

ROTARY NEWS

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Rotary



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District 1260 - Chartered 1947 - Club number 19256
 Rotary Club of Hoddesdon Benevolent Fund Ltd Charity number 1168314

President Roger Lee

For my president's address of April this year I would like to recall and comment upon a number of items that took place.

Firstly, I had the great privilege and pleasure of Awarding Paul Harris Fellowships to both Howard Connor and Keith Theobald (see opposite). They have both served this Club extraordinarily well and have been popular Fellows within the Club for many years. I hope that they will continue to do the same and I think that as we all know Keith is moving on that he will continue to enjoy Rotary Fellowship elsewhere.



The essay competition has taken place on 28th March and again I was pleased to be present and say a few congratulatory comments to the participants. This is a wonderful project for involving young people and one hopes that it will continue indefinitely.

The Christmas Coin Collections took place in both Cheshunt and Hoddesdon. The Hoddesdon collection was most successful and is going to be repeated next year. A number of people participated in supporting the event and in particular we have to congratulate Arnold Granat and Terry Fisher for their stalwart performance as Santa Clause.

As ever the mock interviews have been taking place over a period of time masterminded by John Hiscock. Once again a hugely worthwhile project involving young people and congratulations and thanks to all those who have participated.

During the last few months we have had many presentations and those that stand out in particular were Mercy Ships, Bob Cornish, Tom Culley on behalf of the National Youth Theatre and Vic on behalf of Search and Rescue. Reports can be seen in the following pages (on these worthy charities).

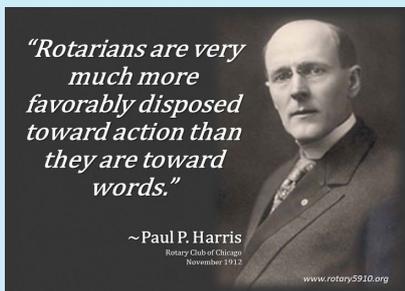
Only a week or two ago we had a foreign feast at Calais which was hugely enjoyable and there is the future trip to Dinant which many of us will be looking forward to. I have to say the last few months of my Presidency have flown by in a most enjoyable way and I have to thank all of you for making it a pleasure to represent you.

I wish Martin Lynas every success when he takes over as President in July, and hope that he enjoys the role as much as I have.



Paul Harris Fellowships

At our evening meeting at Brickendon Grange in January two of our respected Rotarian members were awarded with a Paul Harris Fellowship. This exclusive award is made to recognise the contribution made by a Rotarian in serving the community at home or abroad, with the objective of 'service above self'. Rotarian Howard Connor seen here with President Roger Lee has been a member of our club for many years and was President club in 1988. He continues to cover a number of roles within Rotary including Chair of Trustees, Kids Out co-ordinator, Assistant Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and he arranges past president dinners twice a year. Howard is married to Dorothy and they have two daughters and four granddaughters. Recently retired from his accountancy business Attenboroughs' Howard will be known to



many people in Hoddesdon as their trusted adviser. Howard plans to get to grips with the 'retirement concept'. As well as Rotary he will continue to play tennis and bridge, attend U3A and Probus, and he is keen to start weekly Rotary snooker sessions as well as bowls. During the Summer Howard plans to spend more time at their apartment in Bourne-mouth with wife Dorothy and hopefully get more use from their speed-boat.

Keith Theobald seen below has been a member since 2008 and was our President in 2012. He has been an enthusiastic and active member of our club and is currently Chair of our Community Services Committee. The award of a Paul Harris Fellowship is more than deserved. Having taken early retirement from a career in telecommunications with BT/AT&T Keith now spends his time between charitable work and playing golf, a particular passion for him. Married to Pat and with two daughters and three grandchildren (with another one due imminently) the family are now embarking on a new chapter, Keith moving to Cumbria to be nearer to their youngest daughter. They have lived in Hertfordshire for 41 years. We wish Keith and Pat together with the family well as they prepare to move on. Keith does intend to continue in Rotary and so a Cumbrian Club will soon enjoy and benefit from his experience and commitment, much as we have.



Essay Competition 2018



Twenty seven winners from nine local primary schools gathered at Hoddesdon Library to learn who had been chosen as the overall winner for this year's competition. Gabrielle Laudric (above left) from Cranbourne School was thrilled to learn that her essay had been identified by the judges as worthy of first prize (see opposite page). Gabrielle who loves cooking will be taken to a top London restaurant to watch a chef prepare food and show what life will be like in the catering fast lane. All of the essays are on show in Hoddesdon Library and the winners are pictured above having received their certificates. A range of job roles were written about including formula one driver, dolphin trainer, model, fashion designer, police officer and many more.



Winning Essay from Gabrielle Laudrie

What I want to be when I grow up
and why.

The heat was blazing, frying pans tossed carrots and tomatoes were flying high. They landed with a 'sizzle' sound, and then, a small meal was born.

"Service!" Shouted Gabrielle, the chef.

Well, I'm sure you know what my dream job is - a chef! Let me tell you why, as you may be thinking, "Why a chef?"

It had all started when terrible news arrived through our letter box, (bare in mind, I was only four!). My mum had sadly got diagnosed with an illness, meaning her hands and legs couldn't function properly anymore, so whose going to take over now? Me! My dad wasn't home often because he cycled to work, so he was very tired. Therefore, he stayed around his friends house while he was gone. I taught myself how to iron, sweep up, wash the dishes, and of course, how to cook. I had cooked meals for family and friends, or for special occasions like Christmas. So, what happened next? I'm eleven now, and haven't stopped cooking for 7 years! It became an everyday thing, but also a passion.

Because I love cooking so much, one day I want to become an internationally renowned chef like Gordon Ramsay, who you may not know started cooking as a child too. Becoming a chef means waking up early and finishing late! Therefore, I need to be organised to keep everything on schedule. But this isn't very easy, especially with all the guests arriving, expecting their food on time. I've now found out how chefs keep on track, and it's not a very pleasant way. You may know from Gordon Ramsay's shows, but you have to shout, not to sound louder, but to sound menacing and instructive. Another important skill is speed and accuracy. If you've seen chefs cut, they cut keeping the end of the knife on the board and sliding the carrot really quickly, making sure the thickness is the same.

Well, I guess this is my essay summed up! Many children change their dream job later on, but my dream job will stay forever and I know it. I will keep striving for success and goals until I reach them. So, look out for the next Michelin five star restaurants everyone will be talking about, 'Gabrielle's Kitchen'.



The Mercy Ships Charity

There can be few better voluntary organisations than the international charity Mercy Ships. At Hoddesdon Rotary Club we were pleased to hear a talk in January with details of their exception work completed over the last forty years.

Following the birth of his disabled son surgeon Don Stephens together with his wife decided to set up a floating hospital to provide health care and operations to people across the world, with focus on the poorer developing nations. He realised that 75% of the population could travel across land to an open sea port, and that the ship would be able to dock and give medical attention to people that would not otherwise receive it. The organisation was originally linked to Christian ministries but established as a stand alone charity in 2003.



The first ship Victoria was purchased for £600,000 and was converted from a freighter, providing three operating theatres with forty hospital beds and with 350 volunteer crew. A number of ships replaced Victoria over the years, and in 2007 the current ship Africa Mercy was commissioned. With 82 hospital beds and five operating theatres the ship was larger than all previous vessels with a larger crew of 474.

Before the ship arrives at a new port an advance team flies into a country to set up a clinic and to meet potential patients to assess the viability of providing medical treatment, operations and aftercare. All treatments are provided without charge and irrespective of race religion or gender.



At times there is a need to seek external advice ahead of a procedure and the doctors are able to transmit information by satellite to consultants in the UK before completing operations. The ship has modern equipment such as a CT scanner and Nikon Coolscope, with new technology added when required.



A second ship is now being built and this will have purpose built operating theatres and again much of the equipment that we would find in hospitals in developed countries. Last year volunteer surgeon Glen Strauss from Texas completed the thirty thousandth operation aboard Africa Mercy, an impressive statistic and having an impact on many lives.



Bringing Hope and Healing

Mercy Ships has built a broad base of financial support, beginning with donations from the public and in time from crew members. Medical companies donate pharmaceuticals, equipment and supplies and corporations also make in-kind donations of materials such as fuel, food and building supplies. In addition, governments that work with Mercy Ships also waive port fees and associated costs for the ship to dock



In addition to providing surgeries, the volunteers on the Mercy Ship also provided medical capacity-building training courses attended by more than 7,800 African healthcare professionals. By providing training for the healthcare professionals, Mercy Ships surgeons help to ensure that partner healthcare providers will be better equipped to care for their country and provide safer surgeries in Africa after the ship leaves port. An example would be the training of 47 ophthalmic surgeons that went on to operate on thousands of patients providing cataract operations in Africa.



At Rotary we are pleased to support this important charity both at a local and international level, and inevitably the operational costs of this ship are significant notwithstanding the voluntary time give by the medical staff and crew.

If you would like to know more about Mercy Ships please see their website www.mercyships.org.uk or ring the local

Stevenage office on 01438 727800.

Many endorsements have been given Mercy Ships over the decades but none more valued than that of the late Nelson Mandela who said "I salute the vision and mission of Mercy Ships, and ask that you join me in supporting their noble work and contribute to make this world a better place." Fine words for this excellent charity.



to



Vocational bursary - Tom Culley

On Monday 5th February Tom spoke to the club about his experience on the National Youth Theatre course last summer which the vocational committee had helped fund with a £300 bursary award. He wasn't acting but instead learning all the skills needed in stage management, particularly sound, his main interest. However he also learnt something of lighting, costume and design all of which, he explained, were very much integrated.



The National Youth Theatre was established in 1956 and doesn't have a physical theatre home as such. It does however have rehearsal and production facilities in Holloway Road in London and the course they run trains 14 to 25 year olds in all aspects of stage management and production.

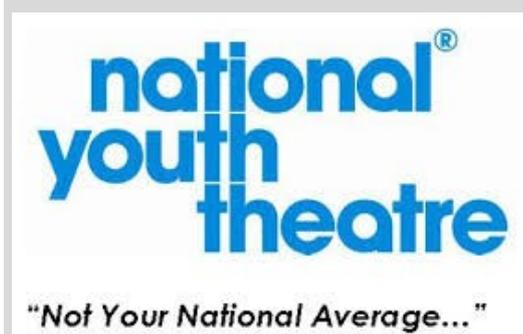
As Tom has discovered, it's not only the skills it teaches but also the doors it opens subsequently which are so important in making a career in the theatre. He already has more offers of sound work in shows and events than he can possibly manage. Being youth mayor, head boy of Robert Barclay Academy and working towards A levels which are only a couple of months away doesn't leave a lot of free time but he hopes to spend more time in the theatre in the summer holidays.



As part of his presentation he explained the workings of a sound desk and microphones, very technical but very impressive when he demonstrated the software which can "move" sound around a theatre auditorium.

An excellent talk and proof again, if it were needed, of the great value of the Club's bursary scheme.

Rtn Chris Waddington



Bob Cornish—Sporting Life

Some things are certain and in life there isn't much that stands still, not least the march of progress where business is concerned. We heard from Bob Cornish recently and he described his experience as a local sign writer. Bob started Cornish Signs back in 1973 and forty five years on the company continues with son Ben.



Bob had many contracts with sports connections, and this stemmed from early jobs for Spurs. He described meeting many of the footballers of that time (see pictures) whilst attending to hand painted signs that appeared around the pitch at White Hart Lane. As time passed Bob got invited to events and he can be seen below at dinner with the infamous Bill Nicholson. At one game Bob had to display a board for the sponsors Coleman's Mustard, and having completed the work in good time the Coleman's director summoned Bob urgently as he had missed out the 'e' requiring a hasty paint brush amendment.



More football jobs followed with signage prepared for international matches when England were playing and Bob described trips to South Africa, Bulgaria, Indonesia, and the 1982 World Cup in Spain. Other sports such as athletics were attended with signage for the arenas where TV would pick them up, such as The Bislett Games in Oslo Norway, where Bob saw Steve Cram and Steve Ovett compete. Whilst away at the Olympic Oceania Cup in Delhi for a hockey match Bob remembered seeing clouds of spray being applied around the field and was horrified when enquiring to learn that it was DDT!

Some four decades on and signage has completely changed, Bob describing how large banners can now be produced quickly from a computer and printed at their Maple Park workshop, a long way from the hand prepared equivalent using pens paint and plastic backed rolls of paper.

Bob now does the occasional job for signage in gold plated script but leaves the rest to his son, happy to spend time playing golf (showing Robert Lorenzini how to play) and talking to groups about his past happy days as a sign writer.



Fighting to eradicate Polio in the world

Government Minister, Harriett Baldwin, has lent her support to calls for Rotary International to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its fight against polio.

Speaking at the Rotary Presidential Peacebuilding Conference in Coventry, the Minister of State for both International Development and Africa, praised the stand which Rotary has taken for 30 years in its bid to totally wipe out the disease.

At the Spotlight Hoddesdon in March Rotarians Meirion and Jasmine Morris were collecting funds and raising awareness of polio, a cause that they have followed and supported for many years.

1979 RI begins its fight to rid the world of Polio with a programme to immunise 6 million children in The Philippines.

1985 RI launches POLIO PLUS – the first and largest international co-ordinated private sector support of a public health initiative with an initial fundraising target of \$120 million. Every Rotarian was asked to raise the equivalent of £100.

1998 RI and the World Health Organisation launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. At that time there were 350,000 cases of Polio in 125 countries world-wide

1994 Polio was eradicated in The Americas.

1995 In one week Health workers and volunteers (mostly Rotarians) immunised 165 million children in China and India.

2000 550 million children received the vaccine. The Western Pacific region from Australia to China was declared Polio free.

2003 RI raised \$119 million in a twelve month campaign. Rotarians had raised over \$500 million in total. Only six countries remained endemic – Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Egypt, Niger and Nigeria. 2004 in 23 countries in Africa national immunisation days immunised 80 million children. 2006 only Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nigeria were still endemic. 2009 our fundraising had reached \$800 million. In the same year The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$350 million if we, as Rotarians, raised \$200 million. We did it!

2011 our fundraising had reached \$1 billion. 2012 India was taken off the Polio endemic list. 2014 India was described as Polio Free.

Rotarians will continue to fundraise and immunise the children in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India each year until we reach the goal of 3 years without a new case. Then we will have won!



School Mock Interviews



Rotary's commitment to young people and school pupils in particular is well known. We try to make a difference through our Technology Tournament, bursaries, essay competitions, opportunities for public speaking and practical involvement in projects like the school and orphanage community work in Nepal in 2017.

Since 2007 we have offered volunteers to the Hertfordshire County skills-coordination team and their mock interview events for 14 year olds to 6th formers in local schools. We have been involved, for example, at St. Marys, Goffs, Rivers, Sele, Presdales (above) and Cheshunt. In February 2018, one Club member also took part in a Careers Carousel – described as speed dating for jobs – where the entry criteria for a specific profession or job can be explained.

Mock interviews allow mistakes to be made before they count. Face-to-face coaching has greater impact than the written word on the pupils involved. We set a friendly but realistic scene, show what may be expected in a proper interview, listen to responses to scripted questions which we adapt “on the hoof” then discuss how each individual can optimise their self-presentation.



Our team includes people from all walks of life – from the legal profession to metal fabrication. We draw on common sense and a fund of business experience and it seems to work! We rarely encounter a problem individual. However nervous an interviewee may be at the outset, they go away with confidence boosted. We get appreciative feedback.

Our interviewers consider each pupil's CV and academic record, punctuality, dress sense, body language, attitude and willingness to learn. Whatever career path they wish to pursue, we try to draw out each pupil's USPs (Unique selling Points) – it is surprising how many understate their talents.

For the Rotary interviewers this is a very rewarding adventure. We are committed to the next generation and the looks on so many young faces make these mock interviews really worthwhile. The County Team always give a keen vote of thanks too.

Rtn. John Hiscock



Down Memory Lane with Peter Lardi

Spring Cleaning was long overdue in my “den” where the papers from various organisations and interests have accumulated during the past decade or more. So I have been rifling through, refilling the shredder many times, and in the process going back through the fascinating, though dusty, records of Minutes from years gone by.

One organisation whose Minutes, inscribed in spidery writing in stiff back exercise books, reveals that Hoddesdon & District Old People’s Welfare Committee was largely made up of names which recur on the list of Past Presidents of The Rotary Club of Hoddesdon.

In 1966 the names of Past Presidents R H Assheton, R H Greenwood, Les Eyre, Wally Hill and J Ritsema all appeared among those attending the AGM of Hoddesdon Workrooms for the Elderly, a forerunner of the Hoddesdon & District Old People’s Welfare Committee which, as Rotarians will know, today looks after Jackson Hall and Bushby Hall.

Meeting in the Council Chamber of Hoddesdon Urban District Council in 1966 they discussed such subjects as Dancing (for entry the charge was 6d; that price no longer applies, although dancing is still a feature of life in both our halls), Fireworks (the decision was taken, in view of the large expense, not to have a firework display, just a bonfire and a torchlight procession) and the major event: The Old People’s Fete.

I reflected on how different was the life of old people then, compared with half a century later; also, where are the similarities? I wonder if there are examples our Community Service Committee might find of interest.

The Workshop for the Elderly was regularly attended by about 20 old folk who would undertake a variety of handwork paid for by local firms, including: MSD, Douglas Paper Co., B&T Essex and others.

Finances were modest compared to figures we deal with today, the Hoddesdon UDC made a grant of £100, a major share of the income that year; however in 1966 the average price of a new car was £950, which is around £16,000 in today’s money.

The Committee ran outings to the seaside, notably Clacton, when volunteers, including Rotarians, took elderly residents in their own cars. On occasion a charabanc would be hired, as seen in old photos of venerable ladies and gentlemen all carrying umbrellas and wearing smart hats.

The recent growth of U3A offers opportunities for a wide range of activities for old folk. The many tables manned in the Spotlight foyer each display a placard to guide new members. Clubs based in several local churches give focus to the lives of many lonely folk. Tuesday@2 in Bushby Hall twice a month for instance, also those who take a turn driving people to HOLD and George Fuller Club know how much members appreciate the warm welcome which awaits them there.

There are dozens of other lonely locals who would welcome a visit, but how to contact them is a major problem. The general data protection regulation (GDPR) is a new EU law that will come into effect on 25 May 2018 to replace the current Data Protection Act. It’s the biggest overhaul of data protection legislation for over 25 years, and introduces new requirements for how organisations process personal data. It is debatable whether this will make it even more difficult to discover names to invite for evening drives, the Easter Event or other entertaining evenings.

It would be useful if we could discover new ways of contacting lonely people who would welcome occasional company for a cup of tea and a chat. How to be more helpful to the loneliest in our neighbourhood is a challenge we are all invited to consider.

Rtn. Peter Lardi



KEEP
CALM
AND
SPRING
CLEAN



Midshires Search and Rescue

Have you ever heard of Lowland Rescue?

It can be said that most people know of the RNLI or perhaps the Mountain Rescue service but not many can say that they know of Midshires Search and Rescue Organisation (a member of the national group - Lowland Rescue).

Formed in 1999 they work tirelessly saving lives in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire almost every week throughout the year with cases referred to them by the agencies.



On Monday 26th February we heard a talk at our Rotary lunch given by two members Ron Bridger and Vic Garnet known to many of us in Hoddesdon Rotary Club.

The National Crime Agency Missing Persons Bureau reports in the UK that one person is reported as missing every two minutes. In 2015/16 across Beds and Herts 1897 people went missing. Whilst the majority of these people turn up of their own accord, a significant number do not. Where individuals are deemed to be at risk of harm, the police will initiate a search and call out to Midshires Search and Rescue Organisation. The year 2016 proved to be one of the busiest with 54 incidents and nineteen hundred man hours of searching by the group in our two counties.



The current voluntary team of about forty operational members consists of search technicians, team leaders, planners and search operational managers. To maintain their skills each member puts in over sixty training hours each year and contributes financially to the organisation by paying for their own equipment and transport for each call out.

Midshires Search and Rescue Organisation like the rest of Lowland Rescue teams receive no central funding and do not charge for the rescue services provided. As a registered charity they rely on members and their ability to raise much needed funds to cover other annual running costs. At Rotary we were pleased to make a donation of £200. Needless to say contributions are always welcome at any level and donations can be made via their website www.midshires.org.uk.



International Committee —The Foreign Feast



As is customary our Rotary Club is truly committed to 'entente cordiale' and to good relations with our French neighbours. Notwithstanding the possibility of Brexit a delegation travelled to Calais last month for a meal at Le Chanel Calais and a good time was had by all our Hoddesdon travellers. Arranged by our International Committee there are frequent trips to local restaurants with a theme to fit the nationality of the restaurant but usually within a 'stones throw' of Hoddesdon and Broxbourne. Our group reported that the French were pleased to see them and that there was no mention of former difficulties when Calais was known as the 'Brightest jewel in the British Crown'. A breakaway group were seen on the quayside weighing up the tide and wondering whether to swim home.



Tom Griffin



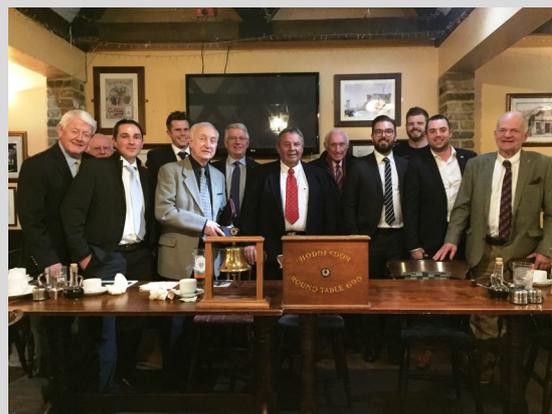
The result of the RIBI President 2020/21 election has been announced and this will be Tom Griffin, Rotary Club of Woodbridge Deben. Since joining in 1984, Tom has held various roles within Rotary including District Governor, Chairman of the RIBI Constitutions Committee, Chairman of the RIBI annual Business Meeting and is currently a Trustee of the RIBI Donations Trust. Professionally, Tom served for 17 years as a local authority Chief Executive and he has substantial experience of strategic leadership within multi-disciplinary organisations.

We wish Tom well when he takes up his new post.



Round Table—Forty One Club

Over the years we have had a close relationship with Hoddesdon Round Table and in fact some Rotarians are members of both clubs. The picture right shows members of 41 Club, being 'tablers' that are over the age of forty and who have moved up to the senior section. A number of joint ventures are planned this year where Round Table will support some of our fund raising events and further with a joint venture being considered to raise funds for charity at Christmas. Details to be announced.



Progress Report

As regular readers will be aware we are sponsoring Jake Cox with his ambitions to compete in the Olympics in canoeing. He has written to us last month as follows :

Thank you so much for the money that you transferred to continue supporting my canoeing. I am currently in Scotland at the first race of the new season. I was chosen to represent England as part of the Pan Celtic Cup on the under 23 team which is where England, Wales and Scotland all compete against each other. I had my best ever result by far with a second place overall in the premier division (my previous best being ninth) and was England's best under 23 as part of the cup, meaning that I got lots of valuable points! This will also go a long way towards my overall standing at the end of the season and is very positive moving into the GB Selection races in two weeks. The continued support from Hoddesdon Rotary Club is massively appreciated and I will keep you updated as the season progresses. Thanks, Jake



Hoddesdon Rotary 200 Club

- ◆ Prizes totalling a maximum
- ◆ Be A Rotary Prize Draw winner
- ◆ The 200 Club is simplicity itself and easy to join.
- ◆ Every participant has a chance in the quarterly draw
- ◆ Many prizes awarded from 50% of the proceeds
- ◆ Remaining funds donated to Rotary Charitable causes
- ◆ Payment of **£1** per week, by quarterly standing order or cheque for an annual payment.
- ◆ See our website www.hoddesdonrotaryclub.org or FB page
- ◆ or ring 07803 700919 for more details.

£5,200

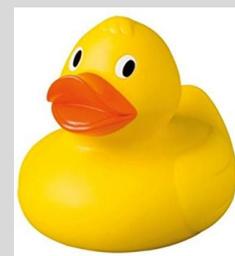


Beware, fraudsters are about

Have you heard of someone falling for a scam and thinking 'well I wouldn't have been caught by that'? This is often the case, and victims reflect upon their experiences and wonder how they were so gullible and fell for the fraudsters' schemes .

With the internet and social media, fraudsters often have access to much more personal information compared with former years and clever schemes using personal data are used to hoodwink unsuspecting people. A passport scam is currently circulating where an email is received with a request to apply for a replacement to meet new requirements for Brexit. The website link is bogus and whilst purporting to be from a government office it is there to collect specific information that can be used to steal an identity.

This year a new scam called Rubber Duck involves a memory stick containing malware that a criminal inserts into a laptop or device whilst the victim isn't looking or away from their machine, which then transmits and captures personal information from bank details to other sensitive data.



A few years ago at HSBC I was concerned for one of our retired business customers as a large cheque was presented for payment and payable to a dubious company based in Docklands. It soon became apparent after we had called the company anonymously that this was a 'boiler house' scam where affluent pensioners receive a cold call and are offered a spectacular return on an investment linked to carbon credits. Happily we advised the client to stop the cheque and we returned it saving him £50,000.

Last year a number of people were victims of a scheme in Harlow where an international team were caught stealing purses and cash from pensioners . One person would join the queue in the post office and once a pensioner had collected the cash the crook would bump into the pensioner and mark his/her coat with a chalk mark. An accomplice outside would then follow the victim and rob them .



It is worth keeping up to date with advice from our local police, and Terry Morris at Hertfordshire Constabulary regularly provides information by email on current areas for concern—his details **Terry Morris**

Watch Liaison Officer Neighbourhood Watch

Email: terry.morris2@herts.pnn.police.uk Tel: 01707 355815



Rtn. Lawrence Bone



Anyone for investing in Bitcoins ?

Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency and worldwide payment system. It is the first decentralized digital currency- the system works without a central bank or single administrator. Transactions take place between users directly, without an intermediary. These transactions are verified by network nodes through the use of cryptography and recorded in a public distributed ledger called a blockchain. *Mining* is a computer-based record-keeping service. Bitcoin was released as open-source software in 2009. Bitcoins can be exchanged for other currencies, products and services. As of February 2015, over 100,000 merchants and vendors accepted bitcoin as payment. Research produced by the University of Cambridge estimates that in 2017, there are 2.9 to 5.8 million unique users using a cryptocurrency wallet, most of them using bitcoin. As the world's largest cryptocurrency Bitcoin is said to be unhackable but elsewhere I read that Yobit went out of business in December after being hacked, losing one-fifth of its clients' holdings.



Without an intermediary, users save time and money compared to card or online banking systems. Users set up a bitcoin account and transfer money from their regular account to buy bitcoin credit. They then choose to buy goods in usual currency or bitcoin exchange equivalent. Buyers and sellers are debited and credited in real money; transactions take about 10 minutes via "bitcoin miners" who can trace each transaction via unique number strings. Anonymous and secure transfers are claimed and immunity to government interference. Mining networks receive a % of each transaction for the *colossal processing power* available. Markets in bitcoins have been volatile if not hyper-inflated. In July 2013 bitcoins traded at US\$100 each, soared to US\$20,000 then dropped to US\$11,434, prompting investment by thousands of new users

Detractors suggest bitcons are a bubble waiting to burst (if not a Ponzi pyramid then collective delusion). Some Wall St firms threaten to sack any staff using bitcoins. Korea is the third largest bitcoin market after Japan and US, but South Korea fears North Korean fraud and currency manipulation as a weapon of state. S Korea is considering shutting down all cryptocurrency exchanges. Others cite capital risk, speculation risks, fraud and organised criminal activity. Israeli Securities Agency has banned trading in bitcoins on the Tel Aviv stock exchange and in Morocco, Bolivia and Ecuador the bitcoin is completely illegal. It is also illegal in Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh and Nepal. China, which once constituted 90 per cent of all bitcoin trading, has cut back. Nevertheless, bitcoin enthusiasts feel these challenges can be surmounted with the right combination of regulation and support, that shutting down S Korean exchanges is premature due to concerns over fraudulent fundraising, speculative investment and capital flight. If one bitcoin is worth £999.52 (If I have read correctly) then it is pretty remote from anything that might interest me!
Rtn John Hiscock



You have to laugh....

Try these on friends and family :

My wife found out that I'd swapped the bed for a trampoline. She hit the roof.

"I saw this advert in a window that said: 'Television for sale, £1, volume stuck on full.' I thought, 'I can't turn that down.'"

"A friend of mine always wanted to be run over by a steam train. When it happened, he was chuffed to bits!"

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, Canadian scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago. Not to be outdone by their neighbours, in the weeks that followed, an American Archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story published in the New York Times: "American archaeologists, finding traces of 250-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the Canadians". One week later, the British authorities reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in North Yorkshire, Jack Arkwright, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely sod all. Jack has therefore concluded that 250 years ago, Britain had already gone wireless." Kindly prepared and donated by Rtn. John Glover.

And a tribute to Ken Dodd.... "If you would only laugh a bit quicker then the sooner we will all get home".

"I did 25 minutes running on the spot this morning - I had my braces caught in the banister." At the Royal Variety Performance: "This audience tonight represents the creme de la creme. That's French for evaporated milk . "Did any of us in our wildest dreams ever think we'd live long enough to see the end of the DFS sale?" . "I wanted to take the dog to obedience class but it wouldn't go . I haven't spoken to my mother-in-law for 18 months. I don't like to interrupt her. !! A master of humour.



Caption competition

On a recent holiday to Devon, Peter Haynes was concerned to find that he had not one but two flat tyres. There are various conspiracy theories and police are still making their enquiries.

You are invited to come up with your own caption for the picture and answers will be posted on our FB page in coming weeks.

www.facebook.com/hoddesdonrotary



Future Events

30 April Fifth Monday Evening
16 May Spring Variety Evening
19th June Technology Tournament
15th July President's Summer Lunch
2nd November Celebrity Night

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For further information please contact Lawrence on: 07803 700919

WHO'S WHO DURING 2017-18 IN HODDESDON ROTARY CLUB

President: Roger Lee
President Elect: Martin Lynas
Immediate Past President: David Johnston
Secretary: Mike Marsh
Treasurer: Tony Pomfret
Council Members
Ken Ayling, Lawrence Bone
Peter Haynes, Meirion Morris,
Roger Merton, Keith Theobald
Chairman of Service Committees
Club Service - Martin Lynas
Community Service - Keith Theobald
Foundation - Meirion Morris
International - John Glover
Membership - Howard Connor
Vocational - Chris Waddington
Ways & Means - Roger Merton

Attendance: Mike Marsh
Auditor: Roger Abraham
Bulletin & Communications: Lawrence Bone
Chase the Ace: Terry Fisher
Code of Practice: David Bradburn
Evening Drives: Roger Lee
Extension: Meirion Morris
Friends of Rotary: Ken Ayling
George Fuller: Mike Marsh
Sergeant at Arms: Barry Fitzpatrick
200 Club: Roger Abraham
Club Archivist: Tommy Knight

Can you help?

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