



# Rotary Club of Billericay

# News

June 2017

“Service Above Self”

## President’s Message

### An Orchestra All Playing Sweet Music



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My last month as president commenced with our meeting in the Gallery and a presentation from Mark Smith from the local branch of the Samaritans. We had all heard of the organisation and had our own ideas of what they might do.

Mark’s presentation was impressive for its simple portrayal of the work actually carried out and the circumstances which can prompt their intervention. Such was the interest that the question session would have carried on all afternoon had I not brought the proceedings to a close.

part by associate governor Peter McCafferty, with the incoming officers setting out their plans. On June 19 some fruits of our soapbox labours were distributed with cheques of £6,000 each being presented to four of the nominated charities: Little Havens Children’s Hospice, Hamelin Trust, Aquabox and Médecins sans Frontières. We shared the event with representatives of many of the service clubs and organisations who helped so much on Derby day. Other donations have already been, or will be distributed to other soapbox beneficiaries.

#### Schooldays Remembered

Our visitors had a treat in store as our speaker was our own Bert

French who gave us a light-hearted talk recalling his school days at Palmer’s during WW2. Whether it was the mention of time in the cadet corps or reference to antiquated measures of length and volume, we all enjoyed a nostalgic reminiscence as Bert backed up his memories with supporting documents.

On Wednesday June 22 the

(continued next Page)

The following week, club assembly was attended in



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## President's Message (continued)

membership subcommittee aired a number of subjects that the club may debate next year. We need to take control of the future of the club and work towards an achievable goal WHATEVER that might be, rather than leave matters to fate. I look forward with great interest to those discussions.

The Business Meeting on June 26 was preceded by the presentation by Peter Dowse, our District Youth Officer, of the prizes for the District competition for Young Photographer. It was a pleasure to have some prize winners from Billericay School as our lunchtime guests. It was also a pleasure to see another guest, our former member James Ilesley, who had organised and judged the com-

petition on behalf of District and indeed our club and it was an opportunity to thank him for all of his input.

### *Ambitions Achieved*

I have enjoyed being President of this auspicious club for the second time, and would take the opportunity to thank all of the members for their support this year. I would hope that the club has emerged from the year with its reputation intact and in some respects even enhanced. My aspirations at the start of the year were not too ambitious but have certainly been achieved and indeed exceeded. We have been active and hopefully had some fun into the bargain. How to summarise? If a business we would surely be in line for a

Queens Award. If a film crew, surely in receipt of an Oscar nomination. If a lager, probably be the best lager in the world.

We are in fact more akin to an orchestra with each member playing a different instrument. When we come together and play the same tune, we make sweet music for the benefit of the community and our nominated good causes. As I pass my conductors baton (or as he might call it the poisoned chalice) to our new President, Peter Greene, I could not be more confident that we have a worthy leader to take us into year 58 and I have been grateful for his unswerving support throughout year fifty seven.

## Inner Wheel

### *A Lovely Cathedral And Billericay Bear*

Hello Rotarians

In April a few members visited the National Memorial Arboretum, also taking in Lichfield Cathedral on the way. I looked the cathedral up on the internet and I must say it is a magnificent building, still touched by the industrial history of the Midlands. Although not part of the "Black Country" the prevailing wind obviously carried the dust here, as much of the stone is black. The group stayed in a hotel near the Arboretum.

The following morning, on enter-

ing the Arboretum, they found the memorials impressive and emotional. The 330 memorials are added to each year. A train helped our party move around the extensive site. The beautiful modern memorials, mainly from WWII, took the breath away and the sheer scale of the site sometimes made photography difficult. The Naval Memorial was quite different, with perspex panels and when the sun shone it created ships.

Good to see so many children there and that schools are being encouraged. There is an Inner Wheel garden area and the group were pleased with the guided tour. Highlight memorial was the

wooden "Billericay bear" having been carved in Billericay at the Essex School of Woodcarving. It was the first statue in the arboretum remembering fallen servicemen and women and is a tribute to the 31st Infantry Regiment whose soldiers were first stationed in Iceland during WWII and were nicknamed the "Polar bears". It took a year to finish, weighed two and a half tons and it was produced free of charge. The carvers have two more statues in the arboretum, a 6ft storyteller and a large eagle. Our members found the visit both very enjoyable and emotional.

*By Maya Gupta, Special Correspondent*



## Samaritans – Still Not Passing By



### Support us by making a donation

How your money can help:

- £10 a month to train one volunteer
- £15 for ongoing email support to one person
- £20 lets us answer 5 calls
- £ Surprise us

### Make a single donation

reluctant to “open up” and talk to strangers.

Mark cited the case of Leeds United and Welsh international soccer player and manager, Gary Speed who took his own life at, seemingly, the high point of his career. “To this day, no-one knows why this great sportsman chose to end his life. Perhaps we could have helped if he had come to us.”

Mark ended on the subject of mental health, self-harming and issues that could be helped. “We work with schools, companies such as Network Rail where suicides are frequent with crossing and signalling areas, even shrines and funeral congregations where families

cannot understand why a beloved one has chosen to take their own life.”

Costing: “We receive no government funding, and we do not beg, but we are supported financially by voluntary contributions. But every penny helps.”

We all know the parable of the Good Samaritan – don't we? Well that one lone passer-by who chose to stop and help centuries ago, gave a name that has lingered into the 21st century.

The Samaritans are still alive and helping strangers in distress.

Mark Smith from the Basildon and Thurrock Samaritans, which covers the Billericay area, explained more when addressing us at lunch on Monday, June 5.

“Let's establish one thing foremost – we are not a religious group.

Our aim, ever since Chad Varah inaugurated the Samaritans as an organisation which listened, helped to sort out lives and worked with professional people to help, has been to follow that remit.

“I have been the local director for three years now, listening, talking and meeting head-on the issues that people raise. The World Health Organisation tells us that there is one suicide every 40 seconds in the UK. That is a figure which we aim to bring down.”

He raised some interesting bullet points:

- In the World Health Organisation there are three female workers to one male
- In 1963 Samaritans dealt with

around 40 cases per day. Current figure, now 210.

- Internet, texts, drops -in and telephone messages had increased the pressure.

### Volunteers Welcome

“As you would expect, on a Friday night we get around 85% of all calls and 74% of all emails asking for help. Alcohol more than drugs, but all need help. We can handle them although we always need more volunteers. And our remit is voluntary – no-one gets paid.

“ When I had no-one to turn to, Samaritans answered my call for help  
Kevin

---

“ If I hadn't called Samaritans, I honestly don't know where I'd be today. I have my life to thank them for.  
Charlie

---

“ I like being there for people who are in distress, for people who are lonely, and for people who don't have anyone else in their lives they can bounce ideas off.  
Gillian, Samaritans volunteer

At the moment here, we can cope with two or three voluntary staff running the clock round twenty-four hours but we do need more.”

Some interesting facts:

- 55 per cent are at risk through work stress and pressure
- Men, more than women, are

## Boots And Gaiters And A Serious Army Game

### Part 1: Our Rotarian tells of School Life in Wartime

Bert French was a boy soldier. Full Metal Jacket and all that. But at school. For one day a week only. The school was Palmer's Grammar School, Grays. The time: World War II.

Bert's reflections of that time are all brilliantly written down in his own hand. Quoting from the pages, he addressed us on June 19 on his wartime life at Palmer's.

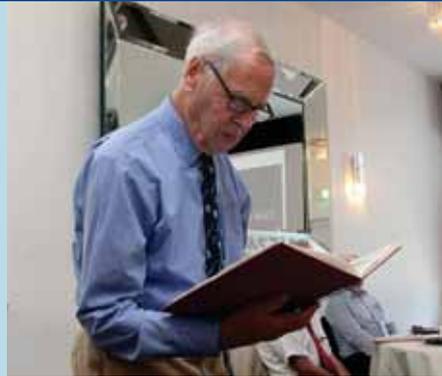
School motto: Monumentum Aere Perennius - A Monument More Everlasting than Bronze. "For me it certainly was", he said.

The headmaster when Bert began in 1939 having passed his 11 plus at Pitsea School, was Rev. H Aldridge Abbott, MA, Queens College, Cambridge - known as "Bunny". It was "Bunny" who instigated the CORPS, the Army Cadets, on Wednesday afternoons. "We came to school in full battle-dress - boots and gaiters. Wednesday afternoons were devoted to drill, form 4s, field craft, map reading etc. We fired sten guns in the quarry next to the school and the seniors went to Purfleet rifle range for 303 firing. Great fun.

#### Flags Flying

"We took certificate A parts 1 and 2 with the Army training and testing us. Annual inspection by General de Rougemont. We were very smart and marched past with flags flying and the school band playing. Drilled with 1860 carbines which were kept by the army in the school's east wing.

"I went on three annual camps in the summer holidays in 1943-45. Two years at Roman Way Camp,



Colchester - very tough, ten mile route marches, guard duty in dead of night - living just like soldiers. Third camp in 1945, in Walton-on-the-Naze under canvas."

Boy soldiering, was a small part of Bert's grammar school life but the war continued to influence his time there.

#### Exciting Life

"After 78 years, my mind is a bit of a blur of those first few months but I remember all the 'bus' boys were put in form 2C in case we had leave quickly in an emergency. Also, we had exams in June and I was lucky enough to get into 3A the following year, 1940-41 when the war had finally got going and life was exciting."

It changed the school curriculum, "For a time lower school had half days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and upper school went



home at lunchtime on Tuesday and Thursday, so as to limit the numbers in one place" Bert explained. Only later when the bombing moved to night time did we have a more normal timetable. "I never did learn to swim since the pool was closed and drained and subjects like music, PE, games, art and craft and Latin were stopped to let us concentrate on the 3R's - so for a time we had our sandwiches on Grays Beach three days a week while waiting for the bus home."

#### Crashed Spitfire

"At one bus stop we saw a squadron of FW190's go over us. I'm sure they were same ones we saw at Orsett twenty minutes later, having machine-gunned the gas works at Romford, it was claimed. On another memorable day in 1940, a Spitfire crashed near the quarry close to the school and exploded killing the pilot.

Some windows were blown out and some wreckage fell in the playground and on the roof of the science block. Then, in 1943, the east wing playground was set on fire by incendiaries and the inner courtyard had a large bomb hole after a night attack. As I say, life was exciting."

Next Month:

- How I Learned To Love English
- Farm Boys and Early Sex Education
- Some Mathematical Posers

*Editor's Note: I am also an Old Palmerian but of immediate post-war years. I was fascinated when Bert told his wonderful story, at the Old Boys Dinner in April. There's much more to tell which we will try to encapsulate in next month's newsletter.*

# Buttsbury Junior School RotaKids

## Presentation of the RotaKids Charter

A Tuesday at the end of February saw the inauguration of the new Buttsbury Junior School RotaKids club and the enrolment of the 37 members of the club, followed by its first formal meeting.

Now, just over three months later, on June 9, 2017, the final step in the formation of the new club was completed. Rotary Club of Billericay President Mike Sinclair, President-Elect Peter Greene, and RotaKids' Officer Margaret Fowler were all present at a school Assembly, held in the School Hall in front of the whole school, and



example its "End Polio Now" campaign, and welcomed club members to our world of service and the family of Rotary. He encouraged them to fully participate in the opportunities offered by Rotary Youth Programs, in particular the Young Photographer and Young Writer competitions.

RotaKids club President Julia, together with a cheque for £250 to the RotaKids to support their initial programs.

As a full school Assembly, this was also the time for presenting



presided over by Deputy Head Teacher Sally Lavelle.

At this Assembly, District Youth Service Chairman and National Youth Officer, Peter Dowse, presented the club's Official Charter to President Julia of the Buttsbury RotaKids club. Peter complimented the children on their behaviour, described the good work which Rotary is doing in the world, for



But this wasn't all. President Mike then stepped forwards and after complimenting the RotaKids, he presented a ceremonial Gavel to

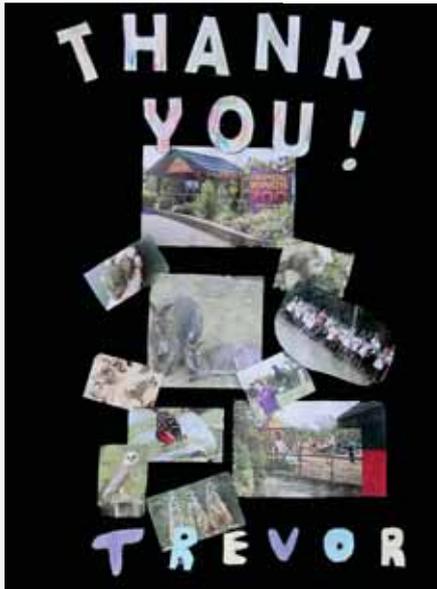


the children who had won merit awards for their work and actions in school, and, a rare award to one pupil of the Headmistress's Special Award. All the Rotarians stayed to witness this very impressive event. We wish them all success in the coming year.



# KidsOut - Every Picture Tells A Story

*A well-earned "Thank You" card for Trevor*



*Engrossed in the animals*



*Grateful for the Rest*



*In the Small Animal Kingdom*



*Birds and Meerkats*



# KidsOut - Every Picture Tells A Story



## And "Thank-Yous" All Round for our Commitment

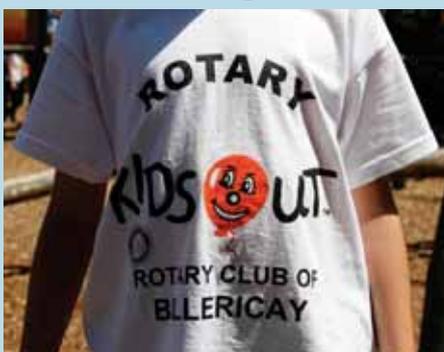
Glorious sunshine, thirty-five bouncy, happy children from Thriftwood School, a squad of 12 caring teachers and four of us.

Kids Out Day, 2017 was another huge success. Great comments from the children.



"We loved it, especially the meerkats," said one as we all enjoyed a superb picnic lunch organised again by Tina Joyce.

"I did not want to go into the bugs room, I don't like spiders," said



another, "but the talk was fun and we saw some fascinating creatures – the geckos were green and lovely."

"Why does that big brown Kangaroo have a white joey in its pouch!"



Thriftwood leader Kathryn Sheffle was delighted with our efforts and urged the children to thank the Rotary Club for funding the day.

We club four, Peter and Wendy Greene, Norman Bishop and myself were there to meet and greet their coach. Kathryn was first one off with Thomas who handed us a huge Thank You card, full of pictures and thank-you letters.

This will be with other Club members.

### Next Year Again?

The zoo staff were again quite brilliant in making sure the group knew in advance what they could  
(continued on Page 8)

### You can't win them all

There was one "problem" child, and Wendy was with him.

When it came to lunch the conversation went like this:

**Wendy:** "Do you like Cheddar?"

**Child:** "No!"

**Wendy:** "Do you like Tuna?"

**Child:** "No!"

**Wendy:** "Do you like Ham?" "No"

**Wendy:** "Do you like Jam?" "No"

**Wendy:** "Do you like Cheese?"  
"No"

**Wendy:** "Well you had better have the cheese - take it home if you don't like it." He ate it!

**Wendy:** "Did you like it?"

"No!"

**Wendy:** "Do you like crisps?"

"No".

**Wendy:** "Well, take them home with you". He ate them!

**Wendy:** "Did you like them?"

"No!"

**Wendy:** "Eat your cookie - do you like cookies?"

"No!"

**Wendy:** "Well start eating it and see how you go".

He ate it all with furious relish and then said afterwards when questioned: Did you enjoy it?

**Child:** "No!"

In life, you cannot win them all, but thank you Wendy for your patience.

# KidsOut (continued)

see and were there with us to wave them off at the end of the visit.

Kathryn was standing in for Laura Bazely who was unavailable that day. Kathryn said, as we all gathered to watch the birds of prey and for Peter to take the group photograph before having to leave. "We have had a lovely day and we thank the Rotary Club for everything. We would like to



come back next year." My personal thanks to Peter and Wendy for their support and to Norman for collecting all the great

picnic food – and especially to Tina for not only supplying but delivering to Norman's door.

I am standing down as organiser and will support my successor totally – and I am not sure I can stay away as a Rotarian entirely. Next year, I might be the one holding hands and saying: "Are you having fun?"

By Trevor Bond,  
Kids Out Day Organiser

## A National Collaboration

Rotary 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. 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 Out took place in 1990 and since then up to 25,000 disadvantaged children have been taken on a fun day out every year.

*Snakes Alive!*



*Can I join in?*



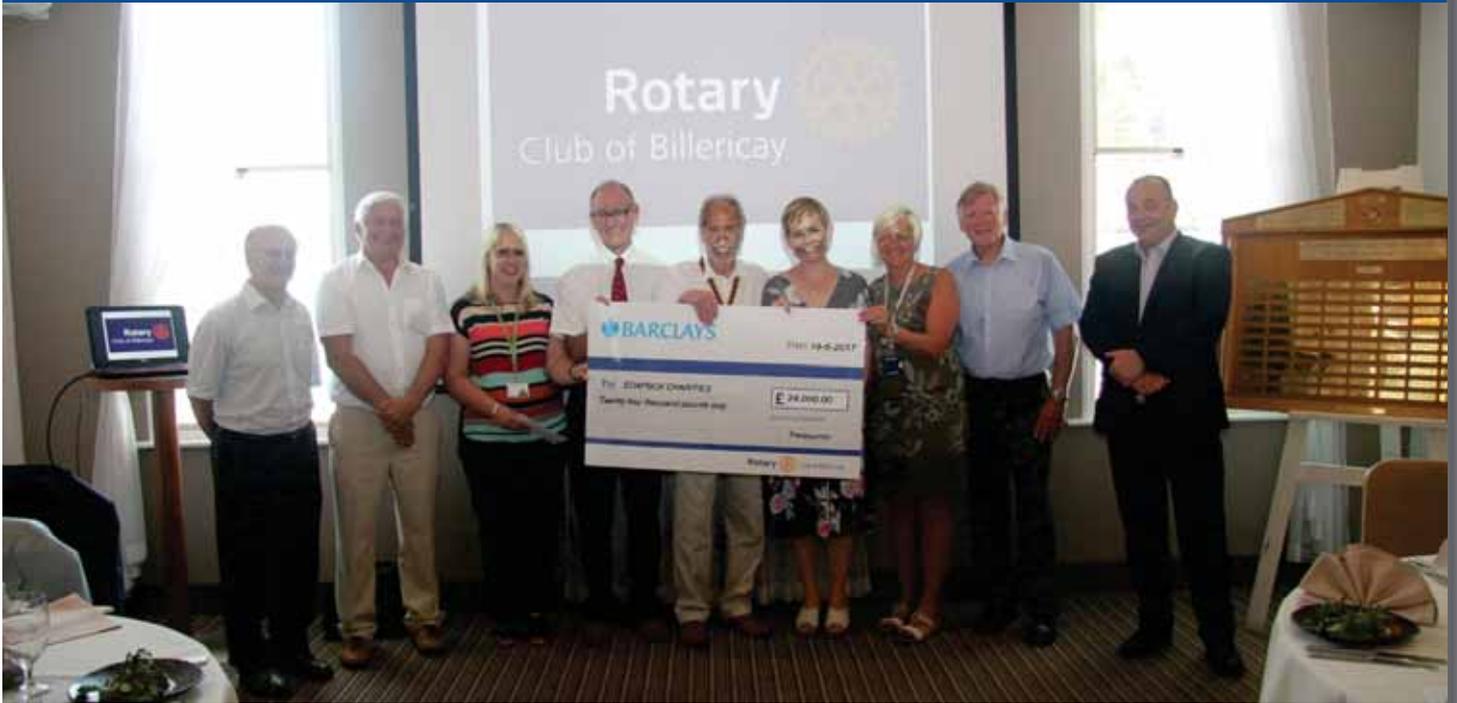
*Getting Round To It*



*I don't like playgrounds!*



# Taste Of Sweet Charity For Good Causes



**100% of ALL Profits raised will go to Charities supported by Rotary including:**

**Local - Local Schools, Hamelin Trust & Little Havens Children's Hospice.**

**International - Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), Aquabox and Rotary Foundation – End Polio**

## *As Soapbox Derby Donations Exceed £30,000*

We promised that all profits from the Soapbox Derby would go to charities supported by Rotary - and we met our promise!

Within Rotary there is always something satisfying and worthwhile in handing out money for good causes.



Monday, June 19 was one such occasion when the Club entertained to lunch representatives of four of the organisations designated as the recipients of the proceeds from our successful Spectacular Soapbox Derby on May 1.

## *Grateful Charities*

Four cheques of £6,000 each were presented by president Mike to:

- Anna Jordan from Médecins Sans Frontières.
- Roger Cassidy (Aquabox)
- Nicky Evans (Hamelin Trust)
- Claire Wilson (Little Havens Hospice).

With cheques already made to Rotary Foundation – End Polio Now and to Quilters Junior School and other smaller donations, this brought the total dispersed to over £30,000.

The response from the recipients who enjoyed the com-

pany of club members at various tables, was generous.

Nicky Evans from Hamelin Trust told one member group: *“This means so much to us. We have to thrive mainly on donations. What a great effort by everyone involved*

*with your Soapbox Derby.”*

Anna Jordan of MSF said *“It was so nice to meet so many members of your club and to hear all about the Soapbox Derby which sounds like an amazing event. I have really enjoyed reliving it through all of the photos in your booklet. Thank you so much for the invitation to visit your club and for the hugely generous cheque.”*

Roger Cassidy of Aquabox responded *“This is truly wonderful news and the donation will go a long way towards covering the cost a shipment of Aquafilters that we are planning to despatch to Kenya later this month, in support of those fleeing from the drought and famine currently being experienced in South Sudan and Eastern Africa.”*

It is fantastic when we can see the direct benefits our donations make!

## *Service Supporters*

It was also an opportunity to share lunch with (continued on page 11)

# Chernobyl Children's Life Line

## Belarus To Billericay - Making A Difference

For the last four years, the Rotary Club of Billericay has supported 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, over 31 years ago.

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 gives the children another two years of life!

This year, those children come from Belarus, from the region around Gomol. Those selected to come have been identified as those most in need by community workers in the region. Six boys and six girls, all around nine or ten years of age. This year's leader is Larysa Pratsko. This is Larysa's first visit to Billericay, and she travelled here with the children. A full Programme awaited the children while they are here.

### The Disaster

31 years have passed since the day the reactor at Chernobyl blew and spewed radioactive matter up into the clouds on that fateful day in April, 1986. Of course, the exclusion zone around the facility remains a desolate wasteland, uninhabited, but the areas just outside the exclusion zone are still suffering, too. Social issues, poor health and poverty are an everyday fact of life for the children we bring to the UK. Just four weeks of clean air and fresh food can extend their lives by as much as two years.



### Zoo Visit

To kick things off, as with each visit previously, the children were taken for a fun day at Tropical

Stockbrook Nursery on June 17, for the children, the hosting families and the sponsors. The club was represented by Peter Greene.



Wings Zoo in South Woodham Ferrers, invited to pick out some clothes for themselves and their siblings at a Clothes Bank. It's not all fun, though, as in this first week, 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.

We sponsored the Bowling and Roller Blading on June 16, and the Rope Runners on July 3, and we started off by joining the "Welcome Party and Barbecue" at

### Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

The evening starts with the children having the run of the play areas bouncing away on the trampolines, hurtling along the aerial zip-wires, or using the bouncy castle. These are young children, so communication with their hosts' children is a challenge, but somehow, they manage! What a joy to watch!

The fun is followed by the 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 everybody's sweet tooth.



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

What a great time was had by all.

# A Warm Welcome For Our International Friends

## Croquet, Punting, Cruising and Serious Rotary Business

Plans are now in place for the Double Triangular Friendship visit between the Rotary Clubs of Billericay and Basildon and our international Rotary colleagues from Beausoleil, Alba, Ovada del Centenario and Karlshamn.

Note the dates: September 14-17.

### Itinerary:

#### **Thursday, Sept 14**

Airport pick-up by members of both Clubs. Arrival from 12 noon at County Hotel, Chelmsford.



#### *Afternoon at leisure.*

18.00pm: Rotarians collect visitors from County Hotel to arrive at Brook Lodge, Stock for croquet on the lawn, barbecue supper and drinks

22.30pm: Rotarians return visitors to County Hotel.

#### **Friday, Sept 15**



09.30am: Depart County Hotel by coach to Cambridge. Guided tour through city centre, and see famous colleges and universities, river walks, parks and Isaac Newton Apple Tree.

12.30pm: Lunch at The Eagle, one of city's oldest and most famous inns; Great history and delicious British pub food.

14.15pm: Punting on the river Cam by official punts-man - or pole your own!

16.00pm: Return to Chelmsford

17.15pm: Relaxation

19.00pm - Late: : Home hosting - collection from hotel and return.

#### **Saturday, Sept 16**



09.30am: Day trip by coach to London.

11.00am: Embankment walk, visit Churchill Rooms, see Whitehall

and Downing Street with London guide, Jim McSharry.

11.45am: Meet Rt. Hon Stephen Metcalf MP at Palace of Westminster for guided tour round the House of Commons and lunch aboard the all-glass bateaux Symphony..

1.30pm: Thames restaurant cruise with magnificent views of London, including House of Parliament, the Coca-Cola London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. If time at end of cruise. short guided coach tour south of the Thames. Return to Chelmsford.

**19.30pm: Gala Dinner in the County Hotel, Crystal Ball Room**

#### **Sunday, Sept 17**

09.30am: Breakfast Rotary Business Meeting with presidents and club officials in the County Hotel Sapphire Restaurant/Bar.

Others free morning for shopping, sight-seeing, lunch.

14.00pm: Departure with Club members to the airport.

Full details in later issues. We will need volunteers to collect and transport the visitors.

## Sweet Charity (continued)

(continued from Page 9) members of the other service clubs and to thank them for their help with the Soapbox Derby. Their advice before the event, and their prodigious physical support on the day helped make it another outstanding success.

Clubs represented at the award ceremony, and our guests for lunch, were:

- Basildon Rotary Club (President Kevin Howard)



- Basildon Concord (Danny Lovey)
- Rotary Club of Mayflower Billericay (Dave Randall)

- 41 Club (President Tony Sprackling)
- Billericay Lions (President Robert Brett).

President Mike thanked every one of them, before we all sat down for lunch.

Later, everybody greatly enjoyed being entertained by a witty and nostalgic talk given by our own Rotarian Bert French (see Speaker's Corner on Page 4).

# District Young Photographer of the Year

## *Billericay School lands the top prizes*



**Kieran  
Coyne's  
winning  
photos**



Three pupils from Billericay School, with their master Ian Coleman, were guests at lunch on June 26 - all prize-winners in the Rotary Young Photographer District Competition, 2017.

The three were Kieran Coyne, 18, District Senior Winner, who also went on to represent the District in the national competition; Thomas Mitchelmore, 15, placed second in the District and Daniel Olteanu, also 15, who was third in the District competition. Each entrant presented a set of three photographs on a common theme - "Reflection", in colour or black and white.



Presenting the winning certificates and prizes, District Youth Chairman and National Young Photographer Organiser, Peter Dowse, congratulated them on their achievement and spelt out how high the standard was. "It gave the judges real food for thought. Decision-making wasn't easy."

One judge was former club member James Ilesley, a professional

photographer. He also attended the lunch.

"What a lovely occasion it was", said Ian Coleman. "The boys were buzzing about it on the way back to school. Once again, thank you for your generosity and for being such brilliant hosts. It was a memorable lunch...."

Three other district winners, Junior, Intermediate, and highly commended were all from Dunmow, They will receive their prizes in Dunmow.

The competition supports and encourages development of photographic skills. It aims to encourage young people to:

- Experiment with photography
- Use digital or traditional methods
- Show interpretation of their chosen topic
- Express their ideas through the medium of photography

The competition is open all schools and college communities including those that are home educated and any other young people's community organisations, for example, community RotaKids, community Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides. There are three age groups:

- Junior - 7 to 10 years
- Intermediate - 11 to 13 years
- Senior - 14 to 17 years old



# Quilters RotaKids - Outdoor Classroom and Art Gallery

Quilters Junior School, home of our first RotaKids club, has recently been graded by OFSTED as outstanding in all areas. It prides itself on its creativity and thinking 'outside the box'. The club are working with the RotaKids and the Headmaster to create an outdoor class room and Art Gallery to improve further the quality of learning at the School. £6500 is required to implement this project, of which the club has funded £2250, the school has contributed £1000, and we have applied for a District Grant to cover the balance.

We met with the Rotakids' committee, Headmaster and a local Artist to develop the plans for the Outdoor Gallery and Class Room, helped the RotaKids develop the plans and will provide continuing support and advice.

## ***Innovative and Stimulating***

Most school projects concentrate on curriculum subjects and logic. We back this innovative project because it stimulates creativity, imagination and learning, vital skills for these children in the future. All classes will have outdoors lessons in this area, experiencing creative learning and play during lunch time and breaks, and work with a professional artist to create their own works of art.

1. The area will be used to teach pupils in a fresh and inspir-



ing environment set amongst the trees in the corner of the school field. It would also be available throughout the day, during breaks and lunch time for free and creative play.

2. Pupils will work with a local artist to create a wide range of art for the gallery. It will be a place of imagination; of awe and wonder, where nature and natural materials are the children's inspiration.
3. A selection of appealing books will be placed in "treasure" chests. Pupils will enjoy the tranquillity of nature, as they read stories and poems to fire their imaginations and bring out their inner storyteller.

## ***All their own work***

Using natural materials, pupils will create a giant spider and web, to hang amongst the trees; create a range of insects and bugs and a giant magnifying glass, that will 'enlarge' these creatures; they will weave natural materials between the trees and make beehives and create two magical villages, one for the 'good' creatures of the woods and one for the bad. A solitary door will stand alone, in the mouth of the trees. Once pupils walk through it, they must "leave

themselves behind and become someone else" There will be two treasure chests, cemented into the ground, full of dressing up outfits, accessories and puppets. This gallery will be a place for fun and role-play where imaginations can run wild while speaking and listening skills and story-telling skills are refined.

Empty picture frames of varying styles will hang throughout the wood. Pupils can use these frames to serve as TV screens to perform shows for other pupils. In a third treasure chest, pupils will be able to access art materials. Looking through a specific picture frame, pupils will be able to capture specific scenes from nature, looking closely at its beauty. This work will be laminated and displayed in the outdoor gallery.

## ***Inspired by nature***

Finally, there will be a selection of appealing books placed in a 4th and 5th treasure chest. Pupils can sit and enjoy the tranquillity of nature, as they read stories and poems which will fire their imaginations and bring out their inner storyteller.

Once the gallery is installed, every term, every class in school will be commissioned to create art work, related to one of their topics, inspired by nature or using natural materials, to be added to the gallery's (continued on page 15)



# Thin Blue Line And A Missing Mercedes

## *Strange tale of a club member and a confusing police case*

### **The timetable:**

**T**hursday 10.00 am: President-elect Peter Greene steps outside front door.

*(No early riser, our Peter?)*

Immaculate all-singing, all-dancing car parked overnight – gone!

Memory-loss discarded, only thought despite car keys safely locked in house – car stolen.

Dials 999, tells police car stolen. “When?”

“Early hours this morning.”

“Not emergency then – dial 101.”

“There’s a large number of calls – you will be answered in 4-5 minutes.”

Peter remembered the car links to Mercedes on-line and texts where car was parked. Could it track on a wider area?

Tried it. Ah hah! There was a Vehicle Tracking facility. Five seconds later, map of roads in Dagenham, address, and arrow showing just where to find the car.

“Unbelievable”, says Peter. “Less than 10 minutes after seeing it had gone, I had found it.”

Called 999 for urgent action before car moved.

Told police where it was – simple. Guess again!

“Dagenham – that’s the Met’s patch. We’ll let them know. Here’s the Reference Number, call us back if it moves.”

Peter kept watching the tracking. One hour, two hours. Car still there. Called 999 again – told police were trying to find someone to go to the location.”

Waited but no word. Now after 1.00 pm. Another 999 call.

Told: Police National Computer down, difficult to pass information to Met. used another system.

Peter: “Can someone call me to tell me what’s happening?”

“Yes, but you could try 101 and push the hash key for Met Police.”

Peter: “Can I collect it myself?”

“No, too dangerous. Leave it to us – you do not know who you are dealing with.”

### **Desperation**

More time passed, now getting desperate. Need action before car moved again.



Called 101 again. Response - “that’s a busy area – might need time to have someone free. Don’t worry – sure somebody there soonest.”

Still hear nothing. Is tracking just showing last known position? Call Mercedes again – very helpful.

“Yes, tracking still active. If tracking fails, there’s a mobile phone SIM in car. We can give police the number if they send us a request. We’ll send you the email they need to use.” Arrived within five minutes! Peter: “Wow!”

999 call again- not heard anything. Want to send police the email from Mercedes. Sorry sir, we don’t have any email address available to the public.”

More time passes. Another 101 call. “Has anything happened?” “No reports. Why don’t you go to there and call 101 if it’s still there”. “But Essex police said don’t do it!” “Just check it’s there – don’t try to recover it. Then call 101 to tell us.

### **Rotary To the Rescue**

Tale changes here. Thirteen hours after car stolen, Peter phones Patrick Rotheron. “Can you take me to Dagenham?”

They leave at 6.00 pm, drive there, the car is there - new number plates, but the RIGHT car.

Went to the local police station. Some debate, then: “We have sent officers to secure the car. Then it goes for forensics by either us or Essex police. Essex police will decide”

Panic over. Car safe. Back home by 9pm.

Friday. Call from Essex police: “We have found your car!”

Peter: “I found it myself yesterday.”

Told: “Little chance of any forensic evidence, if you want,

you can collect it from Charlton Car Pound.” Given telephone number – no use - info only. Tried 101 again, given another number – no answer, had to leave a message. 6.30 pm: a call back with the number to make appointment to collect the car. Happen to see Ifor Roberts (Billericay Mayflower club) that evening. Ifor agrees to take Peter to collect

Saturday am: Charlton Car Pound. Car safe. Boot won’t close but little other obvious damage and, says Peter, “really helpful at the car pound.”

**Motto: Service Above Self – Rotary in Action.**

**Editor’s note: I am sticking with my bashed out Astra!**

# Quilters RotaKids (continued)

(continued from page 13)

displays. It would be a true 'living gallery' and it would provide pupils with an audience (their peers and families) to inspire their full creativity, while they learn to better appreciate the beauty of

the natural world around them. Like the seasons, the exhibits in the gallery will change regularly, bringing renewed awe and wonder to our grounds several times a year.

The 4 projects are as follows:

- 50-100 log style troll or fairy houses
- A giant magnifying glass (made with cling film) and approximately 50 bugs
- A giant spider and web
- A giant cocoon

## Other Clubs' News

### Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower



Our daughter club's Billericay Summerfest takes place on July 9. The Stallholders create the atmosphere of the day, and all visitors are well entertained by the bands and other performers both on stage and in the arena - as well as other attractions, such as the fairground rides and fire appliances and, of course, the excellent car show.



### Rotary Club of Ingatestone



**Summer Evening Jazz on July 1**  
- Now in its 21st year, the Rotary Club of Ingatestone is holding this popular Open Air Jazz Concert in the gardens of Ingatestone

Hall. Gates open at 5.45 pm and concert begins at 6.15 pm. In aid of Farleigh and Saint Francis Hospices and other local Rotary causes.

Featuring Frog Island Jazz Band and The Salty Town Six. Tickets £14.00 in advance from ticket outlets or £15 at gate, if available.

Accompanied children under 17 admitted free.

Make up a party - bring your own picnic, table & chairs.

Food and drinks will be available.

Also - Coffee, Tea and Ice cream  
Umbrella parade - prizes for the best decorated brollies. Raffle.

### Rotary Club of Chelmsford Mildmay

Charity Concert with Chelmsford Male Voice Choir

July 8 at 19.30 - doors open at 6.45 (please use public car parks).  
Venue: King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford. Tickets £10, available from John Tilsley.

Music from Stage and Screen with special guests Rhiannon Howys and Pedro Lopez.



Supported by Renew Counselling, Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary Club, Chelmsford Mildmay Inner Wheel Club and Essex Wildlife Trust Chelmsford.

### District News too District Handover

Sunday 2nd July 2017 - Chelmsford Racecourse 12.00 for 12.30  
Terry Dean passes the baton to Nick Sillitoe. Price £25 per head with a cash bar

**V Festival Clear-Up** Monday 21st August 2017 -

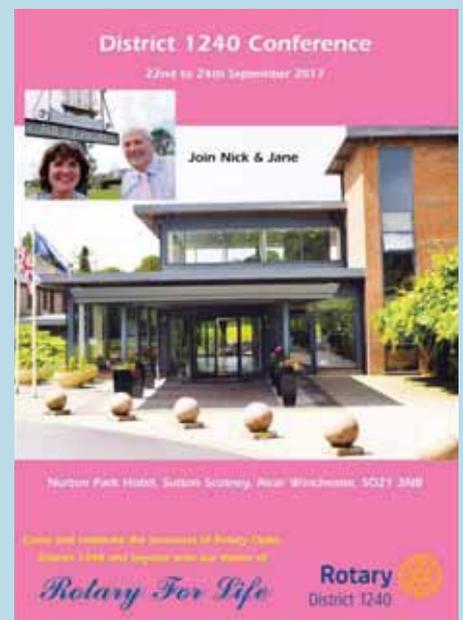
Collection of sleeping bags, blankets and bed rolls

### District Council

District Council Meeting - Writtle College. August 30

### District 1240 Conference

Fri 22nd September 2017 at 10.00  
- Sun 24th September 2017 - 13.00  
at Norton Park Hotel, Sutton Scotney, Near Winchester. A great programme of speakers on the theme of "Rotary for Life". Excellent entertainment. Keynote speaker - Steve Brown - captain of GB Wheelchair Rugby Team



# Something to Brighten your day

## Lexophilia

- Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under
- He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
- A calendar's days are numbered.
- A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- A plateau is a high form of flattery.
- Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
- If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- washing liquid made with real lemons?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff??
- Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

## *Answers on a postcard please*

- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, and dish

## Club Assembly

Club Assembly was held over a buffet lunch on June 12. We were addressed briefly by our ADG (Peter McCafferty) who stressed the need for increased membership and recruitment. He encouraged us again to consider forming a Satellite Club as an extension of our member-

ship drive, something which has already been considered by the club committee and awaits further discussion. He had to dash off for another meeting but left us with praise for our Soapbox Derby events and wished us luck for a third one. Unfortunately, matters conspired to prevent him staying.

President-elect Peter Greene gave a short synopsis of plans for the future which also focussed on the need for new members. Club Officers then reported on their plans for the coming year, and answered a series of lively and penetrative questions from club members.

## *Birthday Congratulations*

We wish a Happy Birthday to Patrick Rothon (July 20).

### Rotary Club of Billericay - Future 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 3**

President's day & Handover Meeting

#### **July 10**

Andrea Wise - The J's Hospice

#### **July 10 (18.30-20.30) at Reids Gallery**

Joint Services Meeting & Club Council

#### **July 17**

Richard Wallis - Life in China

#### **July 24**

Business Meeting

#### **July 31**

Special Celebration - 100 years of Rotary Foundation

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

#### **July 2**

District Handover Lunch  
Chelmsford Racecourse

#### **July 7**

Chernobyl Children's Life Line  
Leaving Party Queens Park

#### **July 9**

Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower  
- Summerfest

#### **Sept. 4**

D.G. Nick Sillitoe's official visit

#### **Dec. 3 Christmas Market**