

June/July 2012



RCE



Activities, Events and News from The Rotary Club of Eastbourne

President: Nicola Williams

Welcome...

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Rotary Club of Eastbourne News. As the summer months make way for autumn we can take stock of our recent activities and look forward to the forthcoming planned events.

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of rotarian Allan Budget who I first met some 40 years ago and was struck then by his high standards. We will all miss those high standards as well as his good sense of humour!

We welcome our first lady president, Nicola, who continues the family tradition with father Ray being president exactly 50 years ago! We also welcome Phil Coekin as a new member.

May I continue to make my usual 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



Immediate past president Simon hands over the chain to the clubs' first lady, Nicola Williams with Joe Smedley and Simon Seath

Welcome from President Nicola

Now a new year has started and the Rotary Club of Eastbourne has its first female President.

I am very proud to be that person and thank everyone for their support and encouragement. I hope we will enjoy another successful year with plenty of different activities, projects and service opportunities for us all to get our teeth into!

This is a very special year for our Club, and for me. It is our 90th anniversary – the original and largest Rotary Club in Eastbourne with a very active membership. According to Immediate Past President Simon I am actually the 89th President – which makes sense. Quite co-incidentally it is exactly 50 years since my Father, Ray Haine, was President. I hope he would be proud to see me carrying on the family tradition, particularly as his father was a founding member of the Club, although never President. So that makes me the third generation of the Haine family to be an Eastbourne Rotarian.

I grew up with Rotary as part of my life: memories of my parents kissing us goodnight dressed in their finery off to a Ladies' Night; Christmas Day lunch waiting for Father to return from his duties at Alone at Christmas; Sons and Daughters lunches at the Drive Hotel where, embarrassingly, we all had to stand up and be introduced; summer holiday trips to Lille to stay with the Caroni family to supposedly learn French and their sons coming back to school at Heathfield for a year I could go on.

Time to look forward rather than back. This year we will focus on service – not forgetting fun and fellowship, with some fundraising thrown in!

90th Anniversary Year – What are we going to do?

A minimum of 90 days' service over and above what we normally do ... that's approximately 2 days for each Rotarian

On the following page are a few suggestions ...

- Helping with the Mustard Seed boxes has already been suggested and Alan Wenham will be putting a board round for volunteers
- A working day/weekend at Knowles Tooth Children's Centre to do some gardening or maintenance for Family Support Work
- Eastbourne Churches winter homeless hostels
- Eastbourne Can – the voluntary organization devoted to the future of our town
- Stuffing envelopes for the Quicken Trust (Kabubbu)
- Take responsibility for a collecting box for loose change (details in due course)

These are only a few ideas that I have come across. Nearly everyone must have other possible projects they are aware of: please do let us hear about them; organize a group to do something; persuade others to help with your favourite cause; get signed up and busy!

Alan and the Community & Vocational Committee have agreed to assist in facilitating and monitoring these activities.

Invite at least 90 guests to our Club during the year again that's approximately 2 per Rotarian

During this first month of our Anniversary Year we have had two, apart from Guest Members that leaves 88 to go! What about forthcoming social events as well as lunches? Plenty of scope to introduce friends, colleagues and relatives to the fellowship and fun of Rotary.

Please keep me informed so that I can keep a tally!

I would love to be able to report at next year's AGM that we managed to achieve these goals. I do hope that between us we will make it in the next 11 months!

As we say in hashing circles: On on!

President Nicola

Ball of the Fall Saturday 29 September!

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 Club to join with 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 at the DGH with symptoms attributable to cardiac disease can be admitted directly to this suite with urgent investigation and, if necessary, treatment 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 staff there and other patients 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

Rotary Club of Eastbourne gallery...



Community and Vocational Committee

It was pleasing that the Donations Plan for the current year was so well endorsed by members.

We now have to make it all happen and the committee will be keeping an eye on our collective progress.

Arrangements will be made by September for Club members to participate in Mustard Seed's Love Boxes scheme. They tell us that older children seem to be the least well-catered for; and so it may be an idea to make these our priority. More information will be available in due course.

The President urges us to contribute two more days of voluntary effort this year. I am asking the East Sussex Volunteer Bureau to advertise our availability (and our limitations) to community groups in the town. We shall see what requests are made. Also, there is liaison with Mustard Seed with a view to sending a Rotary A-Team to their depot to help out for a day or so.

We will be arranging our next Old Folks Cream Tea outing for 17 September.

In the same month we hope to have a vocational visit for members and partners to the Redoubt Fortress. The vocational visit to the Heritage Centre last month turned into something of an embarrassment. On the Monday fifteen folk were signed up to come but only five actually turned up two days later. Let's hope this was just an unfortunate blip.

Alan Wenham, chairman, Community and Vocational Committee

International & Foundation Committee

We have now received good news that the X-ray machine has been installed and presented to Nsambya Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. This will enable x-rays to be taken in the ward where the patient is, rather than moving the patient to the x-ray unit, which is better for people with broken bones or weakness. We are hoping for some photos, and confirmation that the Public Health Campaign is being completed.

The medical student in Zimbabwe is starting her second year shortly in Harare. We have supported her with a laptop, and now we are sending her the funds for the next semester.

We are preparing for the Tombola in the Arndale Centre for Tuesday to Friday 11th to 14th December. Volunteers will be asked to assist for this.

Chris Smith, International Committee

.....

Diary Dates...

Blind veterans UK ART EXHIBITION Ovingdean

Saturday and Sunday September 8th and 9th

Open 11am -5pm

Ball of The Fall Saturday 29th September

JAZZ EVENING ALL THAT JAZZ!

April 10th 2013

Kids Day out

Forty students and over thirty support staff from Hazel Court School took part in annual visit to Drusilla's Zoo Park early in June. This special school caters for students in their early teens who experience a wide range of significant disabilities. Many of them require one to one support throughout their lives and the opportunity to visit Drusilla's is one that they enjoy and helps them expand their levels of understanding.

Past President Simon, the Mayor, and the local press were on hand at the school to wave off the students as they climbed aboard their transport to the park. Rotarian Mike Chesson and I met them as they arrived at Drusilla's and ensured that their entry into the park was made easy. After that we all slowly progressed around the park watching as students enjoyed close contact with the animals and asked all manner of questions. It was a moving experience and one that lives in the memory for a long time.

Lunch was taken before ice lollies, provided by our Club, and then a trip on the railway which is always a highlight. Many thanks were expressed by the students and staff at the school both during and after the event. The School is most grateful for our support on an annual basis – without it this event could not take place. Fellow members will recall seeing photographs taken by Mike Chesson and the letters of thanks sent by the students which I circulated recently at lunch.

