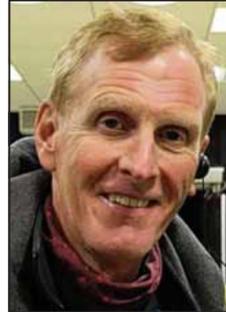




ROTARY NEWS

BILLERICAY MAYFLOWER



Billericay Mayflower members are to create a new Rotary club in Billericay, it will be a club with a difference and will not be run like traditional existing clubs.

Members invited to join the new satellite club will not be called on to make a regular weekly attendance with either lunch or dinner to be paid for.

The club, one of a number being set up to halt the decline in Rotary membership nationally, will cater for a large number of people who have busy lives.

Many who are attracted to the Rotary ideals of service to the community locally, nationally and internationally cannot afford either the time or expense to be a mainstream Rotarian.

Satellite clubs set up elsewhere are proving a success in linking up with existing clubs to join in staging events in towns such as Christmas markets, carnivals, fetes and sporting events.

Mayflower members have voted by an overwhelming majority to establish the new group which will initially operate under a watching brief from their own club but will be allowed to run independently.

club will meet for the first time in the summer

Ifor Roberts, who has led the research into how the new club will be formed and run, said: "Rotary International has come up with the means to regenerate Rotary, they have given us the tools and asked us to do our very best to secure the future of this great organisation."

Ifor is being joined by colleague Alistair Moulds in seeing through the initial work on the new club

Mayflower members and their wives linked with Billericay Rotarians for afternoon tea at St Mary Magdellan Church as part of an international day celebrating Rotary's leading role in ending polio throughout the world.

The event raised £350 while another tea party for the same cause organised by Mayflower member's wife Mrs Pam Breathwick raised £200.

Another link between the town's Rotarians comes with the Soapbox Derby being organised by the Billericay club on May 1.

Mayflower will be sending a team of helpers and are already building their own soapbox to join in the event.

Preparations are going ahead for the SummerFest being organised by the Mayflower Club at Sun Corner on July 9 when a whole host of local organisations, entertainers and fundraisers will be involved in the town's top event.

RESEARCH: Ifor Roberts

It is regarded as one of the club's most important decisions in its 27-year history.

A group of around eight men and women are expected to be invited to form the nucleus of the new club but in the long term the aim will be for the group of at least 20 to become a Rotary club in their own right making their own decisions on how they will run their less formal affairs, but within the structure of Rotary International.

Names of potential satellite club members are already being considered by Billericay Mayflower and invitations are likely to be going out to them for an exploratory get together, hopefully as early as April 24.

It is hoped that the satellite

INGATESTONE, KELVEDON HATCH AND VILLAGES



NIPPY SERVICE: Ingatestone Rotary Club members welcome Mayor Noelle Hones, centre, to the cream tea event

When members heard about the PurplePolio cream tea party initiative the members thought it was a great idea and provisionally booked the Ingatestone Community Centre, and with some persuasion the ladies agreed to run the event.

RIBI president Eve Conway decided to make a tea party event not just for polio but a celebration of International Women's Day - with parties across the nation on March 8.

The day arrived, armed with jam from Wilkin & Sons Ltd, tea bags from Typhoo, and cream from Rodda (thanks to Gill for some persuasion here as they agreed to supply for charity - we had the impression they were asked quite a few times), plus an absolute deluge of cakes from the cooks, the event was ready to go.

The community centre was set out with tablecloths, flowers, and crockery raided from everyone's cupboards and so we hoped for a few attendees.

The response was overwhelming despite a gloomy afternoon. We were very pleased to get about 70 people attending, one or two Rotarians but a lot of

villagers. At its height we were really busy with treasurer Peter collecting cash at the door and ladies dressed as nippies.

Some signs from district helped to explain the event and mid-afternoon we were graced with Mayor of Brentwood Noelle and consort John.

We raised about £300 and everyone had a great time, no-one left early and it helped put

the club on the Ingatestone map.

At the Ladies Night on March 16, the club was delighted to welcome Mark Allen as a new member of The Rotarians of Kelvedon Hatch and Villages.

President John Metcalfe performed the induction ceremony and Alan Buckley introduced Mark - pinning on his Rotary Badge - a very welcome addition to RKHV and Ingatestone.

ONGAR

One of the most enjoyable evenings the club has been involved in was the Austin 7 Race Night held at High Ongar Village Hall.

The evening was organised by

Roger Spearman who is a shining light in the National Austin and Car Club.

He made five cutout models of Austin 7s that were pulled along with cord.

Competitors sat with their backs to the car and then had to wind the cord on a piece of wood.

After two races 60 members sat down to a most enjoyable meal, this was followed by a very successful raffle.

The evening raised close to £600 for local charities and many of those who attended the function said it was one of the most enjoyable evenings they had attended for some time.



READY TO GO: Rotary members and the soapbox version of Lightning McQueen have been hitting the High Street

BILLERICAY

When our spectacular SoapBox Derby hits Thunder Road on Monday, May 1, for our second annual charity event, those movie buffs among the kart fans watching the show will be delighted to see one special car modelled on Lightning McQueen, star of the film cartoon Cars.

It even captured the imagination of the club's

SoapBox Derby committee and members when it was paraded outside the club's Monday lunch base, Reids Restaurant in Laindon Road last week.

Malcolm Acors, active member of the SoapBox committee, said: "Lightning McQueen, every kids dream, will be on display every Saturday in the High Street promoting the SoapBox Derby."

"Come and buy your tickets or collect a save-the-date slip, bring your children and grandchildren - they can have a picture or a selfie taken sitting in Lightning McQueen."

BRENTWOOD A BECKET

Sunday, March 19, was a cloudy and blustery day, but this did not dampen the spirits of over 3,000 runners ready to compete in the Brentwood a Becket Rotary Half Marathon and Fun Run.

This year saw a slight change to the Half Marathon route which takes runners through the

Essex countryside including through the villages of Blackmore and, for the first time this year, Dodinghurst.

Both villages actively supported the event including a live band in Blackmore and supporters lining the streets.

Organised under the UK Athletics rules, many competitors use the event as a warm-up for the London Marathon on April 23.

The Half Marathon race was started by Brentwood mayor

The Killer Heels Team - all in drag and loved by the spectators in 2016 - are back to race again down the London Road from Sun Corner to the SoapBox arch short of Western Road.

Winners of last year's Wacky Racers, they return this year with a soapbox called Nearly Virgin Air.

The promotional show is going on the road at weekends when club members will be out and about in Billericay High Street handing out leaflets and information and inviting the public to buy tickets.

Councillor Noelle Hones and we watched the runners set off from Becket Keys School in Brentwood on their 13-mile run.

The strong winds did mean that no records were broken this year, with the race being won by a male competitor who has won twice before.

The winner of the ladies race was competing in her first half marathon.

The Fun Run takes place over a course of 2.5 miles and was well supported with many local

SoapBox chairman Peter Greene said: "We are urging our members to sell, sell, sell and the public to buy, buy, buy."

"Advance ticket sales are going well but there is still five weeks to go and time for people to purchase in advance to make entry on the day much easier and quicker."

Tickets are limited and gates will be closed when our capacity is reached, so we urge everyone to buy now to ensure you are able to attend.

For details and tickets visit:

www.rcssoapbox.co.uk or: www.billericayrotary.org and click "Buy Tickets".

The club's target of sixty entries is now reached with three on the waiting list, and so entries have closed.

Some teams still need to return their entry forms with team details urgently to Mike Sinclair at Buttsbury Lodge, Stock Road, Stock, Essex, CM4 9PJ or email a scanned copy to Mike at: contact@billericaysoapbox.co.uk

On the social front, club

children also taking part in the run, making it a real family event. With thanks to local sponsors, including LV Insurance company, Nuclear Races, Wortley Byers solicitors and Baker Labels, the day was an outstanding success with competitors commenting on how well the event was organised.

Brentwood a Becket calls upon some 400 volunteers to help marshal the event including Brentwood and Brentwood Breakfast Rotary clubs, local charities, Hutton and Shenfield

and Brentwood 41 Club members, army reserves and the Air Training Corps. Sawyers Church and a Brentwood-based church group also provided free food and drinks for competitors and their families.

The day and this event proves how local community groups and service organisations can come together to support a truly community-based event.

The club hopes to have raised about £85,000 for local charities along with the countless thousands of pounds raised by

members and partners teamed up with our colleagues from the Rotary Club of Mayflower Billericay to help eradicate the last remaining cases of polio by attending a PurplePolio tea party in St Mary Magdalen church in Billericay High Street on March 8.

This was a nationwide Rotary event to coincide with International Women's Day.

Our Inner Wheel members made a supply of scones and jam was generously supplied by Wilkin & Sons Ltd of Tiptree.

Prizes were handed out to the winners at a ceremony on the day by MP Sir Eric Pickles who attended with his wife Lady Pickles, Michael Lawrence of LV, Mayor of Brentwood Councillor Noelle Hones, and Denise Wilkinson vice president of Brentwood a Becket Rotary Club.

BRENTWOOD BREAKFAST

Brentwood Breakfast Rotary Club hosted the district final of the Rotary Young Chef competition held at Chelmsford College in February co-ordinated by our own Rotarian Gloria Nichols.

With great support from the college hospitality catering faculty team leader Hilary Hicks, young chefs from schools across Essex and parts of Hertfordshire prepared and presented three-course meals within a pre-set budget of £15 and a time limit of 90 minutes.

Their magnificent efforts were judged in the presence of Chelmsford mayor Councillor Patricia Hughes by guest judges Andrew Jones, executive chef of Chamberlain's Restaurant of Leadenhall, London, Geraldine Beaurain, representing the international Mary's Meals charity, and Hilary Hicks of Chelmsford College. We were delighted to be joined by assistant district governor Pauline Dean, wife of district governor Terry Dean.

Our contestants ranged in age from 12 to 15 years and all of our Young Chef district finalists received a certificate for reaching the final and a goody bag - the competition is supported by Filippo Berio UK.

Andrew Jones gave great encouragement and feedback to the contestants and Geraldine Beaurain was also highly complimentary about the young chefs' delicious, well-presented meals and their attention to detail.

Geraldine introduced the work of charity Mary's Meals that aims to feed a child for a whole year for less than the budgeted meal for two that the Young Chefs had to prepare.

Runner-up was Emily Symons from Ormiston Rivers Academy, Burnham-on-Crouch, and the



GOOD COOK: Ben Russell is presented with his certificate for winning the district Young Chef competition by assistant district governor Pauline Dean, left, and mayor Councillor Patricia Hughes

Rotary District 1240 young chef winner was Ben Russell from Bishop's Stortford College who represented our district at the regional final in Ipswich, finishing as runner-up but may still go forward to the national final in May.

Teachers and Rotarians from the sponsoring clubs around the district along with families and friends attended the competition to support the participants.

Our ever popular fun quiz in aid of Barnardo's at the end of January was a sell-out raising over £1,400 and our Magic Night hosted by The Ilford Magical Society in Cabaret and who also demonstrated close-hand magic at each table added a further £545 towards Rotary projects and charities supported by Brentwood Breakfast Rotary.

Many thanks to all who helped make these evenings such fun and so successful, especially Rotarians Bob, Barry and Tony and to The Fish House for their wonderful suppers and support on the evenings.

In the autumn, Brentwood Breakfast Rotary supplied Brentwood Borough Council Parks department with several hundred purple crocus bulbs which were planted in the green space behind The Baytree Shopping Centre.

The colourful blooms were at their best in February and are an everlasting reminder of the

ongoing Rotary pledge to rid the world of polio.

In March the Brentwood Breakfast Rotary inducted our newest member Mike Tringham. Mike already plays badminton with our team and we look forward to Mike, Sue and Steve, our other new members, joining us out and about.

Four of us turned out to keep the fun runners safe and on the right paths around Hall Lane last Sunday morning with our fellow Rotarians from Brentwood Rotary.

The Stroke Association and Rotary International are joining forces to help raise awareness of one of the biggest risk factors for stroke: high blood pressure.

They are inviting residents in Brentwood to take a moment to have a free blood pressure test on April 22 between 9.30am and 4pm at Peppercell House, High Street, Brentwood.

On the first Thursday of the month we meet for supper instead of breakfast and have a speaker. Coming up on April 6 will be Richard Pusey who will be speaking on the London of Samuel Pepys.

If you would like to know more about this and other events and projects we are involved with then please search online for Brentwood Breakfast Rotary Club on Facebook.

BRENTWOOD

People may be wondering why there are so many purple crocuses popping their heads up around the borough.

This is all part of Rotary's worldwide campaign End Polio Now.

Members of Rotary Club of Brentwood joined in by rolling up their sleeves in the autumn to plant around 10,000 crocus corms at several focal points around the borough including the at the town hall, Shenfield Common.

Also, with the help of volunteers led by Joy Dunn, at the sensory garden at King George's Playing Fields.

Young people at Endeavour School, Brentwood, also joined in the spirit of the campaign by planting crocuses in the grassed area at the front of their school.

All of the work has paid off with some wonderful displays of purple.



WORK TO DO: Armstrong Class from Endeavour School Brentwood planted crocuses at the front of the school

The significance of the purple crocus is that when children in small areas in Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan have been vaccinated against polio, they have their little finger inked with purple dye so that no child is missed or receives a double dose.

The purple crocuses, when they bloom each year, will be a powerful symbol of the fight against polio and in years to come they will serve as a constant reminder of the work that has been done to cure this

disease. In 1985 when Rotary decided on the goal to eradicate polio worldwide there were 1,000 new cases of polio reported every day from the 125 countries in which polio was then endemic.

In 2010 there were fewer than 1,000 cases reported in total from the four countries left.

So far 2 billion children have been immunised by Rotary, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation along with the help of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



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