

# The Rotary Club of Swaffham

District 1080 RIBI No.1095

Twinned with – The Rotary Club of Rue Baie de Somme (France)



## THE PEDLAR'S POST

**November 2006**

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### **Editors Comments.**

Having taken Ellen's advice and used her modified front page ( no blue splodge at the top ), the size of the "Post" has reduced significantly. Hopefully you have all been able to receive it.

The first Monday in December is the 4<sup>th</sup> ,so I would welcome your contributions for the next "Post" by Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> December

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### President's Message

Nobody can complain that Rotary is boring! – certainly not here in Swaffham!

Although we set out full of good intentions regarding spacing out our events, inevitably at certain times the calendar becomes rather busy. October is certainly one of those months – we started off with an excellent talk from Tom Shephard on his reminisces as a School head. This was followed by a rather scary talk from two of Jo's henchmen on Financial Planning. If this did not make most of us sit up & take notice about our efforts to prevent Mr Brown helping himself to much of our hard earned cash, then we either had nothing to leave! or had already taken all necessary steps.

Next came the Thirteenth Annual Art Exhibition – what a success! – the decision to utilise the splendid Assembly Rooms was fully justified. My thanks (& I'm sure those of the Club) to Simon & his band of helpers for all their hard work. The greatly increased number of people through the doors and the quality of the exhibits no doubt contributed to the greatly increased sales over previous years, resulting in a profit to Rotary Charities of over £3,000. Well done everybody.

Our next speaker – Mike Last of the Lynn News gave us an insight into the history & workings of the newspaper.

Hard on the heels of the Art Exhibition was our Halloween Parade & Fireworks Display – this was funded by the Icen Partnership and our sincere thanks must go to them. It is unlikely that this funding will be available next year so we need to decide if this event should be repeated. The event, I believe, was a great success, although not as well supported as last year, despite our extensive advertising. Although we did clear over £300 on the barbeque and bucket collection this was not the primary objective – this was an event for the Community and I believe that the

profile of Rotary (including that from the Art Exhibition) in the town is now much higher than before.

Finally, this month is the celebration of the granting of our Charter. It was wonderful to meet some of our founding members and share with them their memories of the Club 37 years ago. The whole evening, from the excellent food provided by the George to the speeches, was one of fellowship & fun – which I believe is what Rotary is primarily all about.

November, in the Rotary calendar is Foundation Month. Dorothy and her committee have already raised the bulk of our contribution to Foundation and have plans to reach their target early next year.

And finally –

*A man stumbles up to the only other patron in the bar and asks if he could buy him a drink.*

*"Why of course," comes the reply. The first man then asks: "Where are you from?"*

*"I'm from Ireland," replies the second man,*

*The first man responds: "You don't say, I'm from Ireland too! Let's have another round to Ireland"*

*"Of course," replies the second man.*

*Curious, the first man then asks "Where in Ireland are you from?"*

*"Dublin," comes the reply*

*"I can't believe it," says the first man. I'm from Dublin too! Let's have another drink to Dublin"*

*"Of course," replies the second man.*

*Curiosity again strikes and the first man asks: "What school did you go to?"*

*"Saint Mary's," replies the second man. I graduated in '65',*

*"This is unbelievable," the first man says. "I went to Saint Mary's and I graduated in '65' too,*

*About that time in comes one of the regulars and sits down at the bar.*

*"What's been going on?" he asks the bartender.*

*"Nothing much," replies the bartender. "The O'Malley twins are drunk again."*

Regards,

*Alan*

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## **Club Service Committee.**

### **Programme for November**

#### **November 6<sup>th</sup>** Scatter Week

I have had no time to organize anything so please act independently. Suggest that Committees arrange to visit other Clubs or organize yourselves in groups to make visits. **Please do something, it is very interesting to learn what other Clubs are doing.**

#### **November 11<sup>th</sup>** Italian Evening at Lydney House

This is clearly well subscribed. Please speak to David Impey if in doubt.

#### **November 13<sup>th</sup>** Pat Sherwood. My Life-My Job (Duty Member Mike Lucas)

#### **November 14<sup>th</sup>** Club Council

#### **November 20<sup>th</sup>** Business Meeting

**CLUB SGM** At this meeting we have to elect Club Officers for the Rotary Year 2007/2008 (Duty Member Stuart Nairn)

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** Club visit to the Thursford Christmas Show.

Tickets sold and distributed. There was a desire for a pre-show meal to be arranged, possibly a High Tea. Details to follow.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** Reconnaissance Canberras Fl/Lt Stephen Gregory

(Duty Member, Arthur Rackham)

**ART EXHIBITION 2006** The Event this year was moved to The Assembly Rooms. After many successful years at Lydney House, we said goodbye to David and Sarah with some sadness, to take advantage of the newly refurbished premises that are very central. We had 480 exhibits from 95 Artists, sold 63 Works, had an attendance of over 400 people and seem to have made in excess of over £3000 profit.

I think a success, due to the hard work and cooperation of many people, not least some of our partners and friends. I do not wish to mention names, but all of those who contributed have received a letter of thanks, including of course, our sponsors, Bluestone and Pearsons.

There were many lessons to be learnt and I plan to have a brainstorming meeting to establish ideas for another year. The Assembly Rooms are provisionally booked for the same dates in 2007.

I do think, as very much a layman, that the standard of the exhibits was very high, and we received very warm comments from Public and Artists alike.

So, thank you to all of you who contributed. I believe that one of the nicest results is the pleasure we all had in working together to produce a successful result.

**Dates for your Diaries - 2 Joyous Evenings :-**

December 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party

February 24<sup>th</sup> President`s Night

Details to follow soon

*Simon*

## Club Secretary

### Correspondence - Oct 2006

1. District Exchange Turkey
2. Report on Barnardos Appeal
3. Centre of Handicapped
4. RI Presidents Citations
5. Rotary Honour for Bertie Ahern
6. Rotary Mobility Exchange
7. Big C
8. Local CAB
9. EACH Christmas Cards

### The Rotary Family

#### Welcome to Claire Dunne.

Claire was inducted on Monday 23 October as a member of the Swaffham Club and was allocated to the Vocational Service committee. On the 27 Oct Claire was involved with the Halloween event and then went on holiday for 3 weeks!

Welcome again to Claire

**Simon and Eileen** became grandparents in October and we welcome Lola and Spike. Lola in Wales and Spike in North Norfolk.

**PLEASE HELP OUT WITH THE ROTARY FAMILY ITEMS AND PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR THE COLUMN.**

*Denis Bishop*

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## DISTRICT 1080 – GOVERNOR’S

### NEWS LETTER

#### VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Would clubs looking for ways to find a project that will help reduce the incidence of illiteracy in the world please make contact with Rtn Paul McIntee of the Rotary Club of Felixstowe Landguard , telephone number 01394 671838: email; [paul.mcintee@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.mcintee@btinternet.com) who will be pleased

to give advice or visit your club to speak on this subject.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

There are still two clubs with unpaid subscriptions to RIBI. It would be most embarrassing to us in District 1080 to be told that their Charters were to be withdrawn!

### **DISTRICT 1080 CONFERENCE**

The District Conference was well received by all those who attended. Sadly, for me, we had the lowest attendance of any Conference in recent years. I shall be trying to analyse the reasons for this and will be sending out a survey for you all to complete. 'No! Not another survey', I hear you cry. But this is important. We are required by RI to hold a Conference. What we need to do is hold one that you are prepared to attend!!

A report on the Cambridge Conference can be found on the District web site, with thanks to Roger Thomson of the Rotary Club of Letchworth Garden City..

### **RI CONVENTION**

Bookings for the next RI Convention have been very strong. Come and join Rotarians from around the world in Salt Lake City next 17-20 June. I have never been to an RI Convention but those who have, tell me it's a really great event. You can book online through the RI web site.

### **FAMILY OF ROTARY**

When planning your events for December please try to remember that this is Family Month and that we should ensure that our events include all the family, children, extended family, and friends. Try to reach out to the wider community and show them all what we in Rotary can do. You never know who might be in attendance and who might wish to join our ranks.

Continuing the theme, is there any way we can help the Inner Wheelers of District No

8? Is there a possibility that we could ask the ladies who meet in ad hoc groups around the District to convert their meetings to formal Inner Wheel Clubs? ( none, I would have thought. Ed. )

I am pleased to report that there is a possibility of new Interact clubs being formed in Norwich, again increasing the size of our family. And on the same tack, under the initiative of Vernon McElroy of Cambridge Rutherford there is a possibility of a new Rotaract Club in Cambridge. Well done.

### **ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

What an absolutely superb event this is. The young people who attend just cannot say enough about what happens to them during their week at Grafham Water Centre. They complete the course brimming with confidence and the realisation that they can tackle most tasks in life. My thanks are extended to all the clubs who supported a candidate (or 2 or more!). Would you all now put your thinking caps on to find suitable candidates, aged 18-25, for next year's event, again to be held in September.

### **EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH**

September has been a particularly busy month but I have enjoyed every minute of it. I attended the Littleport Celebrity Charity Dinner at the Ely Maltings and met a real character in the guest speaker, John Conteh, former World Light Heavyweight Champion. Littleport have been holding similar dinners for many years and have raised thousands of pounds for charity as well as providing a splendid evening for all. We had a Friendship Exchange with Rotarians from the South of the USA and hosted by members around the District. This was a well organised week by Martin Anscombe of Watton and

I attended their visit to Norwich Cathedral where we were given an excellent talk by the Dean. Felixstowe Landguard held a very successful dinner dance, their first for many a year which we enjoyed. Sudbury Talbot held their first Art Exhibition in St. Peter's Church, again a very enjoyable event which raised quite a few pounds for their chosen charities and no doubt alerted the local populace to the presence of a Rotary Club in Sudbury.

### **GSE TO TURKEY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2007**

Clubs still have time to submit applications for Team Members for this exchange and we are looking for more applications from people aged 25-40. The new deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September overran by just 5 minutes and yet members were putting their coats on and getting up to leave just before this!! Slightly rude, I felt but the reason for the delay in finishing was because members were very concerned at the motion to select the venue for the District Conference in 2007. It was, in fact passed overwhelmingly, but I have taken note of the many comments and these will be taken on board before presentation of the Conference Budget at the January District Council meeting.

Please see also my reference to a survey earlier in the Newsletter

### **DG OFFICIAL VISITS**

My official club visits, which I am really enjoying thanks to you, are listed on the District web site.

My very best wishes to you all for a productive and fun year in Rotary

**Nigel Neville**  
**District Governor 2006-2007**

## **The Environment.**

One planet – and one chance to save it. That is the stark message of the Stern Report – the most comprehensive review ever into the global economic impact of climate change.

The report says if we act now we can spare the world the worst, if we wait, the suffering and recrimination of our children and grandchildren will fall on our guilty shoulders.

Therefore I earnestly request and remind Rotarians to sign up to the Cred programme of the University of East Anglia that Rotary in District 1080 has agreed to support.

We can all contribute and help to make a difference by agreeing to five simple pledges.

Please log on to [www.cred-uk.org](http://www.cred-uk.org) and specify Rotary on the appropriate tab.

Stern is a massive stimulus and an awful warning. All of us must keep up our efforts to reduce energy as individuals – this can be done through our partnership with Cred and others.

Inaction is not an option.

PDG Malcolm Whittle  
RIBI Environment group.