



Rotary Club of Billerica

News

June 2016

“Service Above Self”

President’s Message

I Ran the Race and Backed a Derby Winner!



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This is my final contribution to the club newsletter as your president. It has been an honour to serve the club and its members for a second time and I thank you all for your support. I shall not list, as usual, all our events of the past month since they are recorded faithfully inside this newsletter. Instead I shall concentrate on what the year has meant to me.

Little did I know when I accepted the presidency twelve months ago that, as a club, I would be leading us into an area of the unknown,

a pasture fresh, a new adventure. I refer, of course to the Soapbox Derby, a spectacular success – and that is not using the word “spectacular” lightly.

It was the highlight of my year and succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. I take little credit except for supporting every proposal, every idea and every concrete fact agreed by your Soapbox Derby committee, led by Malcolm Acors and Mike Sinclair and backed by Patrick Rothern, Peter Greene and James Ilesley. And to Trevor Bond and Roger Kettle in promoting the event. A great team!

(Editor’s note: And for standing for many hours at the President’s tent at Sun Corner, meeting and greeting and answering questions-

just ten days after his operation.)

Gastronomic Delight

The weather was kind for us on May 2 for the runs down “Thunder Road”, as it was for my President’s Day held kindly in the garden of Malcom and Sue Acors on Sunday June 19 – Father’s Day and I am most grateful to those members, family, friends and guests who were able to come along. My thanks to Malcolm and Sue as hosts and to chef Pietro for a wonderful barbecue – a gastronomic delight! Also, my opportunity to thank so many people involved with the Derby.

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Best Club Newsletter 2016-17



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

President's Message (continued)

Cheques for Charities

Still on the Derby theme, I was delighted to present cheques to our three major nominated charities, Little Havens Children's Hospice, Hope & Homes for Children and



Médecins Sans Frontières at our club lunch on June 20, having already presented Quilters Junior School with £2,000 for their Derby support and participation. And, of course, the £1,000 we gave to the End Polio campaign.

Health in the Community

We played our part in helping community health, setting a new record of over a hundred tests

on Know Your Blood Pressure stroke awareness day, and staging another successful Men's Cancer Awareness seminar, again with the leadership of Mr Anil Vohra.



And, for the second time in a presidential year, I repeated the Blind Walk in aid of Orbis. It was no easier this time but it again



made me appreciate what a very good cause this is.

Fellowship in Sweden

As much as anything I shall probably be remembered for NOT attempting to thank our hosts in Karlshamn last autumn in Swedish on our happy exchange visit. But they did seem to enjoy my English!

As always within Rotary, during the past year we have shared many social fun and fellowship days and events, and will continue to do so.

Today is our Handover Lunch when Mike Sinclair takes over as president for the second time and I revert to being club secretary. We have both been there before – the Club stays in good hands. The Soapbox Derby is booked for May bank holiday, May 1, 2017 – another busy year. Mike will have my full support and I know that applies to you all.

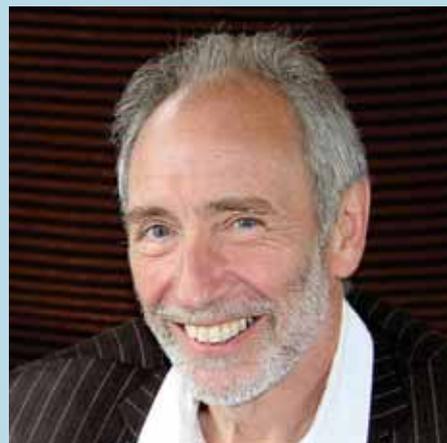
By Ed Harrison

President Elect's Manifesto for 2016/17

John Germ's theme for 2016/2017 is "Rotary Serving Humanity" and is a timely reminder to us of our prime purpose as a Rotary Club. It is a very broad theme and is one which will help to refocus our efforts onto the desired goal of all of our activities. But as President Ed said one year ago, without an expansion of membership the Club will in due course cease to exist. This is the dilemma for our Club as we wish to partake in Rotary Serving Humanity but to do this adequately we need to strengthen. It has been said many times that quality is more important than quantity and indeed our Club has shown how true this is in organising and leading the successful new Soapbox Derby event of 2016.

The Club's objectives in holding this event were threefold:

- to raise the profile of Rotary and our Club;
 - to provide a successful event for the enjoyment of the community; and
 - to raise funds for good causes.
- All three objectives were achieved and the Club has agreed to stage



the event again in 2017 which will be a focus for our fundraising for the year.

I would like us to continue with those activities which have a service emphasis, including the "Male Cancer Awareness" and "Know Your Blood Pressure", as well as the Kids Out day as I think these service activities provide a pleasant and worthwhile respite from our fundraising efforts.

I would like to thank all members who have agreed to continue to serve as officers in the coming year and wish them well in their roles. I am sure that they can rely on us all to help them undertake their duties to achieve another successful year.

By Mike Sinclair

President's Day Lunch

Celebrating A Year To Remember



Members, partners, family and friends gave retiring president Ed Harrison a great farewell for the annual President's Day at a garden party and barbecue laid on by Malcolm and Sue Acors in their garden in Stock.

Despite it being Father's Day, June 19, we were happy to celebrate Ed's successful year. It was also an opportunity for club members and Ed personally to welcome guests from the service clubs of the town who had contributed so much to our Soapbox Derby success. Dikster and his son Joshua, Tony Sprackling with Angela and Victoria, Marcus Bennett and Seb Roberts from Round Table and Mr and Mrs Ralph Hayden from Wickford Rotary Club.

The event was given District recognition with the appearance of DG Alan Clark and his wife Celia (Alan was one of the Soapbox Derby principle judges) and incoming Assistant Governor, Peter McCafferty. They were all



mentioned for their efforts in Ed's vote of thanks which included Malcolm, Sue and Tom Acors and son-in-law Ian for hosting the BBQ and working so hard to make the Soapbox Derby a success.

Dip In the Hot Tub

The sun blessed the day and, while guests feasted themselves on the excellent food provided by chef Pietro of the eponymous restaurant in Stock, the grandchildren



exhausted themselves on the trampoline, playing hide and seek and with a great dip in the hot tub.

The barbecue, par excellence, included home-made burgers, boneless marinated chicken, lamb koftas, swordfish steaks and marinated tuna steaks, plus salads, baked potatoes, hummus and garlic bread. Followed by



desserts and drinks. (Well, don't we all cook that for a family barbecue in our back garden?). Seriously, a feast!

A fitting end of term for Ed. He will always be remembered for our first Soapbox Derby, and its spectacular success.

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KidsOut at Tropical Wings

Hands on with the animals



High Jinks in the Playground



Touching Nature - in the raw!



KidsOut at Tropical Wings

Thank you Rotarians

We were proud and delighted once again to take the disadvantaged children from Thriftwood School for the annual Rotary Kids Out Day on June 8. They chose again to go to Tropical Wings Butterfly farm and zoo at South Woodham Ferrers. All together, we numbered 34 pupils and eleven staff and school careers plus our meet and greet team of four, Peter and Wendy Greene, Trevor Stansfield and myself.

As always, this year the Kids arrived on time, and we were swiftly inside the Zoo where we broke up into separate parties, each accompanied by a Rotary club member. The sun shone brilliantly, the animals and birds were active and noisy, the butterflies brilliant, the meerkats funny as they rushed to and fro in their enclosure, and the children had great fun touching some smaller specimens such as a cockroach and an African snail, but drew the line at a millipede and a stick insect. And the rain kept off until we were all safely on our way home – we were so lucky! 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.

The eleven staff and carers did the hard work, shepherding and controlling the groups of kids as we wandered through the grounds – and this with three coach loads of children from other schools, all wanting to see the same things. They do an amazing job.

The feed-back reaction from Thriftwood has made us appreciate what a worthwhile event it is. New Thriftwood organiser, Laura Bazley, said: *“What a wonderful day. The weather was kind to us despite having to return in a tremendous storm. Everyone enjoyed everything we saw and*

Tropical Wings were brilliant in organising our day and making sure we had a great time. We cannot thank the Rotary Club of Billericay enough for their efforts to make it all

possible and we look forward to another successful day next year,” adding: *“Some of the children said, ‘Can we go to a real zoo?’”*

Laura: It will be considered by the Club committee.

Rotary KidsOut Day is a national collaboration between the KidsOut 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. A Day Out could be as simple as visiting the seaside, zoo or theme park but for the children who attend, this is often a once in a lifetime experience.

We were part of a day in which more than 100 venues and 10,000 Rotary volunteers made the day out the success that it is. The first Rotary KidsOut Day took place in 1990 and since then up to 25,000 disadvantaged children have been taken on a fun day out every year.

And the response from Tropical Wings to our Facebook posting about the day could influence us all in wanting to return again next year. What did they say?

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KidsOut at Tropical Wings (continued)



Picking up on our Facebook posting, Tropical Wings wrote:

“Thank you for such a wonderful account of how so many people helped create such a fun experience for the children. Everyone at Tropical Wings loved welcoming you all here and we hope to see you again soon.”

One thing to watch, we will make sure that we get a larger picnic area - almost 50 people in a small but pleasant picnic area was not

ideal when there were larger smaller-attended venues.

Our thanks to Phillips coaches for their excellent delivery and return (an email has been sent to them) and to Tina and her staff at “Enjoy ... Cakes ~ Cafe” in Billerica High Street, for supplying such a magnificent picnic at low cost. Thanks also to Burstead Farm Shop for the donation of the fruit. Tropical Wings have been thanked for their excellent support.

Most popular item at the zoo? Not the animals. Not the Birds. **It was the adventure playground and the “Diggers”!**

Last word from Laura Bazley, the group leader, who 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.”

By Trevor Bond

Wash your hands if you touch the animals

Lunch Time

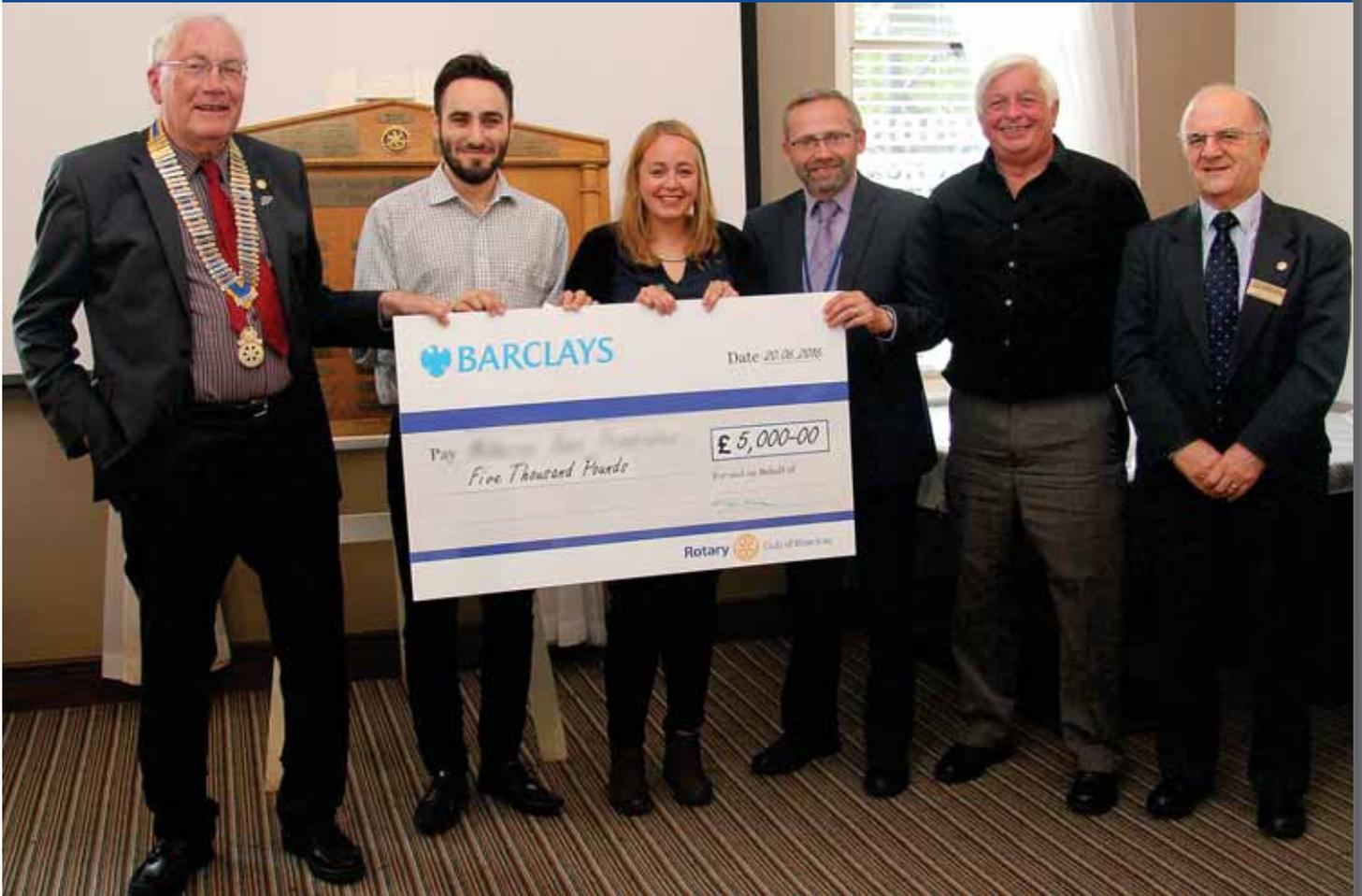


Snakes Alive!

Wild Birds Display



Soapbox Derby Charities



It was with great delight that on June 21 at our Monday lunch we were able to hand over £15,000 in total from the proceeds of our spectacular Soapbox Derby to the agreed recipients of the designated major charities.

The sum of £5,000 each was presented by retiring president Ed Harrison to Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Hope & Homes for Children and Little Havens Children's Hospice. They were received by Gianluca Di Pasqua, representing Friends of MSF, by Catherine Butt, Community Publicity Manager for

We Present the Cheques!

Hope & Homes (the charity that supports disadvantaged children in Romania) and Peter Hall, Area Leader for Voluntary Income at Havens Hospices by.

All three recipients were unanimous in thanking the Rotary Club of Billericay. Peter Hall said: "This means so much to us. We have to rely on such generosity and, to put it bluntly, this helps us keep our neck out of the woods". Catherine and Gianluca expressed their thanks in similar terms.

This cheque presentation followed the £2,000 already handed, as agreed, to Quilters Junior School for their participation and support and £1000 to Rotary's End Polio Program and smaller donations to other local youth organisations.

It was our pleasure to have as our guests, David Randall representing the Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower, who had provided tremendous support to the event including manning two entrance gates throughout the day, and Danny Lovey from the Rotary Club of Basildon Concord which had helped man one of the gates.

President's Day (continued)

Hands on and totally supportive, even on the day when shortly after a serious operation, he stood fast and firm for many hours, answering questions, helping out until he was exhausted. He

holds the reins, keeps us on the ball and never forgets to remind us that, as a small Club, we can achieve whatever we set out to do – the Soapbox Derby proving his point.

Ed never gives up. Now he reverts back to being club secretary. He has had illness problems, battled through and is still there leading us all for the Club.

Ed – our thanks.

Thirty Years since the Chernobyl Disaster



For the last three years, the Rotary Club of Billericay has been supporting the local branch of the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline, a charity which 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.

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 four weeks is enough to give the children another two years of life!

The children this year have just arrived and are from Borodyanka in the Ukraine. They are again accompanied by Svitlana their interpreter and group leader, who also accompanied the group two years ago.

We will be sponsoring the High Ropes and Strawberry Tea on June

27, and the visit to Chessington World of Adventure on July 4.

A full Programme awaits the children while they are here (see inset box), but the first week ended with a 'Welcome Barbecue' at Stockbrook Nursey for the children, the

hosting families and representatives from the sponsors.

This year the event took place on Friday June 17, and the club was represented by Peter Greene.

The evening starts with the children

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To kick things off, as with each visit previously, the children were invited to pick out some clothes for themselves and their siblings, from those given to the charity by generous donors. It's not all fun, though, as this is also the day the children visit the optician and the dentist. The children come from poor families, which may mean that a visit to the dentist or optician is not possible.

With the eye tests, fillings and extractions out of the way, the remaining programme is full of fun and adventure. They will have PLENTY of stories to tell their families, friends and schoolmates back in Ukraine. This year, the children visit local schools, see the sea for the first time and enjoy fresh, uncontaminated food. They water-ski, sail, ice skate, swim and climb. And swim. And swim. They eat their body weight in fresh fruit and ice cream. They will meet firemen, scouts, schoolkids, potters, butterflies and South Essex locals of all ages and from all walks of life. And then, in four weeks, they will leave. It will be a sad day, but they go back to Ukraine, stronger, healthier, happier and with enough memories of Essex and the warmth and generosity of its people to last them a lifetime- a lifetime that is that much longer for their visit.

By Matthew Craig-Greene, Joint Chairperson

Young Photographer

Another Success for Chloe

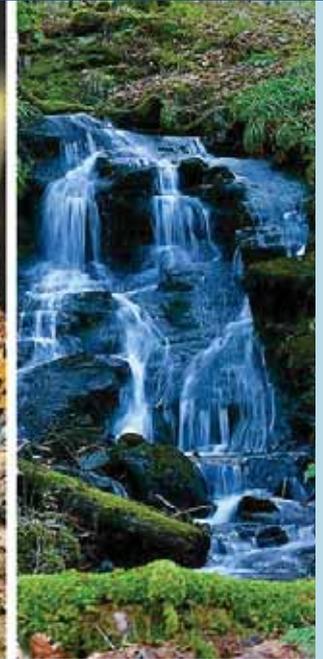
Congratulations to Chloe Woodland for being highly commended in the senior category for this year's national Rotary Young Photographer.

Chloe, from the Billericay School, our local and district winner reached the grand final and received a highly commended award along with four other contestants.

Chloe has done our club support proud in achieving such high status in a major competition in which hundreds of contestants from Great Britain and Ireland took part overall with fifty-seven contesting the national finals.

Our Young Photographer organiser, James Ilesley added: "We are all very proud of Chloe. It was a very competitive and keenly fought competition and the standard at all levels was very high."

The year's theme was "Our World Is Beautiful" which inspired the entrants to find inspiration from the world around them. There was a variety of high quality submissions split into junior, intermedi-



First Prize winners (L to R) Senior, Intermediate, Junior

ate and senior categories based on age. Each entrant was judged on technical merit, content and composition, imagination and style.

The judges included professionals and photography experts from fields of journalism, education and business. All expressed amazement at the high standard.

The Rotary Young Photographer of the Year is open to any young person in full time education between the ages of 7-17. The theme for next year is "Reflection".

Details can be found on Rotary's club finder to get in touch with local clubs who may host a competition.

The senior category was won by 16-year-old Megan McCulloch from Lanark Grammar School; the intermediate category was won by 13-year-old Piotr Libera from Gunnersbury Catholic School, London; and the junior category was won by Charlotte Jackson-Stark, aged 10, from Lochnell Primary School.

How Our Soapbox Derby Reached Other Parts



At club lunch on June 21, Keith Wood flourished a copy of the Tabler, Round Table's national quarterly magazine.

The front page and page four displayed our Soapbox Derby with a Page one cover photograph and a page four report and image. Keith said: "I picked this up in Yorkshire and I gather that Round Table members in Wiltshire have seen it."

Motto: Good news travels fast, and travels far and wide!
It's also, a chance again to thank our local Round Table colleagues



for their wonderful support on the day - the gate they manned handled almost 50% of all spectators.

When Opportunity Knocks!

What's in four letters? BOSP? It stands for Brighter Opportunities through Supported Play.....That is supporting children and young people with disabilities. Our speaker on June 6, Jodie Connelley spelt it out: Staff of six; 48 supporters, 2,000 in need of respite in the area of Brentwood, Billericay and Basildon. Disabled, critically ill, immobile.

She said: "When this happens, families can become marginalised. Our aim is to establish a range of activities to develop physical skills, and alleviate emotional and behavioural problems. Above all, encourage people to have fun.



And to provide essential respite away from the family home."

Activities include therapy for four year olds, and outdoor projects – animal activity, trampolining, football. Life skills are important so hotel breaks and canal boat trips and scout camps are organised and provided – but at a cost. Jodie admitted: "We get little

government funding. We have to rely on donations and support and volunteers.. But in 2013, despite all that, Ofsted did give us an "Outstanding" report"

Jodie introduced a case study .. Amelia stricken with cerebral palsy, now stress reduced and , through the work of the BOSP charity, now back within a family situation.



Flexibility – Need For Rotary To Move On?



recognise that your Club has already set some of these in motion. You have established Associate membership and are considering corporate and satellite association. I hope you pursue those."

On the club's behalf, Peter Strong, as Membership Secretary, argued strongly against changing too much from the old order. He said: " While recognising a need for some change, I would not like us to overturn all the established regime. We are meeting already some of these thoughts...one associate member, Rev Margaret Fowler has now become a full member and we expect another."

Danny Lovey, president of Basildon Concord promoted the Rotary GO! Project at lunch on June 21. GO! or Growth Opportunities, is primarily Support for Clubs. Its main themes are:

- Innovative and Flexible Clubs
- Corporate Membership
- Satellite Clubs
- Associate Membership
- eClubs

Explaining these alternatives in more detail, Danny said: " I

He added: "Rotary as we have known it is changing and it has to change to acknowledge more flexibility and to encourage younger members into Rotary.

Meeting times and venues may have to change to make it more convenient for potential members. Perhaps not settle for meeting on the same day in the same month at the same venue. Consider looking at alternatives."



Goodbye to a Great Rotarian

The funeral of Rotarian Neville Deakin took place at the Bentley Crematorium, Ongar Road, Brentwood on Thursday, June 9. It was attended by Neville's family, friends, former associates and Rotarians from our Club and other clubs. Here, Founder Member, Ben Clarke pays tribute to Neville.

Towards the end of May we were so sorry to lose one of our more senior members, Neville Deakin. The end seemed to come so soon and far too quickly.

Neville had been a successful businessman in the High Street of Billericay for many years and in the early 1980's brought these skills to the Rotary Club when he joined us then.

The first job he took in the club was as Speaker Finder, it was quite clear from the start that he would be an active member. When Neville joined Rotary, the club was landlord of the Rose Hall, Chapel



Street where we held our Monday meetings. Immediately, he took over the running of the Rose Hall on our behalf, a great success, taking care of all the management.

This included the lettings, no easy job, the skills that he had as estate agent and surveyor were much in use.

Neville ran the Rose Hall successfully for many years.. Sadly, it was clear some time ago that Neville's health was beginning to fail, yet despite that and with the full support of his wife Alison, he was able to join our Monday meetings regularly from Maldon. Neville was a gentle quiet man, we shall miss his presence enormously. All the members send to Alison and her family our heartfelt sorrow.

Chernobyl Children's Life Line (continued)

having the run of the play areas bouncing away on the trampolines, hurtling along the aerial zip-wires, climbing the assault course or just playing football. These are young children - so how do they communicate with their English hosts' children - why - they all speak "football"! the game of Ukraine vs. England was a little disorganised, but a joy to watch!



Then the chance of a barbecue and a choice of hamburgers and

hot-dogs (and vegetarian alternatives) as well as the healthier option of salads. Seconds? You bet? Soon almost all the food was gone.

Finally a choice of desserts to tempt the sweet tooth in everybody.

A final run on the trampolines and other equipment and it was time to go home.

What a great time was had by all.



Tate it from Here !!

Members will be aware from all the publicity that Tate Modern, in the old Bankside Power Station, has recently completed a major extension - Spiral House.



A 10 storey building, a dramatic shape, new viewing galleries, extra bars and restaurants, a new members room, and, a top floor viewing gallery with great views of The City and surrounding areas.

The building will officially open soon but members could visit the new building for previews on

Tuesday/Wednesday 14/15 June. On the 15th, we joined the long queue which wound round the building. The queue moved fast but gave us the opportunity to have a good look at the angular construction of this new edifice.

Once inside we took the lifts up to the 10th floor to wander round the open-air viewing gallery. The views are spectacular.



After some time we wandered down the stairs, stopping at each floor to appreciate the architecture – unfortunately the restaurant wasn't open (so no gourmet food reviews from us!) and the members room only had coffee and crisps! It wasn't until we had descended to Level 4 that there were galleries with artwork – and here



there is a bridge across to the original main building (now called the Boiler House). There are further galleries on Levels 3 and 2, and then on Level 1 with its new shop and bar, there's another bridge across to the main building.

Impressions? "A very interesting design, blending well with the old Gallery yet is refreshingly modern and angular in design. It certainly extends the Gallery space at Tate Modern and the new viewing Gallery is worth a visit if you are at the Gallery for an exhibition."

By Wendy & Peter Greene

Editor's note: I'm no art expert but, at a recent visit to the famous Prado Gallery in Madrid, I learnt to tell the difference between a Titian and a Raphael (Adam & Eve!).

This month's Joke - "TOMORROW - One of the greatest labour saving devices of today"

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

July 4

Handover Meeting

July 11

John Ellis - Chairman Laindon Common Conservation Group

July 11 (18.30 - 20.30) at Reids' Gallery

Joint Service Meeting and Club Council

July 18

Business Meeting

July 25

Sue Ginn - The Map that Changed the World

August 1

Speaker TBD

Other dates for your diary:

July 10

Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower Summerfest

Sept. 15-18

Twinning visit to Alba

December 4

Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower Christmas Market