

January 2012



**RCE**

NEWS

*The Rotary Club of Eastbourne*



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

**President: Simon Dodds**

## Welcome...

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Rotary Club of Eastbourne News. We still have problems with files, formats and computers that have delayed publication once again. The past months have been very active with the big Christmas events that as always, shows the great efforts of our club.

The prospect of new members is on the horizon who will no doubt enjoy making a useful contribution to our activities.

Plans for the Rotary District day at the Arndale Centre on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> are steaming ahead and many thanks to those who will be on the stand to extol the virtues of our particular club!

There are plenty of activities and events to note from our sports and entertainments committee and there is news from Peter Nash regarding the Ball of the Fall 2 that always makes such a brilliant contribution to our Hospital.

May I continue to make a plea to committee chairs to contribute news of their activities as and when it happens as this way we can also be in with a chance of publicity from the local press.

Nigel J Greaves.

Chairman PR and Marketing

# ROTARY CLUB OF EASTBOURNE

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT November/ December

The month started with a mild panic .....Remembrance Day Parade. I had obviously not paid sufficient attention in previous years because I was totally unaware that not only did I need to attend the Parade but I had to lay a wreath as well. Fortunately I was alerted by a series of emails the preceding week which reassured me that all local Club Presidents would assemble outside the Arndale Centre, one of them had the wreath and we would join the parade at the Memorial roundabout. By the time the parade started there was no sign of any other Rotarians, nor were there any wreaths. Fortunately I was able to join the President of the Chamber of Commerce and pretend that she was simply carrying our wreath on my behalf. By the time we reached the Memorial roundabout I had been joined by another Rotarian. We were still wreathless. The situation continued throughout the service and to say we were beginning to panic was an understatement. Finally at the last micro second we spotted representatives from the other Clubs and (thank goodness) the wreaths to go with them. Accordingly at the last minute we were able to walk proudly to the Memorial and hand in the Rotary wreaths on your behalf.

Panic apart it was a very moving occasion. The weather was glorious and the attendance seemed very high indeed. It was interesting to note that the uniformed men and women were applauded by the residents of Eastbourne as they marched off after the service, it seems that our attitude to the Armed Forces is changing for the better.

Speakers in November were of their usual standard and included Ruth Dunkin who was the regional fund raising manager from the Stroke Association, always an uncomfortable subject after a good lunch. Richard Crook came to talk about the history of Eastbourne Pier which was both interesting and entertaining and Rotarian Les Hopkins talking to us from his position of District Water Aid Officer, a useful reminder that whatever else we do in relation to International Projects we should keep the supply of clean water very much in mind.

Social activities included a bowling trip which appeared to go very well with the usual post match cries of "foul".

December was ferociously busy for virtually every member of the Club. It started off with our Christmas lunch with partners on 5 December. It was a very enjoyable lunch and the numbers contrast favourably with evening meals with partners. On this occasion our lunchtime speaker was our own Dennis Thompson. He had the misfortune to present his "my job" talk to twice the usual audience.

On Sunday 11 December Nicola Williams kindly represented the Club at the Tree of Light. I gather this was a wonderful and very emotional event. It is sad to report that the lights were vandalised during the following days but I do hope that this event continues, it is a credit to those who organise it.

On 12 December I represented the Club at the Inner Wheel Christmas luncheon, for some reason or another this is the third time I have attended this event representing both my predecessors at Christmas. This was the first time I have attended "in my own right"! It was an enjoyable lunch and a useful opportunity to catch up with many friends. St Andrew's School provided a group of choristers to sing after lunch which was very entertaining and avoided the need for us to sing ourselves (as has been the case on previous occasions). It is interesting to see how thoughtful the Inner Wheel can be, they provided bags of sweets for all those that sang but of course the School underestimated the number so some of the older ones had to go without. It was equally interesting to see how quickly the sweets were eaten, most of them were consumed before the choir left the room.

On 14 December Catrina and I were guests of the Past Rotarians Club for their Christmas lunch. Past Rotarians always seem to have much more civilised lunchtimes than our Club and the Christmas luncheon was no exception. It was good to support John Macdonald (a former member of our Club). There were two or three from the Eastbourne Club also there in support and all went well.

Saturday 17 December saw Christine and Bill Haniver present their "Christmas Spectacular". Although we have subsequently learned that the income was not as great as it has been in previous years the effort and enthusiasm of those that appeared cannot be faulted. Particular favourites (with due respect to Christine and her friend Jane) were the Bourne School Choir who were exceptionally good. I was less certain about the dance events but then they were in competition to Strictly Come Dancing, the final of which happened to be taking place the same day. Indeed this may be one of the reasons why

numbers were down, never mind the lack of advertising by the Winter Gardens, one must take account of what is on National Television at the time of these events. The event has never been about raising money, it was an opportunity to showcase local talent and provide entertainment to those that attend, in that sense it achieved its aims.

On 21 December Simon Seath's tombola started in the Arndale Centre. In this he was assisted by David Coe, they even ran a "late night shopping" session to see whether they could increase turnover. Financially the tombola was a success although I confess I always find it uncomfortable when I am on duty, largely because it seems to me that the people purchasing the tickets are the people who can least afford them. It is very difficult indeed to have somebody who (from appearances at least) is not materially wealthy purchasing ticket after ticket in the hope of winning a tube of smarties. However, there are high spots of generosity when people who win tickets indicate that they do not wish to claim the prize and invite us to retain their winning ticket to pass on to later unsuccessful purchasers. It is a pity that we are tucked round the corner because that particular section of the Arndale Centre is now a great deal quieter than it used to be because the shops nearby have closed. However, recent reports in the newspapers suggest that the Arndale Centre is "on the up" and it may be that the present rather gloomy corner is a temporary state of affairs.

On 19 December we were privileged to entertain the widows of those who have been Rotarians, those that did not manage lunch were supplied with poinsettias. It was interesting to read the letters of thanks from those that had attended the lunch or those that had received the plants. It was clear that the widows of former Rotarians are still interested in the Club and are delighted to be included in Club events. With this in mind we have decided to pay more attention to them in the future and I hope that they will continue to be involved in appropriate events as and when possible.

While all this was going on, Kevan Regan and his 'Alone' team were working furiously to ensure that Alone at Christmas ran according to plan. Sure enough Christmas Day saw the Club entertain over 80 people to lunch. This was a magnificent effort. Whatever problems Kevan faced in the morning of the event were concealed from the rest of us. There were minor queries about whether we had received enough food but there was absolutely no problem with the event itself and the general impression was that people enjoyed themselves immensely. The 'thank you' letters and donations that we have received support this view. Helpers appeared to be more integrated with the guests. There appeared to be more movement, more dancing, more

interaction and more enjoyment. The local dignitaries behaved impeccably, both the Mayor Caroline Heaps and Stephen Lloyd our MP visited every table and gave everybody an opportunity to chat and Bishop Wallace Benn came a little later and was equally involved. Our District Governor and her husband attended as well and they were welcome additions. The only unfortunate aspect was that one elderly gentleman claimed to have spent many minutes talking to the Mayor and indeed was very proud of having done so, it was heartrending to advise him that the person to whom he had been speaking was actually the District Governor, nevertheless he decided that she was a "very nice woman"! And indeed she is.

All in all an excellent result for Rotary in Eastbourne (for we were helped by other Clubs) and a wonderful way in which to close 2011.

President Simon

## Ball of the Fall 2

The Friends of the Eastbourne Hospitals will be holding a Ball – ‘The Ball of the Fall 2’ – on Saturday 29 September 2012. In recognition of the support given to the Friends by the Rotary Club of Eastbourne at the ‘Caribbean Ball’, ‘The Ball of the Fall’, and the successful collaboration at the 2011 ‘Spring into Action Ball’, the Friends have again invited our Club to join them in this venture.

As before, any profits generated by the Ball will be split 80%/20% between the Friends and Club. The Friends proceeds will assist with one of their two major projects for this year, namely the equipping of an “Assessment and Treatment Cardiac Suite” at the DGH. The intention will be that patients urgently presenting themselves at the DGH with symptoms attributable to cardiac disease can be admitted directly to the suite for urgent investigation and, if necessary, treatment can be initiated. Currently these patients are admitted either through A & E or the Medical Admissions Unit (MAU). By direct admission to the suite, assessment will be quicker with potentially life-saving treatment started and those found to have “false alarms” reassured and discharged sooner. By reducing the workload on A&E and MAU other patients and staff may also feel the benefit.

The ‘Spring into Action Ball’ was hugely successful and the organising committee are aware that it will be difficult to emulate that success but are confident of another very enjoyable evening. Please make a note in your diaries now:

**Saturday 29 September 2012 at the Winter Garden, Eastbourne. Tickets at £47.50 or £450 for a table of 10.**

Not only will we be able to assist in a worthwhile project at the DGH, we will be able to assist other charities and, not forgetting, help to celebrate our 90 years in style.

Peter Nash

# **REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE**

## **THEATRE TRIP TO SCROOGE THE MUSICAL**

On October 26<sup>th</sup> 20 members and partners had a theatre trip to see Scrooge the Musical at the Congress Theatre.

We met first for a meal at La Locanda del Duca.

The star of the show was that old trouper Tommy Steele, who demonstrated that he can still sing and dance despite his advanced age.

The performance did turn out to be something of a pantomime, but most enjoyed it, even if I had to keep elbowing the President to keep him awake.

## **ANNUAL BOWLING EVENING WITH 41 CLUB AND ROUND TABLE**

The Annual Bowling evening with 41 Club and Round Table was held at Lloyd Lanes on Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>. 14 members and partners participated in the event. Members exhibited a range of styles and techniques, none more successful than Bill Tozer, who got off to a dazzling start leading the field with his unique 'drop shot'. However at the end of the day the winning team was led by Colin Luck and the prize for the best female bowler went to Jeannie Luck.

The bowling having finished, we adjourned to Picasso's for a well earned supper, where prizes were presented.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

March 9<sup>th</sup> Visit to Vinopolis and Borough Market

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Paul Merton at the Congress Theatre.



## Alone at Christmas



On Christmas Day the Rotary Club of Eastbourne held its 33rd annual "Alone at Christmas" event in the church hall of Our Lady of Ransom. This is the largest annual event that the Club undertakes and involves virtually all Club members, many of their partners and children plus volunteers from other Rotary and service clubs and other members of the public. The event runs from 12.30 to 4.00pm.

Over 80 guests attended and were joined by The Major of Eastbourne Cllr Carolyn Heaps, Mr Stephen Lloyd MP, Bishop Wallace Benn, Rotary's District Governor, Mrs Lynn Mitchell and the Parish Priest, Fr Raglan Hay-Will, who all assisted volunteers with the serving of lunch to our guests.

The purpose of the event is to offer an alternative to our townfolk who would otherwise be alone, at home, on Christmas Day.

Planning for the event started in earnest in August and about 150 potential guests were visited by Club members to check that they were able and wanted to attend. This enabled suitable transport to and from the event to be arranged. This is provided by private car or by one of the minibuses loaned to us from St Bedes and Moira House schools.

This year's event started with a full Christmas lunch of turkey and all the trimmings with Christmas pudding to follow. Next came Bingo, a free raffle,

then the entertainer played music, carols were sung and there was dancing. Later, afternoon tea was served including a slice of the Christmas cake provided by the Grand Hotel and a small Christmas gift was given to guests before they were taken home.

Similar comments were made both by guests and volunteers - they had enjoyed their day and looked forward to attending again next year. The event is provided free of charge and donations are neither requested nor expected. Despite this, some guests and other donors wished to financially support the event and several hundred pounds were received by way of donations. Many letters of thanks were also received.

Kevan Regan.

## Christmas Tombola

The Club once again held their popular Christmas Tombola in the Arndale Centre just before Christmas. Many generous members of the public bought tickets and several each day won fabulous prizes which included free meals for two at two Lion Group hotels and The Farm at Friday Street. There were also a free tea for two donated by the Grand Hotel, meal vouchers from La Locanda del Duca, a free hairdo from Identity Hair and Beauty and luxury chocolates and biscuits. In line with the present economic situation the total takings were down on previous years but a useful sum of over £800 was collected for the Club's local charities. The Club would like to thank the management of the Arndale Centre and the prize donors for all their generous help and we look forward to meeting you all for our tombola next Christmas.

# Stroke Awareness



"Rotary Club of Eastbourne have supported the Stroke Association for some eight years by organising a medical team in the Arndale Centre to take blood pressures. Last April we took 233 blood pressures and in 24 cases patients were referred back to their G.P.

Ruth readily agreed to come and talk to the Club to thank us for our continued support and to remind us of the importance of the tasks we do.

**Next Arndale Centre event will be Saturday 21st April 2012**

High blood pressure is the biggest risk factor for stroke and 40% of all strokes could be prevented if people with undiagnosed high blood pressure were identified and treated. Stroke continues to be the third most common cause of death in the UK and the leading cause of severe disability"

Picture L to R Simon Dodds, President of the Rotary Club of Eastbourne, Ruth Dunkin, Area Fund Raising Manager for the Stroke Association, Rotarian Barrie Gent, organiser of Stroke Awareness

# Rotary Club of Eastbourne gallery Dec/Jan

