

ROTARY NEWS

ISSUE NO.3 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HODDESDON MAY 2013

Success is Served

at
our
Easter
Dinner



On the 25th April we held what some Rotarians feel is the event that encapsulates all that Rotary is about. We are of course referring to the “Easter Dinner” that we organize in the Civic Hall for over 300 guests from the elderly and disabled of the Borough of Broxbourne. *Cont Page 4*

Hoddesdon Rotary Club would like to thank all the pupils and staff from Hailey View School for their assistance on the evening



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And much, much more !!!



A word from President Keith

Well would you credit it? The time has come for me to write my final piece for the RC of Hoddesdon Newsletter. I really do not know where the time has gone and it seems incredible that I now only have two more months to go of my Presidency.

To say that I have enjoyed my time as President is an understatement, I think the “power” must have gone to my head as I am thoroughly enjoying not only the great fellowship but the decision making and guidance that is necessary from the President as “Leader” of this fine Club.

I have again been privileged to welcome another new member since my last report and was pleased to welcome Arthur Howard to our Club on the 18th March. I am also expecting to be able to induct a further member (Martin Lynas) next month. So it has been a very good year for new members and my thanks to Howard Connor and his Membership Committee for their excellent work this year – long may it continue!



As your President, I had great pleasure in accepting an invitation to attend the 50th Anniversary function for the Rotary Club of Wantage. Apparently Hoddesdon were the sponsoring Club all those years ago and Tommy Knights remembers that in those days we were in the same District. Given that Wantage is near Oxford that would make it a very big District geographically! The President of Wantage, Ian Craig and all his members made Pat and I very welcome and we thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the journey on the notorious M25 and M40 was made very worthwhile. I also had the pleasurable task of presenting them with an embossed visitors book from the RC of Hoddesdon on the 50th anniversary of their Charter.

Other notable successes since my last report have been a fantastic visit to Westminster Abbey with Sir Stephen Lampost as our very knowledgeable guide. My thanks go to Chris Waddington and his Committee for organising this. We also had a very enjoyable evening at the Taste of China restaurant to continue the “ethnic meals” events organized by John West and the International Committee. I look forward to the next one.

I have attended the Past Presidents Dinner as their guest on two occasions and what a great event it is, very well organized by Howard Connor and always well attended. I suppose about 50% of the current active Club members come into the category of “Past” (as opposed to “past-it”) and I look forward to joining this band next year – even though it does mean that I shall have to pay for my Dinner!

I suppose the final event that I would like to mention is the Essay Competition that is organised by the Vocational Committee each year. A great deal of effort is put into encouraging Schools to take part and once again it proved to be very successful. Along with the Mayor Eddie Rowland, I presented the prizes to the winners on the 13th March and this event was very well attended by the pupils and their Parents and also by a number of Rotarians. The winner has indeed set the Vocational Committee a challenge this year because as you know each winner is treated to a visit somewhere in line with his desired future career – this year’s winner wants to be an “off-shore fisherman”! Over to you Chris and Team!!!!



We still have a few more events to look forward to before the end of my year. By the time this Bulletin is produced we shall have held our annual Easter Dinner for the local elderly and disabled residents. This is our main charity event of the year with over 300 being served with a great meal and some excellent entertain-



ment. I know this is something that our regular attendees look forward to, eagerly awaiting the invitations delivered by Rotarians from our Club. In May I shall be attending the District Conference in Jersey along with

Ken Ayling and John Hiscock. Then on the 18th June we shall be holding the annual Technology Tournament at the Broxbourne Civic Centre, another well-organised event and one enjoyed by the various school participants each year. I am very much looking forward to all of these.



I should like to take this opportunity to once again thank all the Officers of the Club for their continued support. Thanks to them the role of President is relatively easy as they ensure the Club runs smoothly and continues to support our local community in as many ways as possible.

I would also like to thank all the club members for their kindness and support during this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly meetings and hope

you have too. It has been a privilege to represent this club on a variety of occasions and I hope you consider I have carried out my tasks well.

Finally I wish Ken Ayling all the best when he takes over from me on the 1st July and can assure him that he will enjoy the “ordeal” and I know he will receive the same excellent support that I have had.

Keith Theobald, President (for a little while longer)

A Helping Hand

In Rotary our “Service Above Self” motto is illustrated in so many ways.

Clubs support our local communities by offering – action, support and encouragement and funds, which we raise through events rather than reaching for a cheque book. This newsletter gives glimpses.

There is another strand to our service – support for other charitable and humanitarian organisations whose aims are similar to ours (improving the lot of those in need). In this we are not initiators but a resource:

- 1 Purchasing Shelter Boxes that others send to victims of natural disasters, wars and other calamities.
- 2 Course stewards with antlers and red noses for the RNLi Reindeers Run at Waltham Cross.
- 3 Racing a dragon boat each year for our own charities but also for the organisers chosen cause.
- 4 A putting game at the Deaconsfield annual Scout Fete.
- 5 Drivers for George Fuller Club for the visually impaired.
- 6 Interviewers for The Chamber of Commerce Mock Interviews for school pupils.
- 7 Volunteers at Tesco to help collect food for the Food Bank.
- 8 Collectors on the streets of Hoddesdon for the British Legion Poppy Day Appeal.

These activities draw thanks from people who themselves are putting personal time and effort into helping others. BUT they are very largely their own reward – we get a real kick out of the look on faces when we have been able to make a difference even if just a small one. John Hiscock

If you think we can help then please make contact through our website



(Continued from page 1)



Once again thanks to the sterling work put in by our Community Service Committee and in particular the “Easter Dinner Guru” that is John Stagg the event was again a fantastic success. There are a great deal of things to organise such as the invitations that are eagerly awaited by many guests that come each year, car parking drop off arrangements, which we aim to get smoother each year, the entertainment and prizes for the “compulsory” Bingo and raffle and so much more. This event attracts a great deal of support throughout the Borough, without which we would never be able to put it on each year. The majority of the work

is undertaken by Rotarians, but we also receive support from local companies (Basic Travel & Hardwick Coaches) that provide vehicles to transport our guests to and from the hall. Then there are the Rotarians and their families and friends that pick up some of our guests from their homes and ensure they get back safely afterwards. We are grateful also to Broxbourne Mayor Eddie Rowland and his wife June who always lend their support to our events. A hearty meal is provided to all guests by J West Caterers and this is served by Rotarians and their families together with a great group of teachers and pupils from Hailey Hall School – apparently the pupils really look forward to this event every year! The evening ends with great entertainment from Victoria Yellop, a violinist/singer who always manages to bring the best out in our guests, encouraging them to sing along with her. The sight of everyone standing and singing along to Land



of Hope and Glory was fantastic and a tribute to the success of the evening.



Obviously to put on an event like this costs a great deal of money and the Rotary Club of Hoddesdon would not be able to continue to do it without the superb funding received from the profits we make at the Celebrity Evening each year. So well done to our Ways & Means Committee for organising this, our main fund raiser and all the Rotarians and their families and friends that support it. Isn't it good to see where your money goes and what pleasure we are able to bring to so many people? We have also been fortunate over the last couple of years to have received the support of our local Councillors. They have donated some of their “Locality Budget” to this event and it has certainly

helped ease the burden of fund raising each year. So after another success story it is time to put away the planning documents, store away the parking signs and barriers and put John Stagg back into his darkened room, until next year when we shall start planning for the next one and look forward to bringing happiness to so many in our community. Well done everyone, give yourselves a well-earned pat on the back!



Behind The Scenes
With Some of our back-up crew



Many Marvel at Mini Visit

On March 14th, a party of 22 Rotarians, wives and guests enjoyed a fascinating tour of the BMW Mini assembly plant at Cowley, just 2 weeks before the plant celebrated its 100th anniversary. Two former employees were our guides, and they were most informative and knowledgeable. Before the tour, we had to be kitted out with black coats and an earpiece. The latter proving invaluable for hearing the guides when walking around the assembly shop. This photo, taken by Terry Fisher, was the only one we were allowed to take. Questions will be asked as to why the organiser and his brother are out of shot!

Sadly, we were not allowed to visit the body or paint shops. Maybe we could have been shown a video of those operations? However,



the assembly plant was a real eye-opener. As you would expect, just about everything is computer controlled. I was very impressed with the relative lack of noise and the cleanliness of the factory. When ordering their car, customers specify the options they want and this leads to a multitude of variations –

then there are all the different colours and interior trims! The body shells arrive with their doors, which are then removed to allow access to the inside of the cars. The first process we observed was the fitting of the suspension and wheels. If the operative does something wrong, or forgets a stage, the computer will not allow the car to move onto the next stage. Cars go around the plant on a sophisticated conveyor system and they are twisted around to optimise their positions for each stage in the assembly process. We observed the “driverless” trains being tested before being introduced to supply parts and sub assemblies to the main assembly line. Next was the preparation and fitting of the glass. Again, a surprise was that the model variants are not made in batches but arrive seemingly at random on the conveyors. The robots picked up the appropriate glass and inserted and glued the glass into place. They are programmed to test which model variant is in front of them, and adjust themselves as necessary. Sun roofs are subject to a similar process as the windscreens. I found this part of the assembly riveting - no pun intended! The other main automated process we observed was the fitting of the engine, gearbox and drivebox all in one go. Again, all carried out by robots and absolutely fascinating. A finished car rolls off the end of the production line every 68 seconds. Many are then loaded onto special trains to Southampton for export.



Rtn: John Glover

The club has regular visits like this which are open to members, friends and guests. If you would be interested in any future events please email vocational@hoddsonrotary.org



Did you know ?

The MINI Plant at Oxford celebrated 100 years of car-making this March.

It employs 3,700 associates who manufacture 900 MINI's every day, and has contributed over 2.25 million MINI's to the tally of over 11.65 million cars that the factory has produced since 1913.

The first car built at the factory, was a Bullnose Morris Oxford, on 28th March 1913.

It produced Hondas for a short period in the '80s, as well as some slightly notorious models including the much-derided Morris Marina, the startling '70s wedge that was the Princess and in the Austin Maestro one of the world's earliest 'talking' cars.

During the 60s the plant had 28,000 employees, with a peak of 6,000 cars a week.

During WW 2 the plant played a considerable role, building Tiger Moth aircraft, Bofors guns and nautical mines, the assembly methods increasing the rate of production. Parachutes, jerry cans and aircraft sub-assemblies were manufactured in large numbers. Cowley carried out over 80,000 repairs on action-damaged Spitfire and Hurricane fighter aircraft.

BMW Group bought the business in 1994, and after selling both Rover and Land Rover, retained the Mini brand.

Today, Plant Oxford is flourishing with the manufacture of the MINI Hatchback, Convertible, Clubman, Clubvan, Roadster and Coupé. It is undergoing major investment that includes the installation of a 1,000 robots for the new body shop and the existing facility in readiness for the next generation of MINI. Plant Oxford is the central element of BMW Group's UK production network, which includes the Hams Hall engine factory in Birmingham and the Swindon pressings plant



There are 28 gymnasts in this mini, the current world record

The plight of the Honeybee

The bad weather has caused a lot of problems for the British honey bee population. The low temperatures have delayed our favourite pollinating insect from leaving the hive to collect nectar or pollen and they are starving to death. They do fly in temperatures above 6°C to 8°C depending on the wind.



Beekeepers should have fed the bees last September; feral colonies would have stored their own honey.

That was six months ago, when they expected to be out on warm days in February and March collecting food for a fast expanding brood nest.

Bees overwintered in hives must now be fed on sugar or fondant just to keep them alive. Liquid syrup made up from white granulated sugar can be used but the bees cannot process the syrup in really low temperatures.

I have been keeping bees in Woodford Green for almost 33 years and before that helped my parents with their eight hives they kept in the garden at their home in Forest Gate, East London. Now living in Nazeing I have overwintered 16 colonies of which 3 have died out so far.



A thorough examination cannot be made until the weather is warm enough to work outside in just shirtsleeves, about 12°C or higher.

Rtn Ted Gradosielski



John Stagg celebrates 25 years

John joined rotary and our club on the 15th February 1988. He was proposed by Roger Lee and seconded by Tommy Knight.

For the last twenty five years he has been an exemplary Rotarian. A staunchly "Local man" who can be immensely proud of his leadership of his Community service team and the many projects in which he has been so actively involved over the years.

The Easter Dinner is best known and has been a great success in terms of service and rotary promotion.

He was much involved in the £15,000 Belmont Bus purchase in 2005, and ongoing with Health Awareness and lots more.

He administered the benevolent Fund and chases the Ace regularly occasionally finding it and putting it back in the .

JOHN – We are proud to have you as a friend and member of this club



Ending polio worldwide.



Rotary.
Humanity in motion.



Foodbank is Meeting a Real Need

When Councillor Jeremy Pearce spoke to the Club about a year ago the project of a local Foodbank was just about to get started. Now the offer of food for people who find themselves temporarily without the means to buy it, has been proven to meet a real need. The service has become nation-wide through groups of volunteers and the spread of Foodbanks continues to grow.

Rotary Clubs are being encouraged in the latest issue of Rotary Service News to support their local Foodbank by donating suitable tins and packets as well as collecting (as we have been doing) at the doors of supermarkets. Local churches are equipped with collection points, and storage facilities have been organised to ensure that distribution is effectively directed to relieve hardship in the community.

Foodbank is open on weekdays
between 4-5pm at
Wormley Free Church



Cheltenham to Chelsea

On the 18th March our speakers arrived resplendent in scarlet coats, black trousers with a red stripe and black caps. They were two Chelsea Pensioners. David and Tom Lyle told the Club about their journey from Cheltenham to Chelsea and explained that they were slightly unusual in being Chelsea Pensioners in that they were both national servicemen. In civilian life one had been a solicitor and one



an engineer and they found themselves living as two elderly bachelors in a big family house but then by a chance meeting they were headhunted to join the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and this has proved an ideal lifestyle for them and one which they clearly greatly enjoy. King Charles II was determined that his soldiers would have a fitting home in their retirement. He commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to create the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, which was completed in 1692. Over the past 320 years the Royal Hospital has been home to over 25,000 Chelsea Pensioners who, in their distinctive scarlet uniforms, have become icons in London and around the

world. They are the living embodiment of the Nation's Covenant with her old soldiers. Today, the Royal Hospital is home to veterans who served in Korea, the Falklands, Cyprus, Ireland and World War II and is making itself ready to receive soldiers from the current campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq when they retire. As its name suggests, the Royal Hospital continues to have close links with the Monarch and each year a member of the Royal Family comes to Chelsea to review the Chelsea Pensioners. The Royal Hospital is run on quasi military lines and within the building pensioners wear a plain blue uniform or normal civilian clothes. Outside of course the red uniforms are a familiar sight in the area and beyond. There



is a full programme of social activities orientated around the Chelsea Pensioner's Club with its bar, lounges and restaurant. The 66 acre grounds include many gardens, parks and allotments which pensioners can enjoy at their leisure and of course every year the Royal Hospital hosts the world famous Chelsea Flower Show where all pensioners are welcome. At present the traditional rooms known as 'Berths', which open off along the corridor, are being replaced by modern bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and a study. There is on site a magnificent Christopher Wren designed Chapel and a new state of the art care home with nursing and a GP medical centre. Some of the pensioners live permanently in the Infirmary and others stay for short periods when they are unwell or convalescing following treatment or surgery in local hospitals. David and Tom Lyle are proud to be Chelsea Pensioners and are worthy representatives of this great establishment. The club was pleased to welcome David & Tom back for our Easter Dinner held on the 25th April.

Newsletter Articles

If you have information, want to promote an event or articles that you think may be of interest to our readers, then please send them to David Johnston.

email : newsletter@hoddiesdonrotary.org



School Essay Competition

As usual the judges found it extremely difficult to pick a winner for our 19th competition but the top prize went to Jack Cosgrove from Roselands Primary School who wants to be a sea fisherman.

Each of the winners from the 9 schools participating were presented with a certificate and book token. The overall winner gets a day doing what he wants to do when he grows up organised by the Club. In the past we have managed to cope with astronauts, forensic scientists, truck drivers, comedians and vets but Jack will be our first Sea Fisherman.

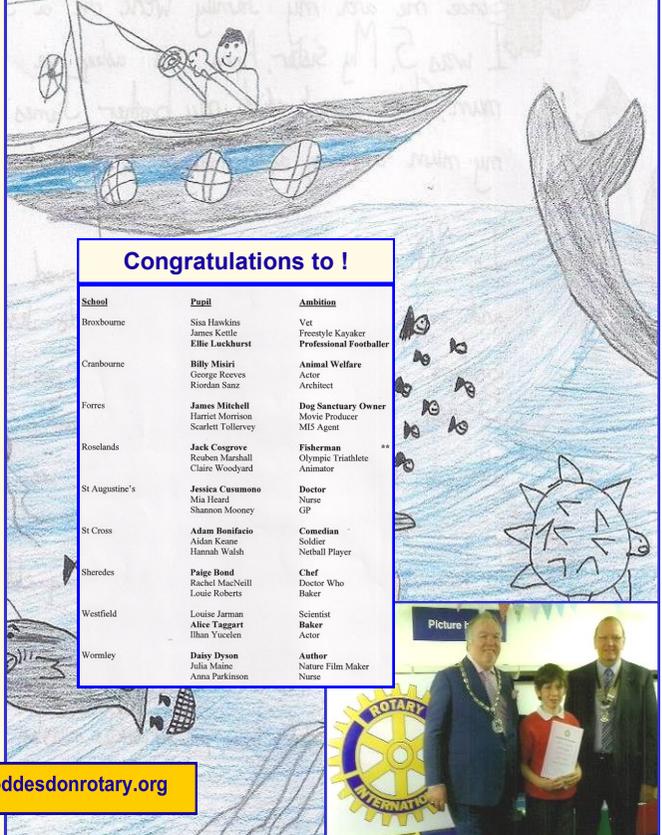
A crowd of 60 people gathered in the children's section of Hoddesdon Library to see the presentations by the Mayor of Broxbourne, Cllr Eddy Rowland. The event is organised annually by the Chairman of the Vocational Service Committee, Dr Chris Waddington and his committee.

We would like to thank all of the schools that participated in making this year again such a successful event. If you would like further information please email:

vocational@hoddesdonrotary.org

...ab, to place and demand. Get your feeling hungry
 become a fisherman I will have to pay
 for the boat and all the equipment. I can pay
 for the fish. If I go out and I don't
 catch a fish I won't get any money. BOOOOO! But if I
 catch a fish I will get loads of cash. Yaaaaay!
 ...ing to say is.....

TO BE A FISHERMAN!!!!



Congratulations to !

School	Pupil	Ambition
Broxbourne	Sisa Hawkins James Kettle Elle Lockhurst	Vet Freestyle Kayaker Professional Footballer
Cransbourne	Billy Misiri George Reeves Riordan Sanz	Animal Welfare Actor Architect
Fornes	James Mitchell Harriet Morrison Scarlett Tollervy	Dog Sanctuary Owner Movie Producer MIS Agent
Roselands	Jack Cosgrove Reuben Marshall Clare Woodyard	Fisherman Olympic Triathlete Animator
St Augustine's	Jessica Cusumano Mia Heard Shannon Mooney	Doctor Nurse GP
St Cross	Adam Bonifacio Aidan Keane Hannah Walsh	Comedian Soldier Netball Player
Shereides	Paige Bond Richard MacNeill Louie Roberts	Chef Doctor Who Baker
Westfield	Louise Jarman Alice Taggart Ihan Yucelen	Scientist Baker Actor
Wormley	Daisy Dyson Julia Maine Anna Parkinson	Author Nature Film Maker Nurse



Date For your Diary

TRIAL TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

On 18th June this year youngsters from ten local schools will take part in our 19th annual Technology Tournament at Broxbourne Civic Hall. We join forces with Rotary Clubs of Hertford, Ware, Amwell and Hertford Shires to host around 25 teams and 100 pupils.

They are set a task on the day that fits their school curriculum with challenges to:

- Teamwork and planning
- Design analysis and development
- Skills in building using sound engineering principles
- Competence in demonstration and presentation

There are three levels of difficulty depending on the ages and Key Stages of the contestants. They show great skill and ingenuity whilst working and they tell us they have a great day. The concentration is really impressive.

Even the teachers join forces to form a couple of competing teams. Local Mayors and the Chair of EHDC award prizes to the winning teams and all competitors go home with a certificate (and choc bar!). Hoddesdon President speaks to everyone and is normally accompanied by Rotary VIPs from our local District 1260



Sponsors give generous support and are named in the programme, on a board at centre stage and in our press release. All proceedings including the model demonstrations and judging appear on a large screen for all to see. In Hoddesdon Rotary we strongly believe in encouraging the next generation (they may become Rotarians!) and our Tournament is a very important event in our range of vocational development. John Hiscock

Broxbourne Civic Hall — 10.00AM to 3.30PM

Contact: vocational@hoddesdonrotary.org

Schools taking part this year

Chauncy
John Warner

Cheshunt
Richard Hale

Simon Balle
Goffs

Hailey Hall
Broxbourne

Haileybury
Sele



Golf Challenge

A reminder that the next Rotary v 41 Club golf challenge is on the 11th September 2013. To follow is a report on last year's event supplied by the abled organiser Denis Olliver.

On Wednesday 12th September 2012, 20 golfers from Hoddesdon Rotary Club and Hoddesdon 41 Club competed for the seventh time in the annual Challenge Golf Match which once again was held at Whitehills Golf Club. The weather this year started very brightly but deteriorated as the day progressed but luckily the rains only commenced just as the final participants were coming up the 18th. The golfers all reported that the course was in good condition. This again allowed scores to improve and it was good to record that for the first time we had three ladies playing – two representing 41 Club and Sandra Haynes representing Rotary. The Rotary Tim Buck Trophy was won again



this year by Keith Theobald with 36 points and I believe that is the fourth win in five years for this prolific golfer who is

coincidentally Rotary President this year. Indeed the fortunes of Rotary have improved dramatically since Keith joined the Club about five years ago. The Peter Haynes 41 Club cup was won for the second time by Roger Anderson who with 38 points was also the top scorer out of all 20 competitors. The Best 3 Ball comprised Keith Theobald, Ross Cruse (Rotary) who also won Nearest the Pin Competition and Chris Potton (41 Club) with a magnificent 104 points. The top lady golfer with a commendable 37 points was Pusser Brookes and she also won the Ladies Longest Drive Competition and the Best Outward 9 total with 19 points. The Longest Drive Competition was won by another Rotarian Robert Lorenzini and the Best Back 9

was won by Neil Hayne's potential son-in-law Nick Evans representing Rotary. So Rotary had a very good days golf but at first it appeared that they had lost the Challenge Cup to 41 Club by one point for on first calculations 41 Club had 278 to Rotary's 277. On scrutinising the cards however, the organiser Denis Olliver found a one point error on one of the 41 Club cards which tied the match at 277 points each. Unfortunately, from 41 Club's point of view, on count back it transpired that Rotary retained the Cup. This now means that they have won four out of the seven. A superb days golf was matched by a very enjoyable meal attended by some 32 participants (players and partners) and although Sandra Haynes played for Rotary this year as Peter is currently Chairman of 41 Club he felt it most appropriate that he represent 41 Club, although John West current Vice Chairman of 41 Club elected to play for Rotary. What tangled webs we weave!! Overall therefore once again an excellent day, fair weather, good golf, pleasant surroundings, good company, a lovely meal and excellent fellowship. Roll on 2013.

Teens Unite

Sunday 11th August 2013

For more details call 01992 440091



SAND DAMS



There are 900 million people in the world without access to a clean reliable water source. In dryland environments, highly unpredictable rainfall patterns cause land degradation, water scarcity, crop failure and trap people in a cycle of poverty. Excellent Development is a registered UK charity that supports subsistence farming communities in semi-arid Africa by constructing and supporting sand dam programmes. Sand

dams conserve water and allow people to invest in sustainable farming activities for water and food security. Excellent does not give hand-outs, or try to tell communities what they should do. We provide communities with the tools and support they need to help themselves. It costs £19,308 to build a sand dam and create the support infrastructure (terracing, trees, seed banks and training). Each community is supported for 5 years.

What is a Sand Dam? A sand dam is a reinforced concrete wall built in a riverbed to capture and store seasonal rain water beneath sand. The sand acts as a filter and protects the water from parasites and people abstract water by scooping holes, pipe filtration or shallow wells with pumps.

Sand dams raise the water table around the dam, keeping more water in the area. Trees grow naturally, vegetable nurseries can be established, and there is enough water for crops to be properly irrigated. By capturing the rainwater where it falls, sand dams provide year-round clean water. Locals walk less distance and take less time to obtain water

Why Excellent Development work is needed 66% of Makueni County farming community are below the poverty line, 57% have no safe water and suffer food poverty. Successive droughts have meant a life of subsistence. Water sources are scarce, forcing women and children to spend on average six hours per day collecting water. The children, especially girls, miss school. Time collecting water is time lost to growing food. Deforestation for fuel or income causes soil erosion. Without essential soil and water conservation, the degradation of their environment traps communities in a vicious cycle of drought, famine and poverty.

Soil / water conservation and food security Sand dams are the most cost effective way to provide a lifetime of local, clean and reliable water close to people's homes, even during periods of drought. Each dam stores 2-20 million litres of water, enough for 1,000 people to have clean water for life. With reliable water, families can invest more time in farming and children can attend school. Water conservation allows tree planting, food and fodder growth and terracing to retain water – independence from unreliable rainfall helps these farmers escape the poverty cycle. Excellent also provides communities with workshops and guidance e.g. drought-resistant crops, seed banks, alternative sources of income and local markets.

How this is achieved Not handouts but by expertise, training, tools and construction materials. Each sand dam is built by an independent 'Self-help Group' from the local community, legally constituted.

Excellent's main partner is the African Sand Dam Foundation (ASDF), a highly respected NGO in Kenya who supervise all aspects of the self-help groups' work

Since 2002, Excellent has enabled the construction of 354 sand dams in sub-Saharan Africa, most in Kenya, and directly supported over 220,000 people. They have won various internationally-recognised awards for their work.

Hoddesdon Rotary Club is contributing £500 in each of two years towards sand dams in two communities in Makueni County, Kenya.

international@hoddesdonrotary.org



WHY JOIN ROTARY?

Starting with this edition we will present a series of articles, written by insiders, explaining and illustrating the benefits of being part of this great organisation.

We will look at issues like:

- 1 Voluntary Local Community Service (putting something back)
- 2 International humanitarian aid
- 3 Promoting peace, goodwill and ethical standards.
- 4 Friendship, Fun and Family
- 5 Young People – educational and vocational support
- 6 Global charity projects and the eradication of Polio
- 7 Our own fund-raising events
- 8 Networking and personal development

To get us rolling, some general information:

Rotary is the largest worldwide service organisation of like-minded men and women who, since February 1905, have tried to make a difference to the lives of those in need locally and internationally under the banner of “Service Above Self”.

We are non-political, non-governmental, multi-faith and multi-cultural people who volunteer time skills and experience to benefit others and who enjoy life to the full in the process

Linked to RIBI we are a grassroots organisation, carrying out our most meaningful service work

Did you know?

There are

1.2M Rotarians in 200+ countries

532 Districts

34000 Clubs

1850 Clubs in UK

53,000 UK members



through local Rotary Clubs.

Each Club elects its own officers and enjoys considerable autonomy within the framework of Rotary Constitution and Bylaws. Groups of Clubs are formed into Rotary Districts that support and encourage their Clubs. In turn, each District is linked RIBI - Rotary in Britain & Ireland - and ultimately also to Rotary International in US.

Our Hoddesdon Club was chartered in 1947 and now has 42 members, all with commitment to the activities “bulleted” at the beginning of this article - as players rather than spectators. Later articles in this series and indeed this Newsletter provide details and illustrations of each activity.

Meanwhile, why not try us out? We are delighted to welcome visitors who wish to find out more about what drives us. Come to a Monday lunch time meeting and hear first-hand?

CONTACT John Hiscock - secretary@hoddesdonrotary.org



Our speaker on the 4th February was Heather Waterfield the local co-ordinator for Help for Heroes

Help for Heroes was set up five years ago to provide physical and social help for members of the armed forces who have been wounded in conflicts, notably Afghanistan. So far in the five years since its formation an extraordinary £154 million has been raised. The charity was started by Bill and Emma Parry following a visit to an injured soldier in Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham which receives the victims of the Afghan war. With each death five or six other service personnel are injured hence the need for support work.

The first fund raising effort by Help for Heroes was a sponsored bike ride across the battle fields of France for both disabled and able bodied riders and this alone raised over £1 million. The next big project is a swimming pool at Headley Court, which is the next stage on after Selly Oak Hospital where people go for recuperation and fitting of prosthetic limbs, being taught to walk again or use their hands again.

There are other sections within Help for Heroes including Battle Back which helps young disabled people and they were proud to have eight members taking part in the paralympics.

Help for Heroes' current projects include five personal recovery units in our big garrison towns. These are open to all service people who may need new training for civilian jobs, gymnasiums where they can increase their mobility skills or even just a bed for a night or two if they have nowhere to go.

There is also a quick reaction fund which can provide money within 72 hours if necessary, not just for the injured people but also for their family, for example if they have a long journey to get to visit Selly Oak and find the fares difficult. Help for Heroes is run from an old tin hut in Tidworth and all the proceeds from the fundraising go directly to the people who most need help. Although buildings are not important Heather paid tribute to the many national and international companies who have helped them with funds and support. The fifth bike ride, which will take place in May and June, will be from Paris to the Cenotaph ending up for a service there on 2 June.

At the end of her talk President Keith Theobald was delighted to present Heather with a cheque for £1,000 for Help for Heroes and wished her continuing success with such a wonderful project.



Recent Speakers

Our speaker on 28 January was Ben Stretton a Captain from the Corps of Royal Engineers who gave a talk about his personal experiences during Officer training and later in Afghanistan. The talk was to give thanks to the Rotary Club for their kind donation of a large



number of books to Ben's Squadron during their deployment last winter. The books undoubtedly raised morale of the troops and gave them a valuable distraction during their down time between operations. Ben explained the system for applying to attend Sandhurst and what Officer training entails. He then went on to explain the vital role that the Royal Engineers play across Helmand in enabling other elements of the British Army to live, move and fight. He described what Christmas was like in Camp Bastion and how morale was maintained whilst away from family and friends. The talk finished with a number of questions. The club were interested to hear the improvements that have been

undertaken in order to issue troops in Afghanistan with the best equipment available.

On the 25th March our speaker was Peter Foster from the Broxbourne Organisation for the Disabled. BOD was founded by Bob Skidmore a number of years ago and one of their well known awareness raising events was to have our then Member of Parliament Marion Roe spending a day in a wheelchair so that she could appreciate first hand the difficulties that handicapped people have to face.

The organisation meets on Wednesdays in Turnford and people are brought in in minibuses and after a chat and socialising they are taken to various lunch venues before being taken back home. They also do outings to the coast and other places of interest but Peter said it was surprising how wherever they go their members always seem to find Debenhams and spend the day shopping.

Rotaract helped raise money for an MS minibus but they had to eventually give that up because of Head Office bureaucracy and eventually it came to BOD in 2009. Bus number one is a 12 seater which was bought through public subscriptions and they also have a gas powered minibus which they acquired in 2010. Both the vehicles are fully converted and can accommodate wheelchairs. Volunteers are always needed and Peter specifically asked if any Rotarians had spare time they would be welcome to help with driving. Financially the organisation runs roughly level as they do not aim to make a profit. Vehicle insurance is a major cost but Peter paid tribute to the number of people who do help with signs, car washing, part costs for servicing, etc. In spite of the fact that they are a charity and all the good work they do to help disabled people, drivers do still sometimes meet hostility and were even ejected from a Church car park.



The minibuses, when not in use, are always available to other organisations at £1.00 per mile, which seems to be extremely good value.





On the 22nd April Jeff Ryan showed the slides which due to a technical hitch he had not been able to show at our dinner last year, to thank Andrew Hambling for organising the visit to Arnhem and Water-

loo. Jeff gave a commentary on the slides including a brief recap of the visit and in particular mentioned Pat Fisher's uncle, Norman Maston DFC, who was a flying officer on the Halifax Bomber which came down just before D Day very near Arnhem. Eventually after many, many years the aircraft was recovered due to the generosity of the Dutch towns people and Pat was able to visit his grave. The details of the trip have already been well recorded but briefly included a visit to Oosterbeek where the local people still remember and honour the paratroopers who fell at the battle. The visit concluded on a different time scale by visiting the historic battlefield of Waterloo.



Envy

This photograph says it all!

Just because a country of three million people beat one of fifty three million at a game of Rugby, certain individuals who shall remain nameless (you know who you are) attempt to banish three of their fellow Rotarians to the fringes of their meeting room! What next – a table in the corridor outside? What price the 'Four way test' now? Lesser mortals would have buckled and gone under ! but not our intrepid threesome – oh no! They laughed and rose above it all said in finest Welsh and Italian

Dewch ag ef ar Portare su



Date For your Diary

Caribbean Summer Luncheon

a charity event by

The Rotary Club of Hoddesdon

At The Vicars Field, Hillside Lane

Great Amwell

12.30pm for 1.30pm lunch

Sunday 28th July 2013

Music By DAY O DRUMS 8-piece Caribbean Steel band.

Pina Colada Reception — Catering By Lobster pot 2 courses

Licensed wine bar — Dress Smart casual with Caribbean theme

Tickets £30 available from Rtn. Peter Haynes — 01992 460371



Modern Apprenticeships

On the 11th March our speaker was Barbara Stone from Hertford Regional College who spoke with enthusiasm and authority about the enormously successful apprenticeship scheme run by the college.

Barbara has been at the college for 5 years and has spent the last 20 years working in further education. She told the Club apprenticeships have taken off in a big way and the college now have 30 different frameworks covering all skills. Courses range from 1 to 3 years and in certain cases grants are available to apprentices. Apprentices are assessed for competence and also have to do further studies in English and mathematics and sometimes IT. They also have to do 30 hours a week minimum employment.

The college also acts as an employment agency and will help prospective apprentices to find a job. The criteria for taking up an apprenticeship is that you must have a job and the college will then take over the apprenticeship training.

The scheme started in November and 27 people have already been placed but there are still 30 employers waiting to take on an apprentice.

A few facts about apprenticeships:

1. *An apprentice can be any age over 16.*
2. *The college have a range of start dates throughout the year.*
3. *For added value the college can tailor the apprentice's learning to meet the flexible and changing needs of your business.*
4. *90% of employers view vocationally trained staff as key to their success.*
5. *A survey of employers carried out in January 2009 found that 81% said that employing apprentices generated higher overall productivity for their company, 66% said that their apprenticeship programme made them more competitive in their industry, 92% said that their apprenticeship programme better motivated staff and increased job satisfaction and 74% said that apprentices tended to be more loyal, remaining at their company longer than non-apprentices.*

After Barbara had finished speaking, Francesa, who is an apprentice at the college, told us her experience and how delighted she was with her courses which she felt was fitting her for a high powered job in business and administration.



At our Monday lunch meeting on the 11th March 2013 President Keith Theobald inducted accountant Arthur Howard as a new member of the Club.

Arthur was proposed by Howard Connor and was warmly welcomed by the Club.



Where there's a Will there's a Way

At a meeting of the Hoddesdon Rotary Club on 18th February 2013 our speaker was Will Worthington (Grandson of Andrew Hambling) who having left Richard Hale School decided to take a gap year before going on to University. He decided he wanted to do something exciting and started at the top by deciding to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in September 2012.

Will started to climb with a team of six companions, plus guides and porters and he described with the aid of some spectacular slides the different types of countryside they encountered, starting with tropical rainforest then climbing through a stunning area of moorland with vegetation that is unique to the slopes of Kilimanjaro and after 4,000 metres they encountered the Alpine Desert which is cold, windy and empty.

It was at this time that altitude sickness starting hitting the party as they were doing the climb in quick time and therefore had less time to acclimatise on the way up. They started the climb to the summit by night with a temperature of -25° . Will being the fittest and least affected by altitude sickness was last of the single file line of climbers so that in theory he could catch anyone that fell and stop them rolling the rest of the way down the mountain. Sadly

three members had to abandon the climb at this stage and this left three climbers, including Will, and two guides. When the party were approaching the summit the other members of the party also had to abandon the climb and Will went on together with one of the guides to the summit. He spent five minutes on the top of Kilimanjaro and found it an emotional and moving experience which he will remember for the rest of his life.

In the future he is planning to trek through the Himalayas to Everest Base Camp and he is doing this project in aid of the Home Farm Trust, which is so near to the hearts of many Rotarians.

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro



Hoddesdon Rotarian David Johnston and his sons Nick and Tom are planning to climb the tallest mountain in Africa in October 2013. At 19,341 ft it is the tallest free standing mountain in the world.

The lads have been training since the start of 2013 and they are funding ALL the trip's expenses personally so every penny raised will go to the charities.

Team Johnston have set themselves the target of raising £10,000

www.johnstoncharityclimb.wordpress.com



Easter Dinner Collection raises £160
£2500 raised so far



Dates for your diary

What's My Line 22nd May

vocational@hoddessedonrotary.org

Technology Tournament 18th June

vocational@hoddessedonrotary.org

Caribbean Lunch 28th July

ways&means@hoddessedonrotary.org

**Petanque at The Farmers Boy
Brickendon at 6.00pm**

• 26th June •

• 24th July •

• 22nd August •

robert@lorenzini.fslife.co.uk

Golf v 41 Club 11th September

**Dragon Boat Race 15th June
(Hertford Shires Club)**

robert@lorenzini.fslife.co.uk

**Teens Unite It's a Knockout
11th August**

The Object of Rotary

Is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular:

- 1) The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.
- 2) High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian occupation as an opportunity to serve society.
- 3) The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarians personal, business and community life.
- 4) The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

WHO'S WHO DURING 2012-2013 IN HODDESDON ROTARY CLUB

President: Keith Theobald

President Elect: Ken Ayling

Vice president: Peter Haynes

Immediate Past President: Roger Merton

Secretary: John Hiscock

Treasurer: John Glover

Council Members

Barry Fitzpatrick, David Johnston, Neil Haynes,

Jeff Ryan, John Stagg, John West

Chairman of Service - Committees

Club Service - Ken Ayling

Community Service - Ken Ayling

Foundation - Meirion Morris

International - Barry Fitzpatrick

Membership - Howard Connor

Vocational - Chris Waddington

Ways & Means - Peter Haynes

Attendance: Bill Statham

Auditor: David Kemp

News Editor: David Johnston

Chase the Ace: John Stagg

Code of Practice: David Bradburn

Entertainment: Peter Shepherd

Evening Drives: Roger Lee

Extension: Meirion Morris

Friends of Rotary: Roger Merton

George Fuller: Arnold Granat

PR: Lindsay Jones

Sergeant at Arms: Barry Fitzpatrick

Sport: Roger Lorenzini

200 Club: Roger Abraham

Club Archivist: Tommy Knight

Contact details can be found at our website

Speaker's Corner: We are always looking for any of your interesting friends & acquaintances who would be able to come and talk to the club and educate us, for more information. Please contact Neil Haynes on 07802 632865 or email neil.haynes@paulwallace.co.uk

