

February / March 2014



RCE News



**Activities, Events and News from
The Rotary Club of Eastbourne**

President: Joe Smedley CBE

Welcome...

to the February / March 2014 issue of the Rotary Club of Eastbourne News.

Echoes of our activities at Christmas, the Club's response to flooding caused by atrocious weather at the beginning of the year, news of 'our' student in Zimbabwe, and springing into action with the Friends of the DGH. Plus lots more...

These snippets help to capture and celebrate the breadth and variety of the Club's activities. So please keep material coming in for the next and future issues.

Sadly, March was the last attendance by John Gross who has moved to Hailsham. John joined the Club in 1997. He was President during 2005 / 2006 (when he famously promised to banish 'fun' during his term in office - and failed spectacularly!); and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2009. We wish John and Sue much happiness in their new home and hope to see them at future Club events from time to time.

George Collier

Presidential Jottings...

On the 6th February, I attended a meeting of the five clubs in Eastbourne to discuss the allocation of proceeds from the Tree of Life event which was held in December. £6500 was available to be donated to charities. Our club's share was £1300 and it was agreed that this would go to St Wilfrid's Hospice (£800) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (£500). Cheques were presented to the charities on the 21st February.

The club has been supporting Nontie, a student in Zimbabwe, for some seven years; initially through her 'A' levels, at the end of which she obtained straight 'A's. On her acceptance by the University of Zimbabwe to undertake a medical degree, the Club decided to support her through this degree course. Nontie is now in her third year and expects to be awarded a BSc before going on to gain her medical degree.

During this time, the Club has liaised with the Rotary Club of Bulawayo South and this has guaranteed that the monies paid to cover Nontie's expenses have gone to the relevant organizations. On the 10th March, we were pleased to welcome Sandy Whitehead of the Bulawayo Club and her daughter to our lunchtime meeting. Sandy has been our main contact throughout Nontie's studies and it was a real treat to see her and her daughter 'in the flesh'.

This was the second visit by a representative from a club involved in an international project; Paul Bogere from Kampala visited us earlier in my year.



Sandy Whitehead from the Rotary Club of Bulawayo South with (l to r) PE Simon Seath, President Joe and International Committee Chairman Chris Smith

On Saturday, 16th March, the Friends of the DG Hospital in Eastbourne, in conjunction with the Club, held a Ball at the Winter Gardens in aid of the new Stroke Centre at the hospital. The Ball was well attended and those present expressed their generosity by participating in the auction, raffle and other fund raising activities. We are grateful to PP Peter Nash for allowing the Club to be associated with this event and for the 20% share of the proceeds, which provisional figures suggest was more than £18,000.

Now for the weather! As everyone knows, January and February was the wettest for longer than anyone can remember. Flooding has occurred in many places and, in particular, the West Country and the Thames valley. To deal with those that are / have been unable to cover their losses by insurance etc. the President of RIBI has set up a fund. Another fund has been set up by the District Governor of District 1200, which covers the West Country and in particular the Somerset levels.

The club responded by donating £500 to the RIBI fund. In parallel with this, our friends in Ghent decided to donate €1000 for flood relief and this is going to District 1200. This was a magnificent gesture on their part and I have written to them to say so.

Finally, five other members and I were pleased to attend a gathering of clubs from the south east part of District 1120 to meet Nan McReadie, the President of RIBI who was hosted by the Rotary Club of Hastings. Six clubs gave presentations of a

representative number of projects; we gave two when PP Chris Smith outlined our support of Nontie, currently at the University of Zimbabwe studying for a medical degree, and Rtn. Christine Haniver spoke about the Alone at Christmas project.

Joe Smedley

Community & Vocational

A Trustee of The Children with Cancer Polegate Charity, the beneficiary of the Christmas sleigh collection in the Arndale Centre in December, will be joining a lunchtime meeting shortly to receive the cheque from President Joe, and to say a few words.

The next event is Eastbourne Carnival on Saturday 31st May with the theme 'Rio', and as last year we will be joining with the other Rotary clubs in Eastbourne to enter a float. We have again hired the open top bus and this will be draped as last year with appropriate decorations, so please provide 'Rio' decorations related to the football World Cup and Brazil etc. As I will not be around on the day of the carnival, Ian Marsden has kindly agreed to act as our representative / organiser, so give any items to him starting now! On the day volunteers will be required to walk alongside the bus and carry collecting buckets, so get your diaries out now and let Ian know that you will help on the day.

A meeting of the committee will be held shortly.

Brian Higgins

Jazz Concert

It was with delight I received confirmation from Mark Edwards that he will be in the country after all for the night of the concert; there were a great many sighs of relief when this was heard.

The committee continues to work hard in promoting and selling tickets and I must single out Ken Rawlings for his outstanding efforts in this area. I would ask members to continue to make every effort to sell tickets as without people sitting in seats the event will be a non-event. Currently we have only broken even, with ticket sales just covering known costs; so we need a big push between now and the concert to make sure that we end up with a reasonable profit. Members who have worked on this project in the past assure me that numbers will come good closer to and on the night, I sincerely hope so.

Christine and Annemarie have worked hard and secured sufficient prizes for the raffle. The bar remains in the good hands of Jonathan Porter and staff from Mayo's, thanks Jonathan.

Dennis Thompson

2013 Christmas Card Scheme

Fellow members will be interested to know that the Christmas Card Scheme raised £470 plus "Gift Aid" which will bring the total up to just under £600.

Many thanks to all those who took part.

Paul Honney

"Spring Back into Action" Ball 2014

The ball was held on Saturday 15 March at the Winter Garden, Eastbourne.

This was the fifth collaboration between Club and the Friends of the Eastbourne Hospital. On this occasion we had over 350 guests which was a little disappointing as we normally expect between 400 and 500; but despite booking early and checking that we did not clash with other events, we did! 41 Club and Eastbourne Round Table arranged their Ladies Night the same evening, and the Mayor's Ball was the previous night, also at the Winter Garden.

Despite this, it proved to be a very successful evening dancing to the Big Kahuna and the evening seemed to be enjoyed by the vast majority of guests with Club being well represented. It was a little disappointing that none of the other Clubs in the area were represented.

I am very grateful to all the helpers, particularly former Club member David Coe who continues to offer huge support for many of our activities. In addition we had very generous sponsorship from Johnston Press through "etc" magazine and the Eastbourne Herald, and W. Bruford. In addition, sponsorship was received from Cornfield Law, Hydro Hotel, Fusciardi's and Rosemary Ross.

The telephone auction again proved popular with several bidding wars between tables. Most surprising was the toy remote controlled Porsche with a successful bid in excess of £250!! All the prizes were donated and as always special thanks to those who generously donated and, in some cases, gently twisted the arms of those who did. The telephones and switchboard were provided for the evening by Chalvington Communications and the monitor screens by Missing Link.

Many remarks were made about the décor for the evening including our MP whose comment was that our events are by far the best decorated of the many that he attends! He now has the contact details of Audrey Fletcher-Price (Creative

Instinct) who yet again was our design and concept guru and Identity Signage (Paul Gietzen) who turned the design into reality and, even better, in a re-usable format for future occasions.

All in all, a great team effort. Was it worth it? It is too early to predict the final outcome, but our Treasurer is confident that the net profit is between £18 and £20,000. This makes the total for the five Balls held approximately £100,000. As a result, Club has been able to assist many local charities and the Friends have used their share to go towards: Digital Mammography machine, Pevensey Ward appeal, a heart and cancer enhancement of a new CT machine, Cardiac equipment for assessment and treatment, and now the Stroke Unit at the DGH. Well done all and thank you.

Peter Nash

Tripartite and President's Evening 2014

Two important dates for your diaries:

Tripartite (Lille) 16th-18th May 2014

President's Evening (Royal Eastbourne Golf Club) 14th June 2014

Ian Hunt

Sport

Gliding: A date for your diary - Thursday 12 June. Barrie Gent has kindly arranged for Club members to have an evening gliding at Ringmer which we will follow with a meal. This has always proved popular and I hope that Club will again support it. We are, of course, weather dependent and our track record over the years has not been good. On a sunny summer evening, however, what could be better than gently gliding over the magnificent Sussex countryside with views that should not be missed.

Golf: A reminder to all golfers in the Club - our charity golf day at the Royal Eastbourne golf Club will be on Friday 2 May in aid of St.Wilfrid's Hospice and Stroke Care. If this is to be a success, we need as many teams of 4 that we can get. Please, therefore, encourage as many of your golfing friends not only to enter - forms are available from me - but also to spread the word. This is the first time we have ventured to do this and we face competition from many other charity golf events.

There are also opportunities for companies and / or individuals to sponsor the various holes and anything else that we can think of. The more the better!

Peter Nash

Youth Service

Rotaract Club (18 - 30 yrs.): Nothing to report from Sussex Downs College since the formation of its Students' Association. Further progress is unlikely this year. The Princes Trust is already well established on campus.

A letter has been sent to the Head of Higher Education recognising the lack of interest and deferring talks until the next wave of, hopefully, enthusiastic students comes through and the economic climate is favourable.

Eastbourne AM are trying to form a Rotaract Club based at Ratton School, with us as possible partners for the start-up phase. Lion Hotels Group management is discussing the idea of a Rotaract Club with its staff.

Interact Club (12 - 18 yrs.): A cordial relationship is developing with Bishop Bell School where we hope to establish an Interact Club.

Members of staff are considering how this might blend with existing school committees and further meetings are anticipated in April. The school was assured that an Interact Club would in no way diminish Bishop Bell's primary image as a Christian school.

Two members attended the school's Pupil Leadership Conference at the town hall, when Rtn. Rev Philip Coekin gave the opening address and presentations were heard from pupil committee leaders.

Members have offered to give short career talks to senior pupils, for which staff have thanked us and will be responding. Ideally, these talks could be part of a new Interact Club diary.

An invitation to observe proceedings at AM's next Interact Club meeting, based on Ratton School, is awaited. Personnel changes at AM Club and Ratton School have caused delay.

RotaKids Club (7 - 12 yrs.): An unfavourable Ofsted Report last year left Bourne Primary with much work to do to raise standards in a school which has many immigrant children and 42 languages to anglicise!

For this reason, interest in a RotaKids Club is unlikely this year and we may now need to consider approaching another school - after first reading its latest Ofsted report! Our annual award of dictionaries to Bourne is unaffected as it doesn't take up teaching time.

Eastbourne Annual Music & Arts Festival - 14 to 23 February 2014: Thirteen Members offered their services as Stewards for this Festival, held jointly for the first time at the Winter Garden and Birley Centre. The Festival's Chief Steward, used about half of us in meeting his needs and has expressed grateful thanks for our support which helped to make this a successful event.

Rotary "Kids Out" Day - 11 June 2014: Hazel Court School have gratefully accepted our invitation to a "Kids Out" Day at Drusilla's.

Student numbers and admission costs to be determined. RIBI are subsidising at £1 per child.

The procedure for this annual event has been written by Rtn. Graham Marsden to aid succession and continuity. Rtn. Norman Kinnish has kindly agreed to lead this year's event.

Dictionaries for Bourne Primary School - May/June 2014: Rtn. Barrie Gent has for several years organised the donation of pictorial dictionaries to school leavers and has recently advised the school that Club will be donating them again this year, for which we received their thanks. Barrie has written a short procedure for this annual event.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) - October 2014: Rtn. Tony Cameron has written a procedure for the organising of this annual event.

Ron Genty

International and Foundation Committee

We are delighted that the Rotary Club of Kololo in Uganda has now been able to close off the Global Grant for the X-ray machine, after distributing brochures for the Public Health Campaign.

We welcomed Sandy Whitehead on 10th March to our club, and she was able to give us an update on Nontie's education in Harare University.

We are contacting Rotary Club of Hythe who have contacts with Rotary Club of Rukengiri in Western Uganda. They have a water project of building a reservoir and a pipeline to the village three miles away. We hope he may be able to visit us to explain the project.

President Joe took a group of our Club to Hastings to give a report to President Nan from RIBI and below is the report from International:

Our club was approached in 2007 by Rotary Club of Bulawayo South in Zimbabwe, as they knew a bright young student who was about to study for her A levels and unfortunately she had recently been orphaned. Bulawayo Club was supporting her but they needed additional help.

One of our members Allan Woolley travelled the world as a travel agent and knew Zimbabwe well. He was dismayed at how it had declined into tyrannical poverty, after once being such a prosperous country, widely known as the bread basket of Central Africa.

He considered that a visible, physical project such as a water supply system would be destroyed by the thugs running the country and recommended a low profile project.

He saw the need of assistance which would benefit Zimbabwe in years to come, when it would be most needed, and one of his hotelier contacts nominated Nontie, who was known as a budding student at the High School with an ambition to become a doctor. Unfortunately Allan has since died, but we are continuing with his efforts.

The student, Nontie, achieved excellent 'A' level results and is now in her third year of study for a BSc in Intercalated Human Physiology, which she hopes to be awarded by the end of this year. We have sent her books to aid her study and a laptop.

She will then continue with her studies for another two years for a five year scholarship she has been given by Econet Zimbabwe for Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery.

Last year she was on a rural clinic placement in a mission to understand the health beliefs of people in rural areas, and she sent us an excellent report of this visit.

A member of Bulawayo Club and her daughter came to our club only last Monday. She is able to receive our finances and pass them direct, which enables us to ensure that ALL our funds go where it is needed. All this money is

generated by our club, but we have made matching grants and global grants as well.

Such as giving a global grant to a Ugandan hospital for a mobile X-ray machine, and which I have visited twice and the Rotary Club there in Uganda four times, and the President of the Uganda Club visited us two months ago.

Other grants we have assisted with are for a school in India, which one of our members visited, and supplying an ambulance to a village in Uganda. We try to make these visits at no cost to Rotary, which we consider important.

Chris Smith

Secretary's Shout Out

Mobiles phones: A reminder to all Club members. You approved a motion that all mobile devices shall be silent between the saying of grace and the final toast. Members agreed that infringements will require the perpetrator to pay £5 to the Club Benevolent fund.

Votes of Thanks: Check the Club diary! To save the Club repeating the recent embarrassment we had two weeks running, members are requested to carefully check the Club Diary for dates when they are required to give the Vote of Thanks for our speakers. I always announce a reminder at lunch the week before.

Duty Rota: Changes afoot! For new members our Duty Rota must seem like black art - nobody tells you what you are supposed to do, or everybody tells you something different. So I am going to try to simplify it and this is my consultation of members. The changes proposed are:

1. Reduce duties from 5 members to 4 members.
2. Add a 'Your duty' row. This will headline what each person is responsible for.
3. Duties are common. If one person is a 'no show' the next person rostered fills in.

So below is a proposed preview of the headings for next year's Rota Sheet. If you have a view please let me have it. This is not an essay competition. If you can improve it in 140 characters max, I'll listen.

Bob Hamblyn

	Lead duty	Second duty	Speaker's Host	Board Monitor
	Cash for Meals	Visitors' Reception and Host	Regalia, Gong and Lectern	
Your Duty	<p>Arrive 12:15.</p> <p>Collect and record lunch fees.</p> <p>Record visitors.</p> <p>Account for meals, pay hotel.</p> <p>Pass sheets to Secretary.</p>	<p>Arrive 12:15</p> <p>Remain in foyer to receive visitors.</p> <p>Offer a drink.</p> <p>Find their interest.</p> <p>Sit with them at lunch or find a member with their interest.</p>	<p>Arrive 12:15</p> <p>Set out regalia and return to store at end.</p> <p>Be in foyer to receive speaker.</p> <p>Offer a drink.</p> <p>Introduce to President, & Speaker's Secretary</p>	<p>Arrive 12:30</p> <p>Recover Boards from Secretary.</p> <p>Start on table at one end and see boards move across all tables.</p> <p>Return to Secretary</p>

Next Edition

The April / May edition of RCE News will be circulated during the first week in June. Please forward your reports, articles, comments, photographs etc to me as soon as possible, and **no later than 27th May 2014.**

Many thanks.

George Collier (gcollier@edma.org.uk)

and finally...

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF US WHO WERE BORN IN THE 1940's 50's and 60's.

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and / or drank sherry while they carried us and lived in houses made of asbestos... They took aspirin, ate blue cheese, bread and dripping, raw egg products, loads of bacon and processed meat, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes or cervical cancer.

Then after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with brightly coloured lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets or shoes, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking. As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle. Take away food was limited to fish and chips, no pizza shops, McDonalds, KFC, Subway or Nandos.

Even though all the shops closed at 6.00pm and didn't open on a Sunday, somehow we didn't starve to death! We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We could collect old drink bottles and cash them in at the corner store and buy toffees, gobstoppers and bubble gum.

We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter, milk from the cow, and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because..... WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of old prams and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. We built tree houses and dens and played in river beds with matchbox cars.

We did not have PlayStation, Nintendo Wii , X-boxes, no video games at all, no 999 channels on SKY , no video / DVD films, or colour TV, no

mobile phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

Only girls had pierced ears!

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

You could only buy Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns at Easter time....

We were given air guns and catapults for our 10th birthdays.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

Mum didn't have to go to work to help dad make ends meet because we didn't need to keep up with the Jones's!

Not everyone made the rugby / football / cricket / netball team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!! Getting into the team was based on.....MERIT.

Our teachers used to hit us with canes and gym shoes and throw the blackboard rubber at us if they thought we weren't concentrating.

We can string sentences together and spell and have proper conversations because of a good, solid three R's education.

Our parents would tell us to ask a stranger to help us cross the road.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! Then smacked us round the ears.

Our parents didn't invent stupid names for their kids like 'Kiora' and 'Blade' and 'Ridge' and 'Vanilla'.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

And YOU are one of them!

CONGRATULATIONS!

You might want to share this with others who had the luck to grow up as kids before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were!

PS -The big type is because at your age your eyes are not too good anymore.

Gallery



*President Joe with Julie Brett from Demelza House Children's Hospice
(speaker 24th February 2014)*

Photography by Nigel Greaves