish all the children the best for the future.

Chessington World of Adventures



Honour amongst ... Friends!

Celebrating contributions to the club's success

The Rotary Club of Billericay annual Handover lunch on July 4 saw President Ed Harrison hand over the reins of power to Michael Sinclair, our new President for 2016/17.

A quiet day? Not a bit of it!

Honorary Member

This was an opportunity to honour somebody who has been a vital part of our club activities for many years in every area imaginable - Tom Acors, son of club member Malcolm Acors PHFS.

Need printing done in a hurry?

No problem!

Need a leaflet, brochure,

Programme, etc...? No problem!

Need extra manpower to get a job done? No problem!

Need 8000 Programmes printed, collated and assembled? No problem!

The club wanted to recognise Tom's contribution over the years and out-going President Ed took the opportunity of this gathering to make Tom an honorary member of the club.

Paul Harris Fellowships

It was also an occasion to honour two club members who embody the Rotary motto of "Service before Self" and have done so much to enhance the club's reputation.



First to receive the call was Michael Sinclair, our new club President, our Treasurer in recent years and President Elect last year. A club member for over 27 years, he has always been amongst the first to take on onerous tasks on behalf of the club. Mike's efforts and all his hard work throughout that time, have been a major contributor to the club's success. In particular his recent chairing of the Soapbox Derby Committee did so much to ensure its success.

Second was Trevor Bond, who has been both Speaker Finder (a thankless task) until last year, and experience as a distinguished journalist at the service of the club. Trevor's expertise has en-

sured that the club enjoys terrific press and media reporting of our activities. He was key to ensuring we had continuous and positive publicity of the Soapbox Derby, and was the envy of all the other local service clubs.

I made the Right Decision

Trevor remarked: "I am aware that Paul Harris Fellowships are not awarded lightly. I still regard myself as a new boy on the Rotary block and would not have expected to be so honoured after serving just seven Presidents in my time as a Rotarian. I feel humble in addition to feeling honoured, and to receive the award the same day as our new President, who has served the Club and Rotary far longer than myself, suggests that perhaps, in Rotary terms, I have "arrived".. The Soapbox Derby was an exciting challenge for me as a former professional journalist. In promoting it, I felt the same exhilaration as I once did "flagging" a newspaper story.

Being persuaded to join Rotary was one of the best decisions I made, and deciding to join our Club an even better one. I have found fellowship and friendship. I value them both..

Reading Rooms - Open for Everyone

Members will recall that our Community Services Chairman Keith Wood, and our President Mike Sinclair don't only support our community by their membership of the Rotary Club of Billericay, but also contribute in other ways. Keith is President of the Billericay Reading Rooms Committee and Mike is Treasurer. In previous year's the Reading Rooms has worked with four local primary schools to involve them in projects commemorating



the first world war, and this year, they have been promoting a competition to design a new logo for the Reading Rooms. Buttsbury, Quilters, St. John's and St. Peter's schools submitted multiple

designs, so that the judges had to choose from 22 different designs. On Wednesday July 13, Keith and Committee member Andy Maddocks went to Buttsbury Junior School to announce that one of their proposals, submitted jointly by Aimee Phillips, Imogen Nichols and Tom Dodd was used as the basis for the finally agreed logo. The school received a gift token for £100 and each of the three contributing pupils received £10 vouchers.

Billericay in Bloom



President Mike presented Prizes at the annual Billericay in Bloom competition

As our club sponsored the Award for the 'Best Kept Back Garden', I attended the Billericay in Bloom Prize-giving on 22nd July at the Canon Roche Hall and *2nd Prize Mr. Reginald O'Neil*



I presented the awards in this category to the three winners.

I was surprised to find that there were many other categories, all with sponsors, all with awards to be presented. These included Best School Garden, Best vegetable plot in a school, Best plant in a jar, Best front garden, Best hospital garden, Best church garden,

Best hanging basket and many others.

The winners of our category were:

- 1st prize Mrs. G. Bright (who could not be present to collect her prize)
- 2nd prize Mr. Reginald O'Neil
- 3rd prize Mrs. Sue Reader

The hall was full of people who had either won, or were presenting, and as Jim Devlin, the leader of the Town Council, said, he was very pleased to see the event so well supported.

Trevor Stansfield kindly agreed to be the Club photographer for *3rd Prize Mrs. Sue Reader*



the evening in the absence of our usual snapper.

President Mike with Mrs. M. Moore (Chair, Billericay in Bloom)



On arriving with him I was touched by the warmth of the greeting he received from so many of the female council personnel and he ended the evening covered in lipstick, a testimony to his past service on the council.

He was lucky I was there to chaperone him.

By President Mike

Soapbox Derby Entries Open



It seems like only yesterday that we were all involved so heavily in the organisation and planning for our inaugural Soapbox Derby, and the whole club (with the generous assistance of so many of our local service clubs) pulled together to make it such a success. And yet it's now three months ago and we have to turn our minds to organizing the 2017 event.

Last year we took a late decision to sell tickets on-line and thanks to the advice of Round Table, we were put in touch with Red-box ticketing who developed and launched a ticket system for us in under two weeks. They were flexible too, and designed and implemented a completely new system to accept on-line sponsorship of the teams in less than a week which enabled us to collect thousands of pounds of on-line sponsorship money. This year they have modified their system to allow us to collect Entry fees. We have been able to email the teams who entered last year and given them until the end of August to enter before we allow public entry.

We had the first entry and payment within half an hour of that email! And five entries in the first 24 hours.

The small management committee has now started meeting and

planning the event for 2017 and we hope for your active support as we work towards next year's event. It should be an easier task the second time, but there is much to learn from the 2016 event which we hope will allow us to run an even more successful Derby in 2017. We are planning to increase capacity to support even more spectators, and raise even more money for charity.



What has been done?

Amongst the many items already in train are:

- A decision has been made to publish a smaller 4 page Programme rather than the

multi-page document we had this year, and we hope that our previous advertisers will be persuaded to sponsor this publication so we can raise as much money from it as in 2016 - many thanks to Malcolm Acors who has offered to sponsor the printing and publication costs.

- We are also investigating if we can also use this Programme as a ticket to the event.
- Basildon Council have confirmed that the Queen Elizabeth II field (Sun Corner) has been reserved for us for the weekend of the Soapbox Derby, and that we do not need a full ESAG presentation this year, but only a new event plan.
- We have requested the London Road closure for May 1, 2017 from Essex Highways who have already verbally confirmed agreement.
- St John's Ambulance has been requested to quote for providing First Aid support for the event and has promised to respond shortly.
- Contacts have already been made with suppliers of fencing, the PA system, and the food outlets.

We will report progress in the Newsletter each month.

Billericay Summer Festival

In Need of shelter?

Another great success for the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower's annual Summerfest at Sun Corner. A small band from our Club



volunteered to run the Shelter Box tent at Mayflower's Summerfest on Sunday May 10, 2016.

Demand was greater than we expected - not enquiries about Shelter Box itself - but for SHELTER!



The heavens didn't exactly open but the day dawned grey and wet - misty, dismal rain that has everyone reaching for umbrellas and macs - and needing shelter.



In the first three hours we were delighted to provide cover for fellow Rotarians, supporters, amongst them, Mrs Beryl Ford,



wife of Harmony Brass organiser, Brian and her lovely Labrador guide dog (who just wanted a drink and lie-down) and the scantily-dressed young dance group, Bailar from the Towngate Theatre, who were to perform in the arena and needed to stay dry until appearing. ...And anyone else who read the Shelter sign! As the dance group leader said: "They are loving it all. They don't feel the cold."

Despite the disappointing start, the crowds began to roll up to enjoy the day's entertainment, regular half-hour band slots by musical groups in the huge bandstand, displays of military marching and young dancing groups and, as the sun began to come out, to look forward to more music, more events on the straw-baled show arena and a classic car display - always a highlight of the Summerfest.

Mayflower members had fingers crossed and eyes upwards to the sky. Someone must have got the rain-mat out because the afternoon proved even warmer and the sun even dared to shine from

time to time. And the event was as popular and successful as ever. Never easy to gauge numbers with so many people swilling around the various charity and product stalls and enjoying the occasion. But the show was on again. The food outlets were doing a roaring trade (even our Club members were seen engaging in stuffing hot dogs and bacon rolls)

and the ice-cream van, deserted for most of the morning, would have welcomed the weather change. The mood as always, despite the

rain, was positive and merry - kids hoisting balloons, friends meeting friends over a pint or a Pimms and the Summerfest was again looking what it is - a major event in the Billericay community calendar. So, well done, Mayflower !



RotaKids (continued)

beyond the classroom. Which is why we consider RotaKids and our relationship with the Rotary Club so important"

Charity fundraiser

On July 15, RotaKids had a major fundraiser - scheduled to be a three-legged race, for the Meningitis Charity. Helen said:

"This involves everyone, but RotaKids are the main movers."

I like to think that we came away

in the knowledge that we will continue to back them 100 per cent, but with a renewed vigour.

Fundraising for Meningitis

See a future edition for a full report but as a taster, we were there to witness pairs of children from all the school classes take part in a superbly organised multi-skill challenge. Jumping hurdles, bouncing a tennis ball, keeping up a Hula Hoop for 5 turns, Egg and Spoon race, synchronised jumping, dribbling a football - all against the clock. And the three legged race? - Health & Safety intervened and the children competed with two arms not legs tied together.

Something to Brighten your Day

A young Army officer was severely wounded in the head by a grenade, but the only visible, permanent injury was that both of his ears were amputated.

But since his remaining hearing was good, he stayed in the Army.

After many years he rose to the rank of Major General. He was, however, understandably sensitive about his appearance.

One day the general was interviewing three servicemen who were candidates for his headquarters staff.

The first was a captain, a tactical helicopter pilot, and it was a great

interview until the end when the General asked, *'Do you notice anything different about me?'*

The young officer answered, ***'Yes, sir, I couldn't help noticing that you don't have ears.'***

The general was displeased with his lack of tact and marked him below the line.

The second interview was with a navy lieutenant, and he was even better until they got to the same question, *'Do you notice anything different about me?'*

'Well, sir, you have no ears,' he answered sheepishly. The general rejected him too.

The third interview was with an old sergeant major, an infantryman and staff-trained NCO. He was smart, articulate, fit, and he too was impressive.

He was also likeable, and it all depended upon the last question: *'Do you notice anything different about me, sergeant major?'*

To his surprise the sergeant major replied, ***'Yes, sir, you wear contact lenses.'***

'How do you know that, Sergeant Major?'

'Well, sir,' the soldier replied, ***'it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no ears.'***

Club Tit-Bits

Congratulations to Patrick Rotheron on his birthday this month.

Two shields, one winner... the Geoff Player Newsletter of the Year, 2016-2017 shield awarded to us. But now the dilemma... our award is first dated 2012 and won then by Colchester Trinity. Mayflower won in for 2015-2016 - on another shield currently held by Peter Owen. This is the original

shield but at some time it "went missing". Question: Which is now the official shield? Neither have been yet engraved and the recipients would like an answer. Now in the hands of District for the solution... we await their verdict!

Congratulations to Norman Wilson and Brenda on the birth of

another Granddaughter.

Our very best wishes to our editor Trevor Bond, who sadly had an accident while on at an away match of Essex Cricket Team, and has broken his hip. Who said Cricket was a gentlemen's game! We wish Trevor all the very best for a speedy return to Essex and an 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

August 1

Fellowship Meeting

August 8

Margaret Mills - Brunel, the Little Giant

August 8 (18.30 - 20.30) at Reids' Gallery

Joint Service Meeting and Club Council

August 15

Chloe Gallagher - her Australian Scout

Jamboree

August 22

Business Meeting

August 29

No Meeting - Bank Holiday

Other dates for your diary:

Sept. 15-18

Twinning visit to Alba

November 5

Round Table Fireworks Night

November 6

Charter Lunch

December 4

Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower

Christmas Market