



Rotary Club of Billericay

News

September 2017

“Service Above Self”

President’s Message

It’s The Team That Sums Up Rotary



In This Month’s Issue

- 1/2 President’s Message
- 1 Contents
- 2/9 Buttsbury RotaKids
- 3-7 Twinning visit
- 7/10 Gone for Gold with the Ginns
- 9-10 Speaker’s Corner
- 10 A Fun Walk Bonus!
- 11 District Council
- 12 District Governor’s Talk
- 13/14 District Conference - Nick
- /16 Ticks all the Right Boxes
- 15 Other Clubs are busy too
- 16 Brighten Your Day
- 16 Birthdays
- 16 Forthcoming Events

Wow! These last few weeks have been hectic – an overwhelming series of district events, we welcomed our Rotarian visitors from France, Italy, and Sweden for our annual reunion, and joined our treasurer Michael Ginn to celebrate his golden wedding.

All this on top of our normal meetings, interesting speakers, and a serious start to work on the 2018 Soapbox Derby, and continued our commu-

nity and youth work. I have said this before, but for me, this sums up Rotary – individual efforts, team enterprise in support of our communities, international co-operation with our friends from abroad, and working together with others in our district.

The highlight has to be the visit of 41 Rotarians, and families. There’s a fuller report on pages 3 to 7, but our international chairman Malcolm Acors worked hard to support Basildon club, doing a tremendous amount of work in plan-

ning and setting up the events for the visit, and thanks must also go to Patrick and Carol Rothon who hosted the very successful BBQ at their house on the first evening.

Friendship and Fellowship

Talking to many visitors of the four clubs who came, I was struck by how much they had enjoyed the visit, not only the great trips which had

(continued next Page)



Best Club Newsletter in District 1240 2015-16 & 2016-17



Rotary GB& Best Club Bulletin 2017



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

President's Message (continued)

been arranged but also the friendship, fellowship and social events to help make it such a memorable trip. The weather was not always in our favour but it didn't dampen spirits and certainly didn't stop our visitors going punting, an intriguing sight as they floated down the river under umbrellas.

Serious district involvement saw, firstly, District Council led by Billericay's own Nick Sillitoe but attended by RIBI President Denis Spiller, who was the keynote speaker on a theme of Public Image, membership and the re-launch of Rotary as "Rotary 2".

As Denis said in a memorable quote: "Procreation is more fun than waking the dead." (see page 11 for a full report). Then at our lunch on September 4, DG Nick expanded on the good work performed by his nominated charities of Build Aid and Mercy Ships. (We have agreed to give £250 to each). He gave more information on the Rotary Wood - a tree for every member of District 1240. This is planned (if agreed by all

the parties) to be planted at the RHS Hyde Hall Gardens.

Lots of Shopping!

Finally District Conference.

Thanks to Patrick and Carol Rothon for supporting Wendy and me in representing our club. At the conference hotel on the outskirts of Winchester, the organisers ensured great entertainment, terrific speakers and a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones in the spirit of Rotary. We couldn't spend the time we wanted in Winchester, (see full report on pages 13, 14 & 16 for details) due to matters beyond our control. So we went to nearby Romsey, a beautiful small town with great character. The Gala dinner was a great success, but the high spot was the stripper (see the full report for that too!)

I represented our club at Buttsbury Junior School to join the RotaKids in the donation ceremony to Great Ormond Street Hospital. We only formed this club five months before end of year, yet they raised £1200-80p, which was

all handed over to a GOSH representative on September 6.

Hurricane Horror

Our donations to the two district sponsored charities was not all. We were all horrified by the destruction caused by the floods in Nepal and Bangladesh, and the hurricanes in the Caribbean. The club voted to donate £1000 to Aquabox for the flood disaster and £2500 to Rotary District 7020's recovery fund for the Caribbean. The donations were publicised on Facebook and Twitter and members of the public who follow us were encouraged to donate too.

Finally, our speakers – apart from our DG Nick Sillitoe, how delightful to have back Molly Sun Wai (accompanied by two colleagues) to talk about her voluntary work in Tanzania, and also by Joe Cooksey from Barclays Bank who scared us about cyber security. A great mix of information, fun and useful information from our speakers for which our thanks is due to our Speaker Secretary, Ben Clark.

Buttsbury RotaKids Raise The Charity Roof

We are always thrilled when a new venture takes off – such as the case with the RotaKids Club at Buttsbury School. The start of the new school year saw some unfinished RotaKids business from last year. Club president Peter Greene, delighted to see it in person, was invited to the school assembly to participate in the donation of a cheque for £1200.80 by Buttsbury RotaKids to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

(Editor's note: President Peter he left off the 80p in our July issue. Peter says: "We did not know about it." Peter – we forgive you.)



Peter takes up the story of the day. "As usual the assembly started with the whole school walking into the hall in an amazingly quiet and disciplined manner. Head teacher Ann Robinson introduced two RotaKids from last year, myself and Judy Kuhl from GOSH. She recalled why, since being formed only February this year, the RotaKids had chosen GOSH as their charity and had held four

fundraising events – a car wash, an enterprise day, a Summerfest stand and a sponsored run. The total raised, including our £250 donation from the proceeds of the 2017 Soapbox Derby, was an amazing sum of £1200.80 (especially the 80p!)"

GOSH Project

Judy Kuhl is a "school ambassador" for GOSH and made a 15-minute presentation including a video of why donations are so valuable and how they are spent, and stating that GOSH is in the midst of a ten-year project to replace

(continued on page 9)

France, Italy, and Sweden come to visit



Service Above Self – Well Almost!

A Few Hiccups But What A Great Time We All Had With Our

International Friends

The Rotary Club of Billericay, though small in numbers, prides itself on what it does to support the local community and raising money for local and international charities. Not the least of which is the distribution of over £30,000 to charities supported by its 2017 Soapbox Derby.

It also likes rising to a challenge. A principal aim of Rotary is international understanding, and, in this endeavour the Rotary Club of Billericay is linked with the Rotary Club of Basildon, and with four Rotary Clubs in Europe - Beausoleil (France), Alba (Italy), Ovada (Italy), and Karlshamn (Sweden).

Each year one of the clubs hosts the other clubs for a weekend of friendship, international co-operation and joint endeavour. This year forty-one members of the four clubs from France, Italy and Sweden came to Essex between September 14 to 17, to join our two clubs in our “Double Triangu-

lar” reunion. Our overseas colleagues had rooms at Chelmsford’s County and Atlantic Hotels.

Abigail’s Party!

What a swell party everyone had on Thursday night with a welcoming barbeque at Patrick and Carol’s home in Stock, and despite one early burst of rain, over sixty Rotarians and their partners thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

What a BBQ menu! Prepared on-site by Abigail’s Delicatessen (Ingatestone) - kebabs, burgers, sausages, salmon, and vegetarian options accompanied by coleslaw, potato salad, couscous and mixed salad. Drinks were provided by Cellers (Billericay), with a mix of wines, beers, water and soft drinks. All this kept hunger and thirst at bay.



A Big Red Button

Entertainment was provided by croquet on the lawn, football, and, the high spot being performances by the Mayflower Morris Dance Troop, demonstrating several traditional dances to the delight of our visitors. This was even better

received when the Morris dancers did a group dance involving all the guests! Our international guests relishing the opportunity to experience this English traditional dance - as they said - “the high spot of the evening.”

And what about the red button? Portable toilets had been provided with hot and cold water, the hot



water heater started by pushing a red button. Not everything works as expected. The power requirements of the heater were too high for the domestic supply available from the house, and pushing the button immediately turned off the lights in the marquees. Much amusement all round!

We were there for our guests at the end of the evening with minibuses taking them back to their hotels, exhausted, and ready for a rest!

A12 Problems

As we say, not everything can go to plan. On the Friday and a 9.15 am start, despite the exertions of Thursday night, everybody was at the County Hotel on time ready for the
(continued on page 5)

France, Italy, and Sweden come to visit (continued)

Thursday Night BBQ and Morris Dancers



Friday - and It Must Be Cambridge



Saturday - Houses of Parliament



Saturday Night - the Gala Dinner



France, Italy, and Sweden come to visit (continued)

coach to Cambridge.

We all know that A12 traffic can be awesome. So with us, with accidents on the A12 and delays on nearby roads - the coach was held up by traffic and the police. It eventually left 45 minutes late to collect the Italians from their hotel (the Atlantic) and the drive through the English countryside to the M11 and on to Cambridge, where we parked on the "Backs" near Queens College.

And the first thing we saw - a bronze map of the town donated by the Rotary clubs of Cambridge



in celebration of the Centenary of Rotary! Rotary serving the community in a very practical way!

Just Terrifying!

Our professional guide, Jim McSharry, who was such a help on the walking tour of London during the last "Reunion" in England in 2013, was our guide again this year. We were taken on a fascinating walk around the town looking at the colleges, including Queens, Kings, Trinity, the Senate House, the Cavendish Laboratory.

Plus, a stop at the fabulously terrifying "Grasshopper Clock" on the corner of Corpus' Taylor Library. This is a must-see for any Cambridge visitor. Unveiled to the



public in 2008, this extraordinary example of new technology faces onto King's Parade; its shining, 24-carat gold dial and gruesome time-keeper, a dazzling addition to the historic city centre.

Then time for a short walk down Kings Parade, a group photo, and the hungry hoard retired to the Eagle Pub for lunch.

A Meal to Remember

We arrived at 12.45 - on time, and repaired to the two rooms reserved at the back. Just in time, as shortly afterwards the heavens opened and the rain came pouring down! But at least we were under shelter and all seemed well as we sat down at the empty tables.

Less said the better about the service. Short-staffed and an unmanned bar, not what we hoped. Tried another bar but the problem did not go away - only one person serving, long queue for drinks and it took over half an hour for everyone to whet their whistle.

The food - great! Service - absolutely terrible. Cut to the quick,



they wouldn't take food orders by table, but wanted a complete order for all of us (over 60). With so many still queuing at the bar for drinks, this was a disaster. In the end Mike and Carol Barrett went round everybody at the tables and in the queue to take the orders and give them to the waitress. Food didn't start arriving at 2 pm and the last dish didn't arrive until 40 minutes later.

Punting With Umbrellas!

Sadly, food delicious but the

service - just terrible and slow, and a rude server too. No time for puddings or coffee, but it did not stop everyone having fun. Despite the rain, most of the party went off to the river to go punting (you should have seen them in the punts with their umbrellas held aloft in a vain attempt to keep dry, but an umbrella doesn't stop the wet seats seeping through!).



Others went shopping, did more sightseeing or enjoyed a good coffee in a nearby café.

At 4.30 pm time to coach back to Chelmsford arriving just in time to change for the "Home Hosting". Those of us in Billericay having barely enough time to get home, change and get back to Chelmsford to collect our guests.

Home at the Pub!

Basildon decided to host their guests at the "Back Inn Time" restaurant in the town - a most appropriate choice after the late return. All the guests reporting a very good meal, and great conversation and conviviality.

We had decided to host our guests, some of the French and Swedish visitors who had hosted us on previous trips to their coun-



(continued on page 6)

France, Italy, and Sweden come to visit (continued)

tries, at the “Hoop” in Stock, and had taken two tables in the Oak Room Restaurant. Good service, delicious food and lively conversation, but all too soon, the evening was over and we delivered our guests back to the hotel.

The Mother of Parliaments

Despite news of the terrorist attack at Parson’s Green, nobody wanted to change our plans as this was the day for a trip to London. An early start to make sure we could get back at a reasonable time. We departed on the same coach before 9 o’clock for a fast ride into the centre of London.



Parked on the embankment at Westminster Bridge, a short brisk walk round to Parliament Square and the entrance to the Houses of Parliament, where an audio tour had been booked for us all. A great choice as our guests were able to enjoy the visit with a commentary in their own language.

Cramped Chamber

“Be back in one hour” said Mike Barrett, “we must leave at 12.15 pm”. Easier said than done – the commentary worked at its own

pace and the main commentary, even without listening to any “subsidiary” talks, took an hour.

The route was comprehensive - Westminster Hall, St. Stephen’s Hall, the two chambers of the Commons and Lords with their ancillary rooms, the central Lobby etc. etc. a complete and interesting tour as we saw the “cramped” chamber of the House of Commons where those familiar “debates” between government and opposition took place, saw the gold leaf and sumptuous decorations of the Lords, the impressive statues and ceiling of St Stephen’s Hall and of the Central Lobby.

Were we all back at the due time? What do you think?

Messing About On The River

So on to the boat at Westminster pier? Not a chance! Instead, a twenty-minute brisk walk along the riverside to Embankment Pier, and of course, just to help, part of the pavement blocked off by roadworks so we had to cross over to the other side of the road and back again, which all took time.

But, we all made it, and at the appointed time, the motor vessel Symphony set off up the river past the Houses of Parliament with us in our own private room and restaurant at the stern of the boat. What a boat – comfortable chairs, table with linen clothes, smart servers, floor to ceiling windows

with nothing to obstruct the view except, you guessed it, as soon as we were on board for lunch, down came the rain.

...and Super Views

The boat went upstream to just



past Lambeth Palace, then, as the rain stopped, downstream almost as far as the Rotherhithe tunnel before returning to Embankment Pier. We all enjoyed an exceedingly good three-course meal while thoroughly enjoying the views from inside our room and outside on the deck.

Then disembarkation, back to the coach and a short drive across the river to Southwark to see the Globe Theatre and walk down to see the replica of the Golden Hind near Southwark Cathedral.

Gala of an Event

Finally, on the coach back to Chelmsford and this time, in plenty of time for the Gala Dinner.

We all gathered in the Crystal Ballroom on the County Hotel at 7.15 pm for pre-dinner drinks before sitting down for the meal (chicken again). After an introduction of all present, in a departure from the planned

(continued on page 7)

Saturday Night - Symphony on the Thames and a Great Meal



France, Italy, and Sweden come to visit (continued)

Saturday Night - Enjoying a great Gala Evening



agenda for the evening, the visiting presidents took the opportunity to say “a few words” and to present other clubs with gifts, Rotary pennants and souvenirs of the visit.

Grace was said by Carol Barrett, and we all partook of the celebration meal. The Loyal Toast was proposed by Kevin Howard, President of Basildon Rotary Club, and the Toast to the guests proposed by Peter Greene, our President, who even managed to say a

sentence in each of French, Italian, and Swedish – I wonder if they all understood? This brought an end to the meal and the organised events for our visitors.

Sunday and Business Time

Most visitors had the morning free for rest, or to wander the town and enjoy the shops, a last moment to get that final souvenir! Meanwhile club officers met to discuss further co-operation, and joint international projects. Basildon proposed a project for solar power in Ghana in co-operation with Accra Rotary Club, which should be eligible for a global Grant. Further work was needed but the project was well received. Billericay distributed copies of its Souvenir Soapbox Derby Newsletter and invited all the clubs to

enter a Soapbox in next May’s (7th) Soapbox Derby. Beausoleil described a Rotaract “Duck” race which they supported, and which was held every year as a good fund-raiser.

Also, a joint project with Walt Disney to screen a premier to selected audience in aid of charity. This film screening was international in scope covering not only the whole of France but also Belgium and other nearby countries. A potential fund-raiser for the UK too?

Next Stop – Ovada

This was the final meeting of the visit, and after fond farewells to friends new and old, our guests departed for the airports with everyone looking forward to next year’s visit to Ovada in Italy.



How A Cricket Match Began A Great Romance



High Society it may not have been but “What a Swell Party” it was. Mike and Sue Ginn celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary attended by seventy family, friends and Rotarian Club members on September 9 at Lain-

don Community Hall. Paraded and cheered in, arm in arm, they looked as happy as the day they met and later married (that’s another tale as they recalled: “We had to marry in a hur-

ry.” Reason, Mike has just been offered a Shell company posting in Nigeria and there was no time to delay the wedding).

Club members attending with their wives were; Ben and Angela
(continued on page 10)

Action At Home But Also On A Faraway Island



Three Little Girls from School, they certainly were not. But Molly Sun-Wai, Jemma Schuster and Monika Sudeikyte were equally entertaining and delightful when the three young student ladies updated us at lunch on September 11 on their "Action At Home" mission to Zanzibar. Molly was returning, having prepared us for her charity trip earlier in the year.



Accompanied by some relevant and well-photographed slides, the girls, part of the volunteer team, took turns in explaining the project and their workload in the time they spent there.

It broke down into the following bullet points:

- Host Homes and Counterparts. Working and integrating with local volunteers, learning from each other.



- Parents and siblings. Had to contribute with jobs such as cleaning. Monika, from Lithuania and hoping to further her studies in the UK, said: "Facilities were sparse, no hot water, primitive toilet and bucket showers."
- Religion: Islam. "They prayed five times a day," said Jemma, "There are only a few Hindus and Christians."

Spice Girls?



- Industries: Tourism the main one followed by fishing, entrepreneurship, spices and SHELL. "The oil company has a large commitment in Zanzibar," Monika told us.



- Work Placements: Molly added: "We worked in schools and colleges on sustaining the UN's 17 Development Goals – among them eliminating poverty, health and welfare, hunger, water and sanitation aid, peace and justice and economic growth."
- Transport: They were donated mini-buses known as Dala Dalas. "A driver, but no personal space and questionable road safety and rules."

No, Cads!



- CADs: These were three Committed Action Days, encompassing all volunteer work in schools. They created a Career Fair "Unlocking the Future", worked with the Zanzibar government in organising an International Youth Day - "1,000 young people attended", said Jemma, and attacked problems such as culture, mass media, drugs abuse and mental health.



At the end of their placement, the girls were debriefed for two days and had to write up reports and comments of all their experiences. "An experience it was, and hard work," summed up Molly who added when questioned: "It is a politically peaceful but poor island."

Relaxation? "We did have some social time – weekends on their beautiful beaches."

They earned that!



Patrick's Stroll Earns Us Fun Walk Bonus

We were able to add a further £671 to the £1,200 Patrick Rothon raised through his sponsorship in taking part in John Baron's Fun Walk back in July when the 'bonus pot' cheques were presented at the Anisha Grange old people's home on September 22. This made a total of over £1,800 in all. The bonus pot added £55 for every £100 raised. A very worthwhile afternoon stroll, Patrick!

The presentation was attended by club vice-president, Les Sheppard and Margaret Fowler who were also collecting a cheque on behalf of Christ Church to help raise funds for upgrading the church building to provide enhanced facilities for community use. First example of this is the new community cafe created in a small



room within the existing church building. Nicely coincidental – it was officially opened by John Baron that same morning.

Thanked Volunteers

Over wine and nibbles, John congratulated the participants and sponsors for jointly raising £120,000 for many local charities – a £10,000 increase on last year. He also thanked the many volunteers who helped with the organisation and running of the event, of which president Peter was one, acting as a marshal.

He added that the total monies

raised since the first Fun Walk was well over £900,000 and that, next year would see the total hit over a million. "I am looking to do something special to mark this", he said, "so next year's event should be bigger and better than ever. And I'm sure someone from Billericy Rotary will be there."



How A Cricket Match Began A Great Romance (continued)

Clark, Peter and Wendy Greene, Malcolm and Sue Acors, Peter and Chistabel Strong, Keith and Gillian Wood, Trevor and Jan Bond, Norman and Brenda Wilson, Ken and Jeannie Smith. Delightful day, excellent lunch by the caterers and, as they say, a good time was had by all.

Grace was said and sung by Mike's brother Richard and Mike admits: "I had a tear in my eye when he gave grace and I felt we did make it a party."

How They Met

What was not revealed but your editor persuaded him to tell our

newsletter, is how they met. All down to a cricket match, but no sticky wicket when Mike and Sue



first met. Mike takes up the tale. "Shell used to have a massive office opposite Waterloo station. We both worked there in June 1966." He was called up as a reluctant eleventh player for an inter-departmental cricket match at Teddington; Sue nominated as his navigator. Mike was immediately attracted.

They discovered enough on that car voyage to realise they were more than compatible.

Mike's team lost the match but the rest, as they say, is history and a magical life together. Our Club's congratulations to them both.

District Council

DG Urges Support For Mercy Ships

President Peter Greene, vice-president Les Sheppard and myself attended the meeting on August 30 at Writtle College. District Governor Nick Sillitoe welcomed all those present including RIBI President Denis Spiller and announced that next month's district conference in Winchester is completely full.



Our District and Inner Wheel District 24 are running a seasonal concert at Chelmsford Cathedral on Tuesday evening November 28. Tickets - £8 in advance, £10 on the night, proceeds to "Changing Pathways" and "Age UK Essex". Some slides were shown of the end of July visit by Nick and a small party to the Africa Mercy whilst she was in Las Palmas.



Mercy Ships is Nick's Charity of the Year and we were encouraged to offer our financial support.

Welcome Guides

Service committee reports are on the district website: Updates:

- **Membership, Development**



& Retention – DGN Pauline Dean reported that New Members Welcome Guides are available from the RIBI Shop costing £3 each and there are other free leaflets.

- **Vocational Service** – PDG Bob Barclay thanked all who helped to clear up after the V Festival. The Poppy Pin Appeal (his club ran it last year) is being promoted across RIBI.
- **International Service** – District Chairman Andy Hunter reported that the Philippines Global Grant is progressing well. Every club is invited to contribute £600, plus £500/£1000 to Mercy Ships. In both cases, clubs are asked to let him know whether or not they are contributing.
- **Youth Service** – PDG Peter Dowse was absent but we were advised that there have been no applications yet for the Young Achiever Award. Young Chef - clubs should contact Gloria Nichols for entry packs.

Younger Recruitment

RIBI President Denis Spiller commented that Public Image is an issue. He joined Rotaract in 1980, Rotary Club of Strood in 1985, and was District Governor in 2007/8. We are good at recruiting our own age group but not those

in their 30s and 40s. It is better to recruit or form satellite clubs than just watch Rotary clubs disappear and die. "Procreation is more fun than waking the dead."



He added that we need to reinvent ourselves as the WI have done and create new image clubs. "Rotary 2" will be launched in January and assistant governors are challenged to establish a new club/satellite in each of their districts by June 2018. We need to break away from some traditions and use social media more. Purple for Polio will continue for three years.

In response DG Nick commented that 13/14 Satellite Clubs are in the process of formation in our District. There is also a Working Party looking at planting a Rotary Wood in Hyde Hall. Billericay Mayflower Club were thanked for hosting the meeting. The next District Council Meeting is on Weds. 17th January.

By Ed Harrison

Plant A Tree For Rotary

And Other Key Thoughts From Our District Governor

Like Martin Luther King, District Governor Nick Sillitoe has a dream – more than one in fact. He wants to raise Rotary membership to a new level and he wants to plant a wood. Well, not exactly plant it personally but to see it grow as a testimonial to Rotary.



Addressing us at lunch on September 4, Nick punched home the key points he sees in his term of office – Membership, Humanitarian Aid and Ecology, and Rotary's Public Image.

Membership: "When I began my term, I aimed to increase membership by the end of it. I recently help celebrate Clacton-on-Sea's new charter – that was twenty new members in one day. Encouraging!"

Developing that theme, he said: "The average age of Rotarians in the UK is 74, compared to 40-50 in other parts of the world. Too high. Most members do not join Rotary until they are sixty plus – we need younger blood. Which is why I am encouraging satellite clubs to attract younger people. "They may not meet the normal Rotary regulations but their members can still contribute to Rotary.

"Canvey, Bishop's Stortford and Hornchurch have already established one. My own club, Mayflower is sponsoring one. It is a road to go down."

He praised the efforts made by the two Billericay clubs. "We are leading the field in staging major Rotary events such as your SoapBox Derby – a thrilling addition to the local community."

Mercy Ships

Humanitarian Aid: "BuildAid which provides water and sanitation and my own pet project, Mercy Ships, are examples. I recently saw Mercy Ships at work in Grand Canaria. Their staff of 400 are all volunteers, an international crew helping with such operations as cataracts, growth development and much else. They will leave a legacy of a land rover and a technical team in countries desperate for such aid."

Ecology: "I want every club in the district to agree to plant a tree to

The Long and The Short of It



create a Rotary Wood. Probably at Hyde Hall who, along with the Woodland Trust would support such a scheme. It would be a lasting memorial to Rotary's work in our district."

Public Image: "Three out of ten people I talk to do not know what Rotary is, let alone what it stands for. We need to change that. To let people know what we do, that we are making a difference and how we change lives.

"Between us, the two Billericay clubs have raised over £100,000 in a year. How many people know that? We have to keep finding ways to deliver the message."

Our club wanted to recognise Nick's achievement in being only the third DG from Billericay and presented Nick with a framed certificate as a record. The citation read:

To mark his election as District Governor of District 1240 for 2017-2018. Presented on behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Billericay to Nick Sillitoe PHF on the occasion of his visit to the Rotary Club of Billericay on Monday, September 4, 2017.

District 1240 Conference - Nick Ticks All The Right Boxes



And How Patrick Found Himself Among The “Good Time Girls”

Congratulations to DG Nick Sillitoe for hosting a superb District Conference near Winchester – a far cry from our District 1240 but worth the trip. It saw Rotary fellowship in action. Our representatives were Wendy and Peter Greene, who gave a lift to Conference to Janet Mudd from Basildon club, and Carol and Patrick Rotheron, who took her back.

They arrived to find the reception area full of Rotarians resplendently dressed for a “Fun and Fiesta” evening. “Wear something bright” Nick had said, and everybody took up the bait, adorned by Hawaiian flower leis provided by Nick.

All change on the top floor of the furthest accommodation block for Peter and Wendy – a four-minute walk – and back down to the foyer in time to grab a drink and join Patrick and Carol. Then to dinner



with Stan Keller and his wife, and Bob Barclay and his wife.

Jackanory Time

A barbecue buffet in abundance, then, after a welcome to the conference and a brief introduction by DG Nick, time for the after-dinner speaker – Jeremy Swan.



Unknown to many perhaps, Jeremy has had a long history in the theatre, TV and films and met many of yesterday’s and today’s stars. For example, he produced many classic children’s series such as Sooty, Fraggle Rock, Grandad and Jackanory. Everybody enjoyed his stories, jokes and amusing anecdotes of his life. More, more, was the cry before a final coffee and a chat, and off to bed. The next morning, following the Invocation and a letter to delegates



from Buckingham Palace, it was a mixture of informational talks and presentations by charities. The session ended with Hannah Gordon in conversation with



DG Nick, who prompted her on interesting points in her career on stage and screen, elicited many amusing stories. A great way to end the session!

M3 Gridlock!

We never did get to Winchester thanks to a “spill” of a dangerous substance onto the M3. Bomb disposal had been called, a terrorist incident was suspected, and the M3 had been closed for hours. Winchester and all approach roads gridlocked with traffic at a standstill – so where to go?

We followed hotel recommendations and headed for Romsey, 30 minutes away and a picturesque market town, with a statue of Lord Palmerston and Romsey Abbey dominating the centre.

Coffee, delicious homemade ice cream and a visit to the Abbey. Lucky us - a concert was planned for later that day and the band were rehearsing. We enjoyed the

(continued foot of Page 6)

Nick Ticks All The Right Boxes (continued)

beautiful sounds before taking a quick look at Earl Mountbatten's grave and a return to the hotel. Formal black-tie Gala Dinner. Bucks Fizz reception and then



seated in a transformed glitzy auditorium. Seated with us this time were Andy Hunter and wife Liz, Bob Tyrrell and his wife Jill, both from Billericay Mayflower (Mayflower had over 20 members present at the conference), and spokeswoman Kathryn Muir from Build Aid. Conversation flowed easily between us.

Good Time Girls?

After the meal, time for dancing to the "Cockney Treble". Appropriately, Nick and his wife Jane were first to take to the floor and lead the dancing. Nice touch!

Soon the dance floor was heaving and the music thumping away –

certainly a great sound. When the music became too loud, it was off to the bar for a coffee and great conversation, and interesting exchanges with other delegates.

Now the fun bit. As they left the bar, there was a group of girls –

(continued on Page 16)



What was discussed
Buckingham Palace – The Queen “values your members’ continued support and sends her warmest best wishes”.

Welcome to Winchester – DG 1110 Mike Sanders. Many opportunities to grow Rotary & do good deeds. Rotary a force for good.

Speakers of Interest:

RIBI President – by video. Best wishes, promoted three themes.

RIBI Address - Debbie Hodge (RIBI President Elect).

Make 1 + 1 = 5! A Rotary project run by Happy Rotarians creates Happy Recipients which means more people know what Rotary does, creates publicity, generates new members.

Inner Wheel – President Celia Clark - One of the largest women's organisations in the world. Theme – Leave a lasting legacy

World beneath the Waves – Gloria Barnett the “Weird Fish Lady” - Proselytises to protect the seas.

Thought for the Day – Ian McMeekan - We are a “Member” organisation. “Service above Self. Don't forget “The oldest tradition in Rotary is Change”.

2018 District Conference October 5-7 - Lesley Sulley - Southampton Grand Harbour Hotel (4*). Speakers already booked.

Charities

Headway Essex – Tony Emms – “Providing Brain Injury Care and Support”. A Life worth saving is a life worth living –everybody should live a fulfilling life.

Living with hearing Loss – Sophie Biebuyck - “Hearing Dogs for the deaf. Dogs transform Lives - enable a “normal” life.

Kids Out – Julian Margolin – Charity has only 11 staff (6 paid). Kids Out day has benefited

680,000 since its start in 1990.

Now only charity working with Refugee children. Second day in December to take all Refugee kids out, and “Toys for Christmas” to give them all a toy box at Xmas

Build Aid – Katherine Muir.

Started in 2005. Has benefited 400,000 people since then. Works in Sri Lanka, Haiti, Nepal, Philippines – District 1240 asking clubs to support a project in Panglao.

Works by project managing local firms and people to ensure funding is spent where it was intended.

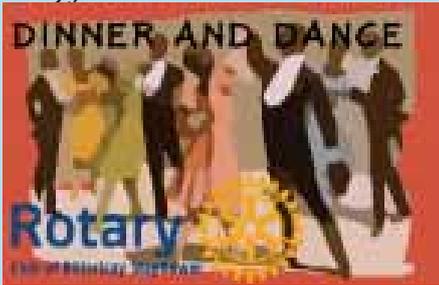
Mercy Ships – Ally Jones – takes a hospital ship with 5 theatres, 82 ward beds, to countries in need. Next stop Cameroon where it will stay for 10 months. Last stop Benin where did 1957 operations, 15,000 dental procedures.

District 1240 asking clubs to support this charity.

(More detail next month.)

Other Clubs' News

Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower

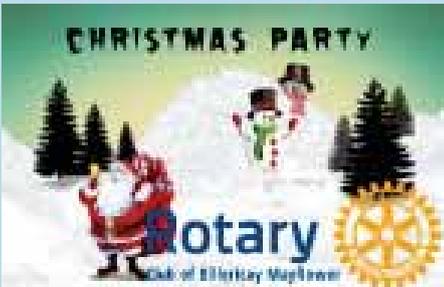


Sat October 7, 2017 at 19.00 -
Autumn Dinner and Dance
Organiser Barry Howe.
Sun December 3, 2017 at 11.00



Billericay Christmas Market
bringing festive mood to the High
Street helping to raise funds for
good causes.

Thu 14th December 2017 at
19.00 - Christmas Party



For Rotarians, partners and
friends after a busy year.

Rotary Club of Ingatestone
Sun 26th November 2017 at
10.00 - 17.00



Sponsored Indoor Triathlon
Try it for an hour!
To suit all levels of fitness or
unfitness! Categories: Individuals
and Teams of Three. Entrance
Fee: £12.50. Book tickets on-line
Sponsorship - All sponsorship to
J's Hospice.

For more information, go to:
<http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=626036&ClubID=1414>
or contact Barry Turner

Basildon Concord
Saturday 11th November



Formal Dinner Dance with caba-
ret for your entertainment
at the Holiday Inn, Basildon

**Rotary Club of Chelmsford
Phoenix**

Sat October 14, 2017 at 19.00 -
22.30 Quiz Night at Writtle Sports
and Social Club



Sun 17th December 11-14.00
Carol Singing in High Chelmer



Raising funds for Charities
supported by Rotary.

Basildon
Saturday 7th October - First
Race 7.30 pm.
Horse Racing in comfort - come
along to the Steeple View Com-
munity Centre for a great evening.
Tickets £10 each.



Place Bets. Sponsor a horse. Feel-
ing flush - sponsor a race. Tickets
Peter Townsend 07938-325836
or Brian Wellman 01268-452426

District News too
Tuesday 28 November 7.15 pm
Seasonal Concert at Chelmsford
Cathedral in co-operation
with Inner Wheel District. A
celebration of music Carols and
readings. District Youth Speaks.
Rotary Young Musicians.



Nick Ticks All The Right Boxes (continued)

(continued from page 14) a 'Hen Party' – sitting at a nearby table. "Hello girls" said Patrick politely as he passed them, "Are you having a good time? Who's getting married?" "I am" said the one in a black top and 'Bride to Be' sash, (the clue was in the sash) but then continued "Are you the stripper?" Patrick, slightly taken aback: "No, we're Rotarians". (Does one rule out the other?).

After a short conversation and with best wishes, they left the girls and continued on our way. But

no, this moment had to be captured on film – so back they went. "Hello Patrick" the girls said (how did they find out his name?) as they all gathered round for a memorable photo – and not just the one – "take one with my phone" said one of the girls. "Take one with mine too" said another. Surely no other Rotarian has made such an impact in such a short time...

Chosen Charities

Following morning, the final session led by Ian McMeekan's im-

pactful "Thought for the Day", and followed by inspirational speeches by Nick's chosen charities Build Aid and Mercy Ships. Finally, a presentation on next year's District Conference, Southampton in early October.

Time for a quick visit to the Rotary Showcase and then check out and head off – Patrick, Carol and Janet for Billericay, and Wendy and Peter for Chichester and a couple of days break.

Memorable! But strippers? No chance! OR??

Something to Brighten Your Day

A Play on Words

I have been to many places, but I've never been *in Cahoots*. Apparently you can't go alone.

You have to be *in Cahoots* with someone.

I've also been in *Cognito*. I hear no one recognises you there.

I have, however, been *in Sane*. They don't have an airport. You

have to be driven there.

I have made several trips there thanks to children, friends and work.

I would like to go to *Conclusions* but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been *in Doubt*. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit it too often.

I've been *in Flexible*, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm *in Capable*. I go there more often as I get older.

One of my favourite places to be is *in Suspense* as it really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart.

At my age I need all the stimuli I can get.

Birthday Congratulations to Ed Harrison (Oct. 14), Ken Smith (Oct. 20), Malcolm Acors (Oct. 28) and Roger Kettle (Oct. 31).

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

Oct. 2

Linda Wilson - on behalf of the "Gone Too Soon" child bereavement group

Oct. 9

Deborah Tonkiss - Town Clerk - Billericay Town Council

Oct. 9 (18.30-20.30) at Reids Gallery

Joint Services Meeting & Club Council

Oct. 16

Business Meeting

Oct. 23

Dr Sarah Wookey - her visit to Chad for Médecins sans Frontières

Oct. 30 - Special - Visit to Billericay Brewing Company

Other dates for your diary:

Oct 28

Charter Lunch at the Magic Mushroom

Nov. 4

Round Table Fireworks Display

Dec. 3

Christmas Market

Dec. 11

Partners' Xmas Lunch