

March/April 2011



RCE

NEWS

The Rotary Club of Eastbourne



Activities, Events and News from

The Rotary Club of Eastbourne

President: Ron Genty

Welcome...

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Rotary Club of Eastbourne News with information about the club and its activities. The past two months have been more active than usual and has once again shown the great efforts of our club. The highlight was undoubtedly the award presented to Rtn. Kevan Regan on behalf of club for the alone at Christmas Event at the Achievers awards ceremony at the Winter Garden. Kevan has now chaired this event for a decade.

The ball and the many other excellent activities such as the Great Egg Race and the Easter Tombola (a highly visual event for the club) recorded in this edition were great successes and all those who took part in organising and supporting these activities and events can be justly proud.

President's night looks set to be the event of the year on June 11th at the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club and if you have not booked yet please contact Rtn.Ian Hunt.

A very warm welcome to new member Roy Morris who will no doubt enjoy making a useful contribution to our activities.

May I make a plea to committee chairs to contribute news of their activities.

Nigel J Greaves.

Chairman PR, Membership and Marketing.



President's Log

Introduction

Good to see that our wall plaque, overlooking the steps of the Chatsworth Hotel, has been restored, more or less to its original condition and now fittingly represents the image of our Club.

Thanks to those members who helped in any way with its restoration.

Brass owner plates are now fitted to the lectern, gavel and name badge storage box, clearly identifying that they belong to the Rotary Club of Eastbourne. The antique 'gong' already has a brass owner plate which records that it was presented to the Club in June 1923. It won't prevent them being 'borrowed' and used without our permission, but it should help to get them returned safely to us.

The Chatsworth management has been asked to find a safe, secure storage area for these items - the present, openly accessible storage cupboard is unsatisfactory.



MARCH

We worked jointly with the Friends of the DGH to organise their 'Spring into Action' dinner and ball, a major event held on Saturday, 5th March, at the Winter Garden, in aid of the new accommodation unit for the families of cancer patients at the hospital. The evening was very well attended and a great success both socially and in terms of funds raised for this important addition to the hospital's facilities. Proceeds were well in excess of £20,000, of which we receive a percentage for our services. Special thanks and appreciations go to Rotarians Lambird, Nash and Coe who were our main contributors – many congratulations guys for a terrific effort - and very well done!



The weekly meetings got off to a youthful start on the 7th. Tony Cameron (not so youthful!) introduced and compered two 6th form students from Bishop Bell School named Sam and Conor, who gave us an insight into their experiences on the RYLA outward bound course, which they had clearly enjoyed.

On Tuesday, the 16th March, I attended a gathering at the Lansdowne Hotel to present cheques to the charities that benefited from the Tree of Light project, organized by Eastbourne AM club, assisted by other local clubs. Around £4,400 was raised and AM's project leader Lynda Dean handed cheques to representatives from several charities, main beneficiary being Chestnut Tree House children's hospice.



The 21st March, vernal equinox, was a bright and sunny first day of spring, announcing a talk by AM's Melanie Adams on the well known local firm of Brewers, where she is a senior manager. Melanie and husband Mark gave us an enjoyable talk in early December about the Rottonians. This time, it was Melanie talking about her 'day job'. Much to my disappointment, as I was looking forward to what promised to be an interesting talk, I was absent with a heavy spring cold, so PE Simon took the chair. I understand you had an excellent presentation about a local business that is anything but local, having many branches around the UK and abroad. I'll hope to catch Melanie's talk later in the year at another local club?

On the evening of the 22nd (World Water Day) a Social Evening arranged by Paul Honney was well attended and an enjoyable time had by all - a meal at Weatherspoons followed by 'Spamalot' aka Monty Python, at the Congress. Thanks for arranging this event Paul and well done.

Speakers for the last Monday of the month were Malcolm Clear (nephew of the late Rtn Philip Clear) and Jacquie Turner from the charity "A New Beginning – Rwanda". The talk covered the present state of life in Rwanda in the wake of the 1994 genocide when 1 million people died in 100 days. Jacquie lost her father and brothers. Much has been achieved since then; the country is recovering but needs help with many basics, which is what led Malcolm and Jacquie to start their charity.

The following night I visited Sovereign Harbour where I was made most welcome by VP Jim Hull, standing in for President Don. It was their Business Meeting, mainly discussing an upcoming sponsored walk around the harbour for Help the Heroes. They now have 27 members with 3 more in the pipeline – not bad in the two years since the club was founded. Their enthusiasm impressed me. When VP Jim asked for volunteers to help with registrations, or to be marshalls, half the members promptly raised their hands.



APRIL

We were well represented at the Eastbourne Achievers Awards on the 1st April, compered by Melanie Adams and Keith Ridley. We gave raffle prizes and two of our ladies sold raffle tickets on the night. Our club was presented with an award for 'Alone at Christmas' which we have held each Christmas Day for the past 32 years, a quite remarkable achievement. Kevan Regan, who has project managed the event for more than half those years, deservedly went up on stage to receive the award to warm applause from an audience of 400 or so – a truly proud moment for both Kevan and the club. We have asked the Chatsworth (Peter Hawley) if the trophy could be permanently displayed in the hotel and he is finding a suitable spot.



Monday 4th April, was a Job Talk by Andy Kinniburgh and a most amusing talk it was too.

Tales of an 'association' with one of the infamous Kray twins, his leaning towards ENT and one of his first tonsilectomies on Trixie, a dancer from Streatham with a (post-op) deep voice - she recovered! A brilliant talk that had us all in fits of laughter – thanks Andy and very well done. Most of us now see our GPs in an entirely different light!



Easter Tombola

For three days, on the 6/7/8th April, our usual Easter Tombola took place in the Arndale, organised by Simon Seath. Most of us, our partners and volunteer helpers contributed on the duty rota, or gave chocolate, or both. Proceeds were down, reflecting the lean times that people are going through at present. Strange, but as we so often see, the majority of patrons seemed to be elderly ladies or young mothers – people you would think least likely to afford a fling. Thanks to Simon for organising and to all who helped.

Great Egg Race

On Friday the 8th, we fielded a team in the 'Great Egg Race' at East Dean village hall, organized by Sovereign. There were six teams - Rotary clubs, Round Table and Sovereign Inner Wheel. What began years ago as an egg race has evolved into a model building game, using paper, cellotape and other materials. Our team - Messrs Gross, Hamblyn, Hunt and Morris (and me as 'observer') with lots of social input, made a superb model that should surely have won. Alas, models produced by Bexhill (winners) and AM (runners-up) were preferred by the judges although it was a close run thing and we finished third - but the fish and chips were good.



I had the pleasure of inducting Roy Morris on Monday, 11th April. Roy was introduced by Rtn David Coe and became the 50th member of our club. It's one of the most satisfying tasks for a President and I enjoyed the ceremony. I'm sure we all appreciated Roy's sincere and amusing response. So, welcome Rotarian Roy Morris and congratulations on becoming the newest member of the Rotary Club of Eastbourne.



Stroke Awareness and Organ Donation - most of us supported this annual event on Saturday, 16 April in the Arndale Centre, arranged by Barrie Gent assisted by Peter Nash. 268 blood pressures were taken, 13 referred to GPs. 44 people registered as Organ Donators and 150/200 registration forms were given out. The Mayor, a former nurse, attended and took a few blood pressures, as did other lady helpers with nursing experience. Many thanks Barrie, Peter, Mary and all who helped that day.



On the 18th, Frank Walker MBE, Past Rotarians, told us and a few partners interested in hearing him, about his exploits as a charity parachute jumper - his title "Jump Frank Jump". We all 'traveled' with him as he described the build up to his jump last year in aid of 'Help the Heroes'. A video gave us a real feeling of what it is like to parachute from 13,000 ft., free falling to 6,000 ft, and then floating the rest of the way down. Frank raised over £3,000 for his charity. A most enjoyable talk but no volunteers at the end! We all enjoyed it and our thanks go to George Collier as supporting videomaster.

Jazz Concert – The Pete Allen traditional jazz band entertained an audience of 270 enthusiasts and others right royally at Eastbourne College on a very warm Wednesday evening, 20 April. Geoff Williams brought them back by popular demand after their success last year. It was again a top class concert; the band members certainly work hard on stage and earn their fee. Proceeds were a very respectable £1,500, including raffle (£300).

Many thanks to Geoff for an enjoyable night and congratulations for another great concert, now in its 17th year – how does he keep finding these people year after year? Thanks also to Peter Nash and David Coe for the raffle (£300) - and again to David who deserved a medal for legging it up and down the steep isles in the heat with prizes for the lucky winners! This may be the last time we staged the event in the main College building, in favour of the newly completed (air conditioned) Birley Centre.

President Ron.

Community and Vocational Committee Hopefully, there will be no hangovers from the May weekend in Lille, as the next day we are to play host to about 20 people from the town's care homes as we take them out for a cream tea. Volunteer drivers for Monday 16 May will be most appreciated please. Plans are now underway for the Funday and Funwalk on Sunday 5 June. I attended a meeting with Eastbourne Lions recently and it is clear that the event will be bigger and better this year with a larger funfair and more arena events. It is really make-or- break time for Rotary this year as we must attract more participants for the Funwalk and the charity stalls if we are to justify our continuing involvement. One small first is that application forms can be downloaded direct from our website. Many thanks to Bill Tozer for all the work he has done to make this possible. Forms can also be picked up at the 3VA offices (ex-EAVS) in Saffrons Road.
Alan Wenham, Chairman.