



# Rotary Club of Billericay

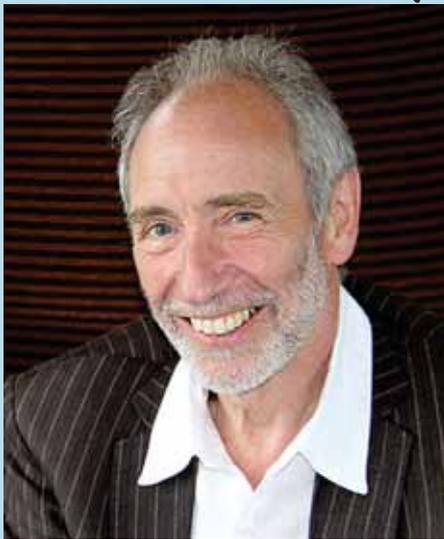
# News

August 2016

“Service Above Self”

## President’s Message

### Twenty Years On – A Return to Alba



The trip to our associate club in Alba looms large. I have been previously on two occasions I think, the last being in 1995.

My memory of that trip was that it was well attended, to the extent that the visiting delegations from our club and Basildon club warranted a large coach which was at our disposal for the duration of the visit. This time, no-one is going from Basildon and our own party runs to eight including

partners. I guess they may squeeze us into a cab this time! Nonetheless I am

looking forward to it as the welcome was warm and the hospitality was copious and I am sure that will be the case again. As a result of Brexit, the value of the Euro in your pocket will not be affected (as someone might have once said), but changing your pounds to Euros will make the eyes water.

I will report further on our trip next month, the programme looks interesting and varied so we are looking forward to the trip.

Back at the Club, our meeting on July 25 saw an eminent guest speaker, as Sue Ginn gave us a delightful talk combining a brief biography of William Smith with up to date versions of his maps showing the geological structure of our part of the world – all presented with a common touch appropriate to her audience.

I have heard it said that behind every successful Treasurer.....



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### Chloe delivers

At our meeting on August 15 Chloe Gallaher gave us an excellent presentation, which belied her young years, of her attendance at the Australian scouting jamboree.

It included details of her fundraising activities and a slide show of her trip.

This was in effect a report back as we had donated £100 in response to her fundraising appeal. Good luck to Chloe as she awaits her GCSE results.

(continued next Page)



## President's Message (continued)

As I alluded to last month, we now have a new member Les Sheppard, who was not scared off by the brief information meeting. His induction took place at our August Business Meeting.

What a marvellous happening in R.I. Membership and New Club Development month. It only goes to show what we can do when we are mindful of membership needs. If we do not ask our friends and neighbours whether they would like to join our Rotary Club, it is very unlikely that they will, but if we can ask them, then we may well be surprised.

2017 Soapbox Derby event planning is moving forward apace under our well organised commit-

tee chairman. Meetings are taking place regularly and we are all being given tasks to perform before reporting back to the subsequent meeting.

Inevitably once we engage with some of the new ideas that get thrown up, the agenda has to get cut short as we run out of time. It is encouraging though that fresh thoughts are being aired.

The latest of these is the possibility of providing some large screens so the event can be viewed more easily from the field as well as the track. No decisions have yet been made with regard to this as they are an expensive option. Maybe someone knows someone who would be willing to sponsor

a screen. If anyone does please contact Peter Greene.

### ***Chomping at the bit***

The soapbox entry into the derby was restricted to 2016 competitors until the end of the month, when it was opened up to the public at large. We have currently issued nearly half of the entry packs and we have a burgeoning interested party list who were chomping at the bit, waiting for September 1, as we will be limiting entry to the first sixty. More about the plans later in the newsletter.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and make sure you stock up on the vitamin D being distributed for free as part of the fine weather.

*By President Mike Sinclair*

## Inner Wheel

### *Tea Party with No Sting In The Tail*

Hello Rotarians:

Hope you are all enjoying summer now it has arrived, although the Met Office keeps changing its forecasts so don't hold your breath! We held our annual tea in aid of St Luke's Hospice on the August 8 with members and friends in Angela and Ben's lovely garden. The garden is looking beautiful at this time, with bright colours and greens. It was cloudy and quite cool at first so we only put out a couple of tables, opting to "wait and see" before putting out more.

We sat down inside for the August meeting with an eye on the weather followed by a light lunch of very tasty cauliflower cheese made by Lilian. Sandwich making then started on the kitchen table (freshly made sandwiches are always very good) of Salmon & cucumber, cheese and fig pickle



and egg mayonnaise; members also brought cakes and pastries they had made. The club always had a reputation for good food. A tombola was set up inside with a good selection of prizes. I won a pot of Iris's rhubarb and ginger jam which I am not supposed to eat but she said it should last a year in the fridge, so I will be eating it one small teaspoon at a time every few days, just like taking medicine!

The sun finally arrived and more tables and chairs were put out

with chairs in a big circle and food and tea on two tables in the centre. Members served food and tea to everyone and the afternoon went by in warm friendship.

Curiously I didn't see a single wasp. You usually get a couple who like to join in afternoon tea!

Next month I am doing an "Indian Take-away" just for the club. When we do things there isn't time to just chat, so we are going to do something just for us.

*By Maya Gupta, Inner Wheel  
Special correspondent.*

# Soapbox 2017 Diary

## Now Back To The Drawing Board



**E**ight months to go! It seems as if we have plenty of time to prepare for the 2017 Soapbox Derby, but .... not a bit of it!

There's so much to do as we'll learn the lessons of last year and exploit the opportunities it identified. The aim - a more successful Derby for a larger crowd, giving spectators an even better experience than last time and raising more money for Charity.

But ... first of all. What's the status of entries?

### Entries

The on-line application system is fully operational for last year's competitors. We already have:

- 28 confirmed team entries
- 9 registrations from members of the public asking to be informed when applications open next week.

- Sponsorship is already open so that teams can start immediately collecting funds to meet their £100 Sponsorship target.

### Management of the process

Following the model of the last event, a small management committee has been formed comprising President Mike, Secretary Ed, President-Elect Peter, Foundation Chairman Malcolm and our esteemed compère from last year, Ken Smith.

First meetings have already taken place and we hope for all members' active support as we work towards next year's event.

### What has been done?

Amongst the many items already in train are:

- **Event Plan** - a new plan is being prepared.

- **Programme** - Layout of the Programme is being developed. We are also investigating whether we can use it as a ticket to the event.
- Queen Elizabeth II field (Sun Corner) has been reserved for the weekend, and London Road closure for May 1, 2017 has been requested.
- St John's Ambulance have quoted for providing First Aid support (less cost than Red Cross in 2016).
- Quotes have been received for Fencing, the PA system, the food, and inflatable barrier installation etc.
- Quotes have been requested for the bouncy castle, Toilet facilities, etc.

We will report progress in the Newsletter each month.



# Quiltonians RotaKids



## *Fun Day ends a successful year*

Right now, going back to school will be uppermost in children's minds. But for the 2015-2016 pupils of Quilters Junior School RotaKids the end of the year brought a closing with a spectacular financial flourish.

But what a finish! In the true tradition of RotaKids, the children couldn't finish without a final fundraising event.

With the support of lead teacher Helen Kilby, the children organised a Fun Day to raise money for the Meningitis charity.

### *Three-armed Race*

What was the Fun Day? An obstacle course which challenged the physical skills of the pupils who entered.



The children paid one pound to enter and children from every class of the school paid up to take part. All the money raised was donated to the charity. The twist in the tale? It wasn't to be just an obstacle race, but would be a three legged race. But - - Health & Safety considerations intervened and the children competed with two arms in each pair tied together - still limiting their freedom as they tried to jump hurdles, dribble footballs and separately manage the hula hoops.

### *The Course*

The children had to compete in pairs, and the pair with the fastest time to complete the course was the winners. The course?

1. Hurdles - jumping some low hurdles
2. Bouncing a tennis ball on a racquet five times
3. Hula Hoops - keep a hoop up for five rotations and repeat it with a second hoop
4. Egg & Spoon - navigate a slalom course between cones without dropping the egg
5. Synchronised Jumps - each pair of contestants did five standing jumps side-ways across a barrier.
6. Dribbling a football - get successfully through another slalom course while dribbling a football.

The Map That Changed The World

**Sue Ginn relates the life and legacy of the Father of English Geology**

For Sue Ginn, a schoolgirl interest in fossils on the Isle of Wight and a future Open University degree in geology opened up a lifetime of studying the history of rocks and strata of the British Isles - not least the foundations on which our very own houses are built today. And of the man who can rightly be called the Father of English Geology, William Smith.



In a fascinating talk at a July Monday meeting, Sue outlined William Smith's life and discoveries. It is a story that started with his birth in 1769 in Oxfordshire, the son of a blacksmith at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the UK when iron production and coal mining were flourishing (and a time most people believed that the earth was formed by God over six days about 4000 years ago). Years of travel and study, bankruptcy, debtor's prison, and broken marriage



his first major discovery: how did fossil sea urchins, known as sand dollars or fossil sea shells (teribratulids) used by children for marbles and known as figured stones, come to be so far inland from the sea and so far above the sea? His mine survey revealed the answer. Layers of rock or strata were revealed and found to be gently sloping

ended with him being credited with producing **The Map That Changed The World**.

A life far too busy to record fully in this limited space. We have tried to do Sue and William Smith justice in selecting the bullet points of her talk. She told us:

- As a young farmer, with an interest in the rocks and fossils found locally, and later a surveyor in a coal mine and on the Somerset Coal canal, he made

to the east which led William to put forward the principle of faunal succession "layers or strata of rock of the same ages can be linked together in time and across the countryside by the fossils they contain".

- The earlier found fossils, the pound stones and sea shells, were marine in origin and proved that the sea once flowed over the land that became what we call



## The Map That Changed The World

Oxfordshire today. By June 1799 William had published a Table of Strata with 23 named rock layers together with their thicknesses and typical fossils. He believed the method could be used across the country. Between 1800 and 1815 William studied more than 50,000 square miles of land.

### So To The Map

- Despite being snubbed by The Geological Society of London when it formed in 1807, because of his humble background, with the help of John Cary's topographical map of the British isles to a scale of five miles to the inch, William produced a map showing the outcrops of some twenty rock formations.
- This map, published in 1815 and engraved on copper and hand-coloured plates, and the first one to cover a whole country, became the map that changed the world. In America, Simon Winchester, the author, was inspired to write William's story and also called his book 'The map that changed the world', entitled "A delineation of the strata of England and Wales with part of Scotland, exhibiting the collieries and mines, the marshes and fen lands originally overflowed by the sea and the varieties of soil according to the variations in the substrata". It included symbols for canals, tramways, tunnels and roads, collieries, lead, copper and tin mines together with salt and alum works that we still use today. He also established the mapping principles we still use.
- The Geological Society plagiarised his work and published the maps under their name at lower prices than he could afford. Despite selling his fossil collection to

the British museum, William was declared bankrupt and was imprisoned for a year in London's the Kings Bench Prison, for debtors. He returned home to find bailiffs removing his goods and his house seized. His marriage broke up and he then worked as a journeyman surveyor for many years until one of his employers Sir John Johnstone recognised him and decided to gain for William the respect he deserved.

- From 1824 to 1826 he lived and worked in Scarborough designing and building the Rotunda, a geological museum devoted to the study of the rocks and fossils of the Yorkshire coast. In 2008 it was renovated and reopened as Rotunda, the William Smith museum of geology.
- His status was finally confirmed in 1831 when the Geological Society awarded him the first Wollaston Medal in recognition of his services to geology. The cita-

tion credited him as the Founder of English Geology.

- He was honoured by the British Association in Dublin with an honorary doctorate of letters.
- In 1838 he was commissioned by Sir Charles Barry, the architect to accompany him on a tour of the main stone quarries of Great Britain to recommend the stone to be used in the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament which had been destroyed by fire in 1835.
- He caught severe cold on way to Birmingham in 1839 and died peacefully in Northampton on August 28. He was buried nearby in St. Peter's churchyard.
- The British Geological Survey recognises today how he changed the world by stressing the economic value of the land beneath us, and the commercial nature of map-making.

**Sue's report on "How Billericay was built" will feature in our next Newsletter edition.**

### The Smith Legacy in Modern Maps

- *The British Isles :25 miles to the inch map . Layers of rock or outcrops very similar to those recorded by William on his 1815 map . How the North and South Downs meet at the Hog's Back and how the rocks are getting younger the closer they get to London. The rocks are getting younger along a line from Snowdonia in the north west to London in the south east. And the Weald, the area between the Kent downs looks vaguely egg-shaped. The other half of the dome like structure is in northern France, together known as the 'egg and cup'. They were all joined before the melting of the glaciers at the end of the Ice Age breached the chalk ridge between modern day*

*Ramsgate and Cap Gris Nez in the Pas-de-Calais.*

- *Isle of Wight. Sue says: " Just like William I was fascinated by the fossils I saw protruding from rocks, this time on the cliffs bordering the seawall between Totland and Colwell bays in the west of the island. Fortunately I went to the right senior school and in the sixth form I was able to study the subject to A level. Then I completed my studies with a degree from the Open University. The rocks on the island were shaped by the same forces that built the Alps and some of the rocks, such as at Alum Bay in the west and Whitecliff Bay in the east have been pushed up to be almost vertical."*

## Speakers' Corner (continued)

### Down Under - Chloe Joins The Jamboree

Memories of scout camps and jamborees in Essex are limited to a field at Stubbers, Upminster and the annual camp site by the river Roding at Debden. A far cry from the heady delights of Hong Kong, Sydney Harbour and Cairns, base of the Great Barrier Reef.



Those were just some of the exotic places visited by 16-year old Chloe Gallagher when she was selected with around twenty other students from the UK to attend the International Scout Jamboree in Australia earlier this year. But there was a catch in the selection – the slight matter of raising £2,500 to finance the educational trip.

Which is why Chloe, pupil at Westcliff High School, contacted our Rotary club and others in the district to ask for help. We readily agreed to make a donation to help her on her way, but added our



own condition – that Chloe joined us as a lunch-time speaker to tell us about her adventure.

#### Loved the buzz

This she did on August 15 when there was an excellent turn-out of members to hear her. With the aid of some excellent selected images, she revealed the highlights. “Hong Kong was fascinating – just loved the buzz and the laser light show,” she said.



Then on to Sydney for a trip round the harbour and to Cairns for a boat trip on the Big Cat and shopping in the night market. And, of course, the Jamboree

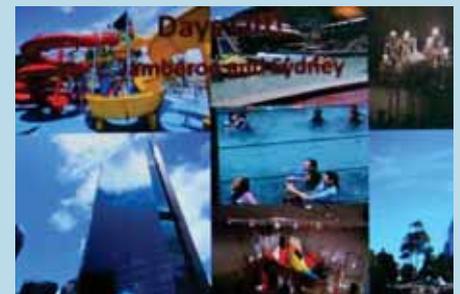
itself. Not exactly living it up in five-star hotel luxury – stays were either courtesy of the local YMCA or on the Jamboree campus.

“It was a life-experiencing trip,



“ she said. “Educationally to see and experience a number of different countries; socially to meet new people, study their lives and cultures and to make many new friends.”

Final question: Did she raise the



full £2,500? “Nearly“ she said “£2,100”. The response from clubs like you was wonderful. I’m so grateful.”

So, who made up the difference? Silly question really. “Mum and Dad.”

### A New Member Joins the Club

Membership of the club continues to be in flux. This month we welcome Les Sheppard as a new Full Member to the club.



Les has spent many years in the IT industry and since his retirement, is a part time IT consultant. He is a former Member of the Basil-don Rotaract club and is now the Treasurer at Christ Church and a Governor of Buttsbury Junior School.

We are delighted to welcome Les to our club and to the wider fellowship of Rotary.



Les was inducted into the club at a ceremony at the beginning of our Business Meeting this month on August 22.

# Dordogne Diversions

## *Rugby and Brexit in the Dordogne – to say nothing of the delightful Matilde!*

As most of you know Sarah and I are great Francophiles. We enjoy their food, wine, weather and beautiful countryside. Bonus is that over the years we have also had much fun and generous help from the French themselves. We try to take a villa every year.



This year it was just outside a lovely 13th century small town called Martel located between Brive and Cahor (north to south) and Sarlat and Rocamadour (west to east) on the Dordogne Valley and the edge of Quercy Natural Reserve Park. High up with staggering views towards the Massif Central.



As it was outside the school holidays we had a few days to ourselves to settle in before being joined by six friends including fellow Rotarian Patrick and Carol Rotheron. We all go back over 40 years, get on well and relax easily. No skiing! Everyone participates in the day-to-day activities from BBQ, market shopping, laying table and drying dishes. In between enjoying the drink, food and location.



Our friendly French person this year was a very attractive young lady called Matilde from the Martel Tourist Office. When asked if we could possibly watch the third England v Australia Rugby Test, she went to a lot of trouble to find somewhere. No luck until she told us her boyfriend had a bar, and would set up a TV turned to Sky.

We duly found that Antoine had set up a large TV set over the fireplace and chairs laid out in prime position. Good food and drinks



and the extra plus of being hosted by the delightful Matilde. When England won, we were all given free drinks which encourages us to stay longer than we should.

Arrived – 10.00am. Departed – 5.00pm. Apologies to wives!

### **Outsiders!**

Our holiday clashed with the



Brexit Referendum result. We were convinced it would be “Remain”, so surprise on the Friday morning as we gathered to watch the result and pundit analysis. The French took the result with good humour. One restaurant where we booked Sunday lunch offered us a table OUTSIDE the restaurant as we were now outside the EEC and a post office refused to sell us stamps – in a good natured and fun way. We also learned that the dissatisfaction rating with the EEC in France was a huge 62%.

Eating outdoors in fine weather is one of the great pleasures of going to the mid-south of France. Food and wine taste that little better and breakfast was always on the patio and lasted late .

The Dordogne Valley, the villages, towns and beautiful countryside provided excellent sight-seeing



and cameras, as you can see from our photo selection, were in constant use. Our friends left Sarah and I to enjoy a few last quiet days on our own and to consider: Where to next year?

*By Roger Kettle*

# Spectacular Trip to Norway

*Never say never again - Wendy Greene reports on her second (and last) cruise*

Despite my dislike of boats, I agreed to go on just one more cruise. Well, we'd had some compensation for being confined to our cabin due to "norovirus". There was just one catch, we had to use it on another cruise!

We opted for a week's cruise to the Norwegian fjords.

To reduce sea days, we decided to sail from Newcastle instead of Tilbury. As we entered our hotel, Peter stumbled on a shallow step. I said "someone" was going to trip up that step one day soon. Yes - it was me - the very next day!

I boarded with a black eye, cut forehead and nose, and fractured wrist. Fortunately, I wasn't "plastered", but I must have given the impression that I had been.

I don't blend in well with the rest of the passengers as I would have done on our last cruise. They are a younger, fitter, nimbler crowd. My injuries stand out.

We are seated at dinner at a table for four with Anne and Barry from Yorkshire. A surprise, as we'd requested a table for only two. Anne and Barry had ordered a table for six. (*An average occasion, so to speak! - Peter*). This could have been awkward but we stuck with it. Anne and Barry are experienced cruisers on a free cruise, part of a three for two offer!

**July 24** - this evening we sail up the Lysefjord. Beautiful weather. Peter went on deck but I opted to stay on our balcony. Unfortunately, I was on the wrong side of the boat to view the "must see" Kjerag boulder". Never fear, Peter got some good photographs!



**July 25** - We arrive in Bergen today (*Nobody told us beforehand that it has 330 rainy days a year. This was one of them! - Peter*). We had opted to take a trip on the Flam Railway. First of all, we had a hair-raising coach ride around hairpin bends, stopping at the Tvindve Waterfall in the pouring rain and then for lunch at a hotel shrouded in clouds, which thankfully cleared during lunch to show us spectacular views.

After lunch we boarded the train for an even more spectacular ride. We stopped at a large waterfall where, legend has it, beautiful women sirens, known as "huldra" entranced men with their beauty and melodious singing and dancing. Enough to entice the strongest man. It was as if we'd been doused with cold water from the waterfall when we realised the



beauty was actually a man!

On the train we sat with a lady who only drinks green tea, but has a large stash of dark chocolate from Hotel du Chocolat. She says that it is good for you - I will try that. She has a daughter who is a vegan and does not wear leather



shoes - or wear nail varnish - I won't try that.

**July 26** - Today it's Skjolden. A trip across the highest mountain crossing in Europe. The rain and the mist didn't permit good vision but we had front seats in the coach, and we saw the monument to Ibsen, who had walked that way.

(continued on Page 10)



## More Space For Charter Lunch



Norman Bishop has put everything in place for the

Charter Lunch on Sunday November 6. The venue will again be the Beauvoir Arms at Downham but this year, Norman has booked the main restaurant in order to ensure more space.

Time is 12.30pm for 1.00pm dining. Numbers 50-55 with a top table of twelve. Set menu (evening) with baked camembert added, plus tea or coffee.

Jugs of water on tables.

Cost: £27 p.p. plus £2.00 service, making total cost, £29.00.

Members costs reduced to £12.00 in lieu of Club Lunch.

Cash bar – all drinks including table wine to be purchased separately.

Further details will be published in future newsletters.

## Spectacular Trip to Norway (continued)

**July 27** – Olden. Another fantastic trip to see a glacier. Great weather, fabulous scenery with wild flowers and wild strawberries and raspberries. Afterwards, we gorged on Norwegian waffles with strawberry jam and cream, returning on a boat across a beautiful turquoise lake. *(They told us that*



*in 1905 and again in the 1930s, a large portion of the mountain had broken off causing a tidal wave that had drowned everybody living nearby. Terrible! But not to worry, the lake was now so shallow as a result that any wave would be quite gentle if it happened again! - Peter)*

**July 28** – Cruising through stunning scenery. Morning stop in pretty Hellesylt and then on up the Geiranger fjord past the

Seven Sisters waterfall, among others. Beautiful turquoise water, high mountains, sunshine and blue skies. There was a delay at the port. I was tired and chose not to go with Peter on a trip up the mountains around Geiranger. A good choice it transpired, as the last part of the trip up Mount Dalsnibba (nearly 5,000 feet high) for spectacular views was wasted. The trip was late leaving the boat that the cafe and the toilets were closed by the time they got there. It was very wet and windy, almost hiding the views from the top!



Well, waterfalls need rain or they don't work. *(The first part of the trip to the southern lookout gave spectacular views of the fjord and the boats at anchor. One of them*

*was called "Mein Schiff 5" – What imagination! – Peter).*

### **Tales from the sea**

Anne and Barry have been telling us about some nightmarish former dinner companions (*Not like us at all – Peter*). The worst of these was a couple with terrible table manners. They each had a set of clips to fasten their napkins around their necks, and the wife had a small teddy bear called 'Edwin' attached to her handbag. Edwin appeared every evening dressed in a different outfit made by the woman. On formal nights he wore a tuxedo!

One couple had been gifted their cruise by their children for their golden wedding anniversary. They hated every minute of it and complained every evening. Must remember to ask ours for the money instead.

A man has received a birthday cake at dinner, complete with candles and accompanying razzamatazz from the staff – it wasn't his birthday but the staff refused to withdraw as it was all written down. He had no choice but to go along with it and blow out the candles and eat the cake.

July 30 – A day and a night cruising and we are back on dry land. **Seven days, I find, is doable.**



## Fellowship Visit to Alba (and beyond...)

Members will remember that last year's visit to our twinned Rotary Clubs in Europe, Alba and Ovada (Italy), Beausoleil (France), Karlshamn (Sweden) and with our local friends at Basildon club, was to Karlshamn in Sweden.

It was to have been to Alba but was postponed to let us all enjoy the delights of Karlshamn for our first visit there ever. It also enabled the planned visit to Alba to take place this year in 2016, coinciding with Alba's 65th Anniversary.

This year we will be represented



by President Mike Sinclair and Liz, Keith Wood and Gillian, Malcolm Acors and Sue, and Peter Greene and Wendy. They are all looking forward to the trip having now received details of the

Programme there, and the accommodation and transport arrangements made on our behalf.

Some of the party are leaving early and some staying on after the event for a few days to enjoy the sights of Turin, which is close by.

### *Another time, another place*

These trips always bring something new, and we were reminded of an early trip to Beausoleil nearly 50 years ago, reported in the club newsletter at that time by Charles Odell - see below.

### *If this doesn't persuade you to go on a fellowship visit, nothing will!*

During my holiday in Menton, last July, I visited the Beausoleil Club carrying a dispatch from our President. This turned out to be no ordinary Club visit as my story will show.

I boarded the coastal bus at Menton for Monte Carlo, and at a hair-raising speed arrived, surprisingly safe and sound near to the Casino. I had the pleasure of sitting next to a charming French lady who appeared to know exactly where the Club was situated, and alighted with me, and actually left me outside the Beausoleil Casino.

I felt sure this could have been a most interesting evening, but my Rotary obligations won the day, and with an, 'au revoir m'sieur', she took her leave.

As I entered this rather drab building, I was greeted by two visiting Belgian Rotarians very cordially, and we appeared to be the first arrivals. The meeting was to be held in a small room, very bare, around a large table.

Gradually the Beausoleil mem-

bers arrived, in shirt sleeve order (reminded me of my Army days) as it was very hot, about 90 degrees. I had dressed up in their honour, but soon divested myself of various garments. I was really the centre of attraction with the impending visit to Billericay, and enjoyed myself immensely. The continental hospitality is really great. Everything was very informal, and I had missed my hotel dinner, looking forward to a Banquet, but alas! They only eat at Beausoleil Rotary Club once a month. I was really starving, but had to be contented with a tonic and lemon.

After an hour's proceedings, M'sieur Rossi offered me a beer, and as the Belgians were travelling through Menton, I hurried away with them, and hoped to get back to my hotel by 11 p.m. at the latest. It was not to be, and as the conversation was all in French, did not understand what was planned. We arrived at a magnificent villa, the home of another Rotarian, who entertained us to some 100% proof concoction

which nearly put me under the table, and after a long period of conversation proceeded on our way to my hotel, or so I assumed. It was not to be, as we drew up in front of the first cafe in Menton for more beer. I was still thirsty in this southern climate, and afraid threw caution to the winds. I managed to obtain the largest ham roll I had ever seen, which satisfied my hunger a little. The subject got round to, I believe, 'les girls', at the third cafe, and as it was about 1 a.m. and in my merry condition, I thought it was time for a respectable optician, and a member of the Billericay Rotary Club, to bid them farewell, and staggered to my hotel, and was eyed by Enid, aroused from her slumbers, with a very suspicious eye. It was certainly a night to remember.

ROTARY THE WORLD OVER.

In spite of you-know-who's devaluation, I hope to visit the Rotary Club of Cannes this coming summer, and I wonder what is in store for me.

Charles Odell

# Something to Brighten your Day

## Worth a GROAN?

- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. **Then it hit me.**
- Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old **was resisting a rest.**
- The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was **Sir Cumference.**
- The butcher backed up into the meat grinder and got a little **behind in his work.**
- To write with a broken pencil is **pointless.**
- When fish are in schools they sometimes **take debate.**
- The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was **a small medium at large.**
- A thief who stole a calendar got **twelve months.**
- A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. **He became a hardened criminal.**
- Thieves stole corn. **They'll be charged with stalking.**
- We won't run out of math teachers because **they multiply.**
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, **U.C.L.A.**
- The math professor went crazy with the blackboard. **He did a number on it.**
- The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes **was on shaky ground.**

## Club Tit-Bits

**Congratulations** to PP Michael Ginn and President Mike Sinclair on their birthdays this month.  
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**DG Terry Dean visit** - Terry makes his official visit on October 17, so please try to be there to hear what he has to say.  
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**Chelmsford Mildmay** - Club visit lunchtime on November 8.  
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**Your editor's thanks** - to you all for your kind wishes following my accident and recent hip operation after a fall while watching Essex play Gloucestershire at Cheltenham in July. When colleagues said before he went:

"Have a nice trip," they did not have in mind my tripping down some stairs and ending up in the Royal Gloucester Hospital for the operation. Suffice to say now, recovery is going well.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**The tale of the two Shields** - the saga of the trophy for Best Newsletter of the Year goes on. It has now been agreed that the one we are holding be returned and all outstanding inscriptions be added to the original shield. Heads are now getting together to work out whose names and clubs are missing and need adding to everyone's satisfaction. The past two recipients, Trevor Bond, and

Peter Owen of the Mayflower Club, are compiling the details for Stan Keller to take over at District level. Still a case of Wait and See.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**District Golf Day** - Braintree GC, Stisted, on October 6. Breakfast (bacon roll/tea/coffee) from 08.30;

- 18 holes Stableford Competition from 09.00 for the Joe Lawes Bowl;
- Teams of three for the Rayleigh Bowl,
- 3-course dinner and presentation approx 3.30pm. Cost - £50 pp; Entry forms must be returned by Friday, Sept 18 together with entrance fees. See our website for all details.

### Rotary Club of Billericay - Forthcoming Club Meetings and Events

#### Location - Reids Billericay



**We meet on Mondays at 12.45 for 13.00**

If there is a fifth Monday in the month, please

check the website for information.

Reids, 66-68 Laindon Road, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9LD Tel: +44 1277 632378

September 5

Bert French - How's your common sense

September 12

Kirsten May - Malawi Development Project

September 12 (18.30 - 20.30) at Reids' Gallery  
Joint Service Meeting and Club Council

September 19

Business Meeting

September 26

Essex Blood Runners - Ken Smith et al

**Other dates for your diary:**

Sept. 15-18

Twinning visit to Alba

November 5

Round Table Fireworks Night

November 6

Charter Lunch

November 11

New Hall Wine tasting visit

December 4

Billericay Mayflower Christmas Market

December 12

Christmas Lunch