

December 2009

Christmas



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News & Views

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE ROTARY CLUB OF GREENFORD



SERVICE ABOVE SELF





Service Above Self

NEWS & VIEWS

November 2009

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Our President's Page



I was honoured to be at the charter presentation to the Greenford High school Interact Club, along with 5 others from Our Club, the President of RIBI and the Mayor of Ealing. I am sure that there is an article in the magazine covering this auspicious event so please read it when you find it.



The Christmas collections have started and we need more collectors, so please let Julian know if you can help out. If you find it difficult to make it, try a little harder and I am sure that you will be able to help out and probably enjoy it all the more for the extra effort. What we collect bares results on what we can do throughout the year. We are trying our collecting skills at Westway Cross for the first time which is just down the road from the Bridge Hotel, fingers crossed it will be a good spot for us.

Eddie has returned to the fold with his new knee and although there is a way to go (no pun intended) he has done very well as it is not the most comfortable procedure but at least the quality has returned to the top table. It is a shame that Mike cannot be with us for the Christmas Lunch as his eagle eyed diligence at the slightest misdemeanour in protocol has helped subsidise the Christmas Lunch, perhaps Ian thinks this is just desserts as I am sure that Ian contributed the most (by a long way, he just can't help it you know).

It was with some sadness that we accepted Malcolm Cantwell's resignation from the Club due to the pressure of work, but pleased that he accepted our invitation to be an Honorary Member; Thank you Malcolm for all your help in

the past. It may seem a low key thanks but it is not intended, I personally admire Malcolm for his dedication to Youth and Rotary. Thank you Malcolm Another thanks to another Malcolm, Malcolm Dellbridge, our new Vice President, to be President in 2011-2012. Well done Malcolm²

"The choices we make dictate the lives we lead. To thine ownself be true."

- William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Greenford High School: Interact Club



The concept of rotary interact clubs has no doubt evolved from its older cousin-Rotaract which was formed for young business people as a stepping stone to full rotary membership. The idea of interact is to bring younger people still into the rotary

'fold' by teaching them the values of helping other people particularly their

peers as without doubt giving does invoke real satisfaction even more so than receiving. We as a club have sponsored our first Interact club at Greenford High School and their Charter was presented by David Fowler-the president of RIBI, at a special meeting on 17 November. Also in attendance was Martin Gudde-District Governor, Steve Pound, the Mayor of Ealing, Alan O'Neill, our President John as well as other Greenford members.

The main project undertaken by the school so far is involvement in the Rotary Shoebox Scheme. They have funded prepared and filled 25 shoeboxes with different items ranging from childrens toys to school materials to basics for grown ups. All boxes were decorated with typical Christmas themes (no pc here!) and have now been taken to the despatch centre for distribution overseas primarily to Rumania and other eastern European countries. It is worth noting that the twelve or so pupils forming the initial Interact club have special needs making their contributions even more laudable.

Mike Hodge



Editor's Notes



Christmas almost here,
Season of good cheer,
Let's sing Joyfully
of Peace and Harmony

Get into the Christmas Spirit this year, There is precious little of it in the news and papers.

Jill Harris sends Christmas Greetings to all those in the club who remember her and Bill.

By the time you read this the Christmas Collections will be well under way, with Santa's Ho, Ho, Hoing their way around the streets of Greenford, so let's try to make this a bumper year. Thank you Julian for arranging the collections again amidst your busy schedule.

Thanks also to all the contributors to the magazine throughout the year who have made my job as editor a lot easier. And to those who have not contributed, next year I shall still need copy.

I may wait till February for the next magazine as things are quiet over Christmas and we have a couple of weeks off.

In the meantime



To you all

Ian

ROTARY CLUB OF GREENFORD

VOCATIONAL DAY OUT

PROVISIONAL INFORMATION

For Family and friends:
A day trip to DENBIES VINEYARD AT DORKING.



Trip to include:

- Coach from Bridge Hotel.
- A 3D film, ride through the works and free wine tasting in the cellars.
- The 'Indoor experience' films in the unique circular theatre.
- A train ride around the vineyard.
- Buffet lunch and time to browse in the shop to buy your wines and other items..

Date: A SUNDAY 27th JUNE 2010

Estimated price: £35 to £40 per head inclusive.

WATCH THIS SPACE

Speakers Corner

On the 19th November 2009, the waiting was finally over and those members that had not fled overseas, smashed their hearing aids or devised other means of escape were finally treated to Part 1 of the life of our own Ian Yardley. Inevitably this was not a “My Life” slot as we know it. The banter from the assembled faithful was so great that Ian could hardly get a word in edgeways and there were many diversions into entertainment trivia from the Wizard of Oz to the Scottish play.

However we did learn that Ian was born on 6th February 1943 to allegedly married parents (we saw a wedding photograph but no dated certificate of birth or the wedding to allay our suspicions). Ian tried to distract us with tales of the less important things that had happened on 6th February from the birth of Ronald Reagan to the Munich air crash, but we eventually gave him the benefit of the doubt. We then learned that he had lived with his parents, brother (famous footballer) and sister in Kirkcaldy, the largest town in Fife, where his father was a Pipe Major following a family tradition. Indeed we saw a picture of his father and grandfather (sporting an outsized sporran) they being 1935 champion pipers and inclined to indulge in windbag squeezing contests.

The young Ian progressed well in school majoring in country dance (his Gay Gordon apparently had to be seen to be believed) and eventually passing the exam at age 11 which allowed him to progress to Kirkcaldy High School which was opposite the church where Gordon Brown's father was the minister. His mother followed him in her role of school meals supervisor from the primary to the secondary school but despite the support of her cooking he left the school at the age of 15. This appears to be have been partly due to the unreasonable response of the headmaster to the fact that Ian was so much prouder of his membership of the Boys Brigade than of the school. Ian could hardly be blamed as the Boys Brigade was opening up a new world for him including starring roles in pantomime such as Doc in Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, and the Teddy Girl in the Teddy Boy's picnic.

All these startling revelations proved too much for those assembled and our president finally called a halt to the proceedings, leaving Ian still in short trousers. A lot of fun was had by all. Due warning will be given of Parts 2-6.

Speakers Corner Cont'd

On the evening of November 26th we had a very poor turnout with only eight of our members turning up. Those who didn't manage to get there missed a very interesting evening when we had Mr P.G.Smith showing his Collection of Model Royal State Coaches. Maybe some of you were expecting models the size of dinky toys that he had collected, but you were certainly mistaken as all the coaches he showed us were hand-made, hand crafted and hand painted and around 3ft long and 1.5 ft tall. The collection is the only one in existence and the only one who has permission from the Palace to call this "The Royal Collection"

Each part on every coach was made BY HAND to a scale relative to the particular coach he showed us, six of which he brought along for the evening. All parts that worked on the original coach worked in exactly the same way on the model. Door hinges were all made by hand and many of the materials used were exactly the same materials, paints and varnishes used on the original coach. He told us tales of how he started the collection and how he got access to the original coaches with Palace permission to get the materials. He described the many hours of work involved in each coach and the intricate work involved. Also he described his pride when HM The Queen saw the coaches and praised him for the work he had done.

We were indeed fortunate to be able to look closely at "The Royal Collection" and also be amazed at the patience and craftsmanship involved in making and maintaining these priceless models.

Ian

The "Eagle" landed on our doorstep on Thursday 3rd December in the form of PDG Don Merritt to encourage us to get involved in the "Thanks for Life" campaign. This is Rotary's big push this year to eliminate polio, initiated by our RI president in partnership with Bill Gates of Microsoft fame.



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded US\$255 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio, bringing the total committed by Rotary and the Gates Foundation to \$555 million. As you can see in the photograph, he even got involved in administering the dosage.

The fact that there are only about four countries in the world where polio is still rife is a testament to our past efforts and Don encouraged us by suggesting various courses of action

where we could involve local schoolchildren and others to help us in our quest.

Thanks Don

Ian

A Blonde's Year in Review

January

Took new scarf back to store because it was too tight.

February

Fired from pharmacy job for failing to print labels.....
Hellllloooo!!!.....bottles won't fit in printer !!!

March

Got really excited.....finished jigsaw puzzle in 6 months..... box said "2-4 years!"

April

Trapped on escalator for hours power went out!!!

May

Tried to make Kool-Aid.....wrong instructions....8 cups of water won't fit into those little packets!!!

June

Tried to go water skiing.....couldn't find a lake with a slope.

July

Lost breast stroke swimming competition.....learned later, the other swimmers cheated, they used their arms!!!

August

Got locked out of my car in rain storm..... car swamped because soft-top was open..

September

The capital of California is "C".....isn't it???

October

Hate M & M's.....they are so hard to peel .

November

Baked turkey for 4 1/2 days. .. instructions said 1 hour per pound and I weigh 108!!

December

Couldn't call 911 . "duh".....there's no "eleven" button on the stupid phone!!!

News & Views

A duck walks into a pub and orders a pint of beer and a ham sandwich.

The barman looks at him and says, "Hang on! You're a duck."

"I see your eyes are working," replies the duck.

"And you can talk!" exclaims the barman.

"I see your ears are working, too," says the duck. "Now if you don't mind, can I have my beer and my sandwich please?"

"Certainly, sorry about that," says the barman as he pulls the duck's pint.

"It's just we don't get many ducks in this pub.. What are you doing round this way?"

"I'm working on the building site across the road," explains the duck. "I'm a plasterer."

The flabbergasted barman cannot believe the duck and wants to learn more, but takes the hint when the duck pulls out a newspaper from his bag and proceeds to read it.

So, the duck reads his paper, drinks his beer, eats his sandwich, bids the barman good day and leaves. The same thing happens for two weeks.

Then one day the circus comes to town.

The ringmaster comes into the pub for a pint and the barman says to him "You're with the circus, aren't you? Well, I know this duck that could be just brilliant in your circus. He talks, drinks beer, eats sandwiches, reads the newspaper and everything!"

"Sounds marvellous," says the ringmaster, handing over his business card. "Get him to give me a call."

So the next day when the duck comes into the pub the barman says, "Hey Mr. Duck, I reckon I can line you up with a top job, paying really good money."

"I'm always looking for the next job," says the duck. "Where is it?"

"At the circus," says the barman.

"The circus?" repeats the duck.

"That's right," replies the barman.

"The circus?" the duck asks again. "That place with the big tent?"

"Yeah," the barman replies.

"With all the animals who live in cages, and performers who live in caravans?" says the duck.

"Of course," the barman replies.

"And the tent has canvas sides and a big canvas roof with a hole in the middle?" persists the duck.

"That's right!" says the barman.

The duck shakes his head in amazement, and says . . .

"What would they want with a plasterer?"



Gabrielle's Page

It hardly seems a moment since last Christmas. I hope that you have managed to get lots of your Christmas preparation well under way. I have been preparing some of the food ahead of time but I am sure I will still be in the shops on Christmas Eve for that last minute present.



I enjoyed a morning of making Christmas decorations.

A friend works as an Education Officer for the Surrey Woodland Trust at Nower Wood near Leatherhead. Julie says she has the best job in the world working each day in the wood. She had lots of ideas on how to use natural materials to create decorations. I made a garland which is proudly displayed on the front door. It was a pleasant way to get into the festive spirit unfortunately being in the morning not that kind of spirit!

John is a huge fan of Christmas so we went to see the new animated film A Christmas Carol. We saw the film at the IMAX Theatre in London in 3D, the largest screen in the UK ! The effects were very spectacular but you had to hold on to your seat as Scrooge was swooped over the roof tops of London to see his Christmas Past, Present and Future. Next Saturday we will go to the Albert Hall for a carol concert, a Perrett family tradition.

I think we will all be glad to see the end of the year with swine flu and deepest recession since end of the war having been a worry for us all. Let's hope that 2010 is a lot brighter. I am looking forward to the 2nd half of our year and hope that we will have some fun times together in Rotary friendship.

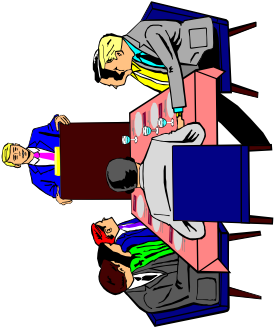
Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas and all best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Gabrielle

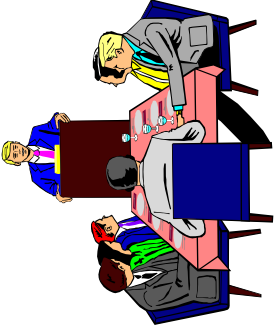


***DATES TO NOTE
&
REMEMBER***

Jan 28	Thursday	Burns Night
Feb 27	Saturday	Quiz Night
March 25	Thursday	Vocational Awards
April 8	Thursday	AGM
April 22/25	Thurs/Sun	Fellowship Weekend in Ghent
May 8	Saturday	Presidents Night (Harrow Quality Hotel)
May 13/16	Thurs/Sun	Lehrte visit to Hanover
May 22	Saturday	Scout's Fishing Competition (10 year Anniversary)
June 24	Thursday	Changeover
June 26	Saturday	International Event
July 15	Thursday	Club Assembly (Members Only)



Club Programme



Date	Speaker/Subject	Host	Visitors	Money
Jan.7	Michael Hyde. Woodlands Trust	Malcolm D.	Stephen	Mervyn
14	Business Meeting	N/A	Jay	Hazel
21	Kevin Brace . Highways Agency Traffic Officers	Mervyn	Gaspar	Julian
28	7 pm.for 7.30 pm. Burns Night	N/A	Phillip	Tony

N.B. If you are unable to perform your Duty, it is YOUR responsibility to find and instruct a deputy