

President's Message

Resolution? Be An Inspiration

Christmas is behind us and we have a whole new year to look forward to. If you haven't yet made a New Year resolution, here's something to consider.

Over a pre-Christmas meal with a group of friends, the table conversation turned to what had caused people to choose particular academic or career paths. In many cases a common theme was apparent, of a teacher or friend inspiring them to do something that they had thought beyond their capability – the preserve of others who were cleverer or more talented. Without this encouragement the individuals concerned might not have reached their full potential.

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For example, one person who aspired to be a music teacher in a junior school was successfully encouraged by their music teacher to apply to study at the Royal

Academy of Music rather than the teacher training college they were considering.

So when choosing your New Year resolution you could do a lot worse than adopting RI President Barry Rassin's theme for 2018/19 and resolving to "Be the Inspiration" for someone, somewhere this year. Who can you inspire to set their sights higher than they're currently aiming, or to tackle something that they currently think is beyond their reach?



BE THE INSPIRATION

Wishing you all a happy, prosperous and inspirational new year.

An Ongoing Winter's Tale Of Joy To All

Shakespeare wrote it, David Essex had a hit song with it. But for years, Billericay Lions have carried the winter's tale a vast step on and made it a highlight of the festive period. We are delighted to have supported it again this year.



Dressed appropriately, Roger, Malcolm, Patrick and Carol, Peter Greene and Mike Sinclair were at the start for Thursday's (13th.) Santa's travels. Our numbers more or less matched the Lions.

Case of collect our buckets and leaflets and follow our leaders. Knocking on doors as instructed. The Lions now cover the areas with the minimum disruption for those residents reluctant to have their evenings disturbed for too long and those with younger children.

"Christmas Starts Now"

Members reported almost universal delight from families generous in their donations. Comments: "High spot of Christmas. Thank you for bringing the sleigh." "You all do such a good job for Billericay." "For us, the arrival of the sleigh is the official start of Christmas."

A talk to Santa and a sweet for their trouble. What joy! All this in bitterly cold weather. Mike Sinclair summed up: "Mass of



elves and the expertise of Santa's chauffeur ensured we completed our allotted route on time. Hopefully the financial result will compare favourably to previous years. It would not be from lack of effort."

PS: Peter went home to have his frost bite treated and the rest adjourned to a nearby hostelry (where else?) for alternative medicine and to check how many steps we had covered over the five mile route. *No cheating, lads!*

A Christmas Jolly - We Deserved It!



After all the hard work put in by committee and members during the year, we let our hair down as usual when members and partners gathered in force for the annual Partners Christmas lunch at Reids on Monday, December 10.

Organiser Keith Wood did a great job organising the menu, negotiating the price and handling the late amendments to the plan, making sure there were places *and food* for all.

Our usual room at Reids was seasonally decorated, service was

fast, food good and there were even crackers! Conversation flowed easily as members looked forward to the Christmas break.

Exchange of Cards

Only three members were missing, Ben and Mary, always a busy time for Ben at Christmas, Chandra, sojourning with his family in India, and Norman and Iris had to drop out at the last moment.

All were remembered in the annual exchange of Christmas cards – and what an exercise that is!

One member, who shall be

nameless, managed to hand cards out to all the wrong people. Later apologised and all was forgiven. That's fellowship for you!

Hospice Benefit

All present signed a card for St Luke's Hospice and added a donation which raised £165.

Party hats, lovely meal – President Les thanked the staff at Reids for their excellent service – and good conversation.

Disappointed that Table 4, Messrs. Rothon, Kettle, Wood and Sinclair did not sup

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Ed Margaret Val Les Mo and John



Gill Keith Sarah Roger Carol Patrick Liz Mike



Peter Christabel Ken Jeannie Angela Ben Bert



Peter Malcolm Sue Margaret Wendy June Norman

A Christmas Jolly (continued)

(continued from Page 3)
 enough wine to burst into their usual noisy party mode. Age creeping up, I guess!

Perhaps next year?

100 Club Winners

Roger Kettle did the 100 Club Draw. Lucky winners were:

- £100 Michael Redgewell
- £75 Iris Bishop
- £50 Mike Ginn

- £50 Ken Smith
- £25 Nigel Joyce
- £25 Clinton O'Rourke

Great fellowship all round and thanks again to Keith for arranging it all.



Norman Brenda Trevor Jan Mike Sue

JOHN BARON'S FUN WALK

Free Money!

As we have previously reported, we participated in the annual Fun Walk at Barleylands Farm in September this year, with our sponsored participants raising over £1300 in sponsorship money.

Million Pound Fund

The unique part of this event is the Bonus Pot. Each year John Baron, our local MP, gets local businesses to sponsor the Fun Walk and their generosity this year in created a Bonus Pot in excess of £40,000. This money is distributed amongst the Fun Walkers in proportion to the money each participant raised.

On Friday 23rd November President Les and Mike Sinclair attended John's Fun Walk Trust



Bonus Pot presentation at Anisha Grange.

John gave a brief talk to the assembled representatives from the numerous local charities who participated in this year's walk. As also reported in the Billericay Gazette, he said "The 2018 Fun Walk has been another huge success and brings the money

present bonus pot sponsors.

What a Bonus!

This year the Bonus Pot exceed-



raised for good causes since 2002 to over £1,000,000." John thanked all the volunteers who helped and all the past and

ed £40,000 which meant that each participant received a bonus payment of 65% on top of their individual sponsorship (up from 55% last year). After group photographs, the charity representatives collected their cheques, which in our case was for £937.



Speakers' Corner

Foundation Still The Core Of Changing Lives



District Foundation chairman and Colchester Rotarian, Robert Macauley was magnanimous in his praise for the Rotary clubs of Billericay when he updated us on Foundation news on December 3.

"You have two really good clubs," he said, "supporting so many worthy causes and charities and involving the community – your own soapbox derby is a wonderful example.

"That is what Foundation encourages and, by being closely bound to Foundation, Rotary clubs like yours prove what can be done to raise the enormous amount of money it needs to fund its many projects.

"Foundation founder, Arch C Klumph maintained that the organisation should be about doing good and enjoying fellow-

ship. Foundation maintains that idiom to this day."

Three-year Investment Plan

Robert then delivered the main bullet points of Foundation's current state:

- Wanting to put something back
- How it works. A three-year investment plan – all money invested is used purely for helping
- Unlike organisations such as Oxfam, no money raised is used for administrative costs
- Money donated is invested for 3 years before use, with the interest from those three years covering all its costs.

"Many Rotarians spend many man-hours ' getting their hands dirty'" he said before adding the following points.

When the investments come out after three years, they are applied half to local grants and half to global grants towards:

Areas covered include'

- Water and sanitation aid
- Health and Help
- Education
- Empowerment of women to work at an equal level

On grants, he urged clubs to:

- Design and promote a project
- Put a designated Rotary charity first.

Immunisation Progress

He updated us on the End Polio campaign, stating that cases existed now only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"As many as 125 immunisations a day are happening now thanks to this Foundation campaign. Ninety-five per cent of all clubs are involved and the area has been polio free for almost seven years."

He cited a man, Pravash who had organised massive nursing and doctorate support in India and added that Imran Khan, worldwide cricketer and political leader in Pakistan was breaking down the polio barriers amongst Islamic doubters.

"Years ago, the polio numbers totalled 400,000 cases a year. Now it is down to 27. So much of that is down to Rotary Foundation."

The Rotary Foundation logo is at the top left. The title is "Foundation Goals for Global Grants". Below it are six icons with corresponding text: a dove for "Peace and Conflict Resolution/Prevention", a heart with a cross for "Disease Prevention and Treatment", a water drop for "Water and Sanitation", a woman and child for "Maternal and Child Health", an open book for "Basic Education and Literacy", and a bar chart for "Economic and Community Development".

The Rotary Foundation logo is at the top left. The title is "District Grants" in a green box. Below it are five bullet points: "Must be in line with The Rotary Foundation Mission", "Can be used for Local or International projects", "Must meet community need", "Must have 'significant' Rotary involvement", and "Projects should be 'promoted' in the local media".

Billericay Christmas Market



Billericay Christmas Market



“Roll Up, Roll Up For The Grand Raffle”

Who could resist the cries of our RotaKids? No-one!

Our daughter club, Rotary Club of Billericay Mayflower's annual Christmas Market saw club members out in force to support the event with four marquees showcasing different activities. The largest marquee housed our Grand Christmas Raffle, and others showcased the Soapbox Derby coming again due to popular demand in May 2019.

Rotary Recognised

First, the raffle. Another great day, with club members again buying nearly £700 of tickets in



advance, and, thanks to their generosity, not only did we sell another £950 of tickets on the day, but kind visitors and residents of our town also donated over £120, many insisting they did not want a ticket – just to donate to such worthwhile charitable causes. Rotary's value clearly recognised!

Final total - nearly £1800

raised in one day.

Selling that many tickets is not easy, but most members helped on the day, and we were well supported by members of our two RotaKids clubs, of Quilters Junior School and Buttsbury Junior School.

Their maturity was a revelation, their repartee another. One young lass had a 100% success rate - all the time she was there nobody



Billericay Christmas Market (continued)



refused to buy a ticket from her. There's a challenge next year, fellows! Others had a tremendous time on the microphone "reeling in the punters". All agreed: "Great Fun!"



All the prize-winners have already received their prizes:

- Case of Wine - Jonathan
- Hybrid Bicycle - Angela
- Food Hamper - Mel
- Fruit Basket - Jan
- Billericay Print - Elizabeth

Soapbox Derby - It's a GO!

Reserve the date - May 6, 2019. another terrific event!

Not only were there two soapboxes on display at the entrance to the market, but we had a ma-



ior installation of other soapboxes and related information.

- One complete tent made over to photos and posters from our 2017/8 events
- One tent for a huge 65-inch video screen (thanks to Quilters Junior School for its loan) showed continuously throughout the day, all 30 videos of all the Soapbox Derbies. Crowds around it all day and much of a talking point in the nearby pubs and restaurants.
- One tent showing off two 2018 soapboxes - "Dr Hans Zharkov's Mongo Lander" - of Flash Gordon fame, complete

with flashing lights and sound effects. Also, the "Happy Feet" Soapbox from the Rotary Club of Wickford, the team members of which were on hand all day in their penguin suits (they were warm!) showing off their creation, handing out publicity flyers and most importantly, encouraging children to sit in and "drive" the soapbox - kid's delight.



Flying Scotsman

Not to be outdone, along came:

- "The Canvey Chugger" steam engine from the Rotary Satellite Club of Canvey Island,
- "Tom" - the American jeep - a private entry from Tom Acors

- "The Flying Scotsman" steam engine from Wardell Armstrong - Complete CARNage. Team members in full Scottish dress were there most of the day, like "Happy Feet", showing off their creation, handing out publicity and encouraging passing children to sit in and "drive" the soapbox, much to the children's delight.

All on our stand and in the Christmas Parade, showing off as they followed Father Christmas along the packed High Street.

See You There!

Our grateful thanks to Complete CARNage, Happy Feet, Canvey

Chugger, Dr Zharkov and Tom for bringing along their soapboxes and giving so much of their time to publicise the 2019 Soapbox Derby!

Many people stopped to tell us how much they had enjoyed the last three events and they were "definitely" coming along in 2019; others said they were definitely going to enter a soapbox in 2019.

Hugely worthwhile effort all round!

Members' Musings

Return to China - All Change 20 Years On

**Wendy Greene
continues her
epic diary
Snow Mountain
Sunday October 14**

Ancient village. Steep, cobbled and many donkeys carrying Chinese tourists. Lots of nasturtiums. I told Louise, our guide they could be eaten. She found them spicy. *Amusing, I'd persuaded a Chinese to try strange food!* We met some Chinese tourists, very colourfully dressed (modern with a touch of ethnic). They crowded round for a photo. Their happiness was so infectious.



Another village, more touristy. A famous man here, 24th generation of master calligraphers. We buy a small piece. Next door another embroidery school. I buy two pieces. I am in my element.



After lunch we go to Snow Mountain for the spectacular view. Louise told us about a client (a 60 old man) who got altitude sickness and died. We rushed to buy oxygen canisters.

First a hair-raising bus ride, maybe I shouldn't worry about dying from altitude sickness. Goats, chickens, dogs, donkeys and yaks scatter. Bad idea to sit in the front. The top is at over 12,000 feet. Peter goes, but - after a 90 minute car ride, a 40 minute bus ride, steep steps, and a 20 minute cable car ride - *no view because of the clouds and rain!*



Beautiful lake on the way down. Some brides being photographed in the mud and rain. It's not their wedding day, just for a "wedding" album to show the guests on the wedding day. If dress gets dirty, bride will buy another one. Curiouser and curiouser.



**Shangri-La
Monday October 15**

New guide. Lawson, a pleasant young Tibetan Nomad. Born in Shangri-La (name changed to this in 2001 after the novel "The Lost Horizon"). Must read it. Old name translates as "The sun and moon in our hearts". Prefer that.

On to Tiger Leaping Gorge. A sedate and a beautiful turquoise?



No! Today it is a tumultuous torrent of brown water after a landslide caused by heavy rain. It's 800 steps down to the river - and then 800 steps back up.

Peter goes down, his health App says it's 38 floors each way. I opt out. I'm a tourist attraction again. People stop and stare at me and try to read what I am writing. Some try to take photos. I could have gone down (and up) in a type of Sedan chair but I'm enough of a spectacle as it is.

Many people are Nomads. Winter is best as they are all together and there is nothing to do but party every night. Weddings are in winter. The houses are large enough for 100 people. His wife is a teacher (a coveted government job as it provides a high salary and a life pension).

We are nearing our destination. Peter gives a sigh and says "Ah, well, that was quite a relaxing day today." "You'd better put in a complaint" I said.

We reach our hotel. We have a large building and the room is gigantic. The biggest I've ever



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Return to China - All Change 20 Years On

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seen - it seems bigger than our whole house, but where is the bathroom? "Oh, that is down-stairs via a steep set of wooden stairs". There is a handrail on both sides but what do I do in the dark? "Don't worry, there's a torch," said Peter, helpfully. "But I'll need two hands to get down"!

Tuesday October 16

There is a weighing scale in our room. "I've lost 5lbs", said Peter. "It's broken" I said.

Screaming Monks

Today visit the biggest monastery in Yunnan State. Another big hill



(by bus) and many steps. No cars. Lawson gets the OK to drive right up to the top. Dozens of young monks are shouting and screaming at each other. Expressing their views and exchanging ideas. Seems fierce but a way to learn. Dark red robes but modern trainers. Buildings most impressive.



Back to beautiful old Shangri-La. Mao Tze Dong's Long March was through it. Very quiet. Few tourists. I bought two necklaces from a young girl who makes her own. Many yak skulls for sale. Next day, I woke up - Peter said "Did you have a bad dream last



night?" "I don't know, why do you ask?" He said "You shouted out "Help Me". "That wasn't a dream," I said.

We fly to Xian.

At the hotel, our first english tourists. They plan to cycle round the top of the city

walls - 14 Kms!

Terracotta Warriors October. 17 - 18

We hired a car and driver from the hotel, no guide. They think we are strange - the driver speaks no English. We were last there 18 years ago. Amazing changes. The journey then was completely hazardous. Crowded with bikes, old cars, and lorries, with dangerously stacked animals and goods, and pedestrians weaving in between. Mothers lifted their babies and young kids up to our bus to look at us. Dirty roads and poor looking people. Now we are in a new car (most are) on a modern road.

Tens of thousands of tourists cram the vast site. 15 minutes to walk to the warriors. Paved walkways and landscaped gardens.

Once there, crowds are at least five deep. We have to push even to glimpse the warriors. They are still stunning. Breath-taking!

On to HuaQuin, also here in 2000. Huge difference in numbers. No Westerners, many Chinese. Busloads of delightful school children. They smile and shout "Hello, how are you?" Teaching English from kindergarten is compulsory! The children compete to have their photographs taken by us. We're overcome by all the changes in China.

16 million people October 19-21

We catch the bullet train (150 mph) to Chengdu. We pass a huge building. New guide Heather says it's the biggest fattest in the world!. 30,000 people work



in it. There's a shopping mall and a water park too.

Giant Buddha

Helen and Richard arrive that evening, for next day's trip to

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Return to China - All Change 20 Years On

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Leshan to see the Giant Buddha - 71 metres tall, the biggest stone Buddha in China, carved into the river cliff 1200 years ago. Only way to see it is by boat.

Back to Chengdu City Park. We see people having their ears cleaned and massaged, and women having their hair cut off to sell as wigs. There's a marriage market. Amazing - hundreds of pieces of paper on railings and walls. Heather translated some. One described a boy as "looking like a foreigner" i.e. having a larg-



er nose and less slanty eyes. Notices often put up by parents and the child doesn't know.

There are marriage arrangers who sift through the notices to find suitable matches. We saw several people making copious notes. They make a lot of money.

... And Pandas

Next day - Pandas at last. There are thousands of people but it's not a problem. The many Pandas are in a natural landscape with lots of space. Some are eating bamboo shoots, some are climbing trees. One is comatose on a log. They are so close it's a fantastic sight.

We see a large American lady struggling up a slope, shouting "Ain't anyone going to wait for



me?" There's no sign of her party. Perhaps they've all done a runner. She's very loud.

Then to crowded JinLI pedestrian street - there are stalls selling chicken feet, rabbits heads, chicken hearts, cockerel combs, pig snouts, worms, scorpions and a lot more. We are not hungry.

Hong Kong October 22-24

We left China today to end our journey in Hong Kong but that's another tale for another day. Thank you for reading.

Mayflower Morris Men go to Ypres



Mayflower Morris Men, ex King's Trooper and British Legion standard bearer. It was Tony who "recruited" me at The Fox & Hounds Ramsden Heath in 1991!

Tony visited Ypres each year. Last year he suggested that we might like to go there in the 100th anniversary year and lay a wreath for the fallen Morris Men. Sadly, last November he succumbed to cancer and we miss him very much. However, we de-

ecided we would go forward with his idea in his honour, and thus the trip in October was born.

We all went out by coach on Thursday 11th (early!!), dancing in the Grote Markt in Ypres in the afternoon, and then laid our wreaths at the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony in the evening. Each wreath was laid by a member of the group who had lost a family member during the War.

The wreaths were laid at a very moving Menin Gate ceremony.

The Last Post was sounded, as it has been every year since 1923, except when Ypres was occupied during the Second World War.

Afterwards, we danced some more in the square



Club members have many outside interests and our Ken Smith is a well-known local Morris Dancer. Ken reports on a recent trip to Ypres by the Mayflower Morris Men, together with enough friends and family to fill a coach, to lay wreaths commemorating the many Morris Men who fell in the Great War.

"The visit was proposed by the late Tony Motley, a great Morris dancer and member of

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Mayflower Morris Men (continued)

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and imbibed a few beers!! Amongst the party were Morris Men from Blackmore, Thames Valley and Albury, a total of 12 dancers and a musician.

We stayed overnight in Ypres.



Next morning the members of the group visited Sanctuary Wood and the "In Flanders Fields" museum before finally, after lunch, we headed home, getting back in the evening of the 12th."

By Ken Smith

Soapbox Diary

We had a large presence at the Christmas Market yet again this year, publicising the 2019 event (see pages 6-8) and our first press release featured as major story in the Community News section of the Billericay Gazette newspaper.

The Soapbox committee continues to meet regularly to discuss all aspects of making it a success.

We will be issuing further press releases as progress of the event develops, not least hoping to feature some of the wackiest entries as in past years .

Our friends in the media have come to recognise its success and do support us with the Soapbox Derby.

We are grateful to them all.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS Now that's Flash! Soapbox Derby team unveils vehicle



Something to Brighten Your Day

Pleasures of grandparents

1. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours, so I decided to test her. I point out something and ask what colour it was. She would

tell me, and she was always right. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Nana, I think you should try figuring out some of this stuff for yourself!"

2. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."
"Look in your underwear, Granddad," he advised. "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

Due to the amount of our activities, we have added an extra edition with this 12-page December newsletter. We wish all members and fellow Rotarians a Happy New Year.

Birthday Congratulations - We wish a Happy Birthday to Revd. Margaret Fowler (Jan. 24)

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

January 7

New Year Message - Rev. Margaret Fowler

January 9

District Council @ Writtle

January 14

Jane Orchard (Birkett Long)

Powers of Attorney

January 14 (18.30-20.30)

Joint Services Meeting & Club Council

January 21

Business meeting

January 28

Madeline Binnings - Child Abuse