

Service above self

Roundabout November 2016

Meetings (12.30 for 12.45 pm)

Our Tuesday meetings are at the Balkerne Restaurant, Colchester Institute

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| Tuesday 15 November | Jean Bateman of the Samaritans of Colchester, Tendring and Suffolk Borders will share some insights into their work |
| Tuesday 22 November | We will hear more about Rotary Foundation from Rotarian Len Nieuwenhuis |
| Tuesday 29 November | There will be no lunchtime meeting as we have a fundraising event in the evening (see below) |
| Tuesday 6 December | Special General Meeting (no speaker) |
| Tuesday 13 December | Christmas Lunch (no speaker) |

There will be no meetings on Tuesdays 20 and 27 December. We meet again on 3 January 2017.

Our **Sunset** meeting will be on Thursday 1 December at the Officers' Club, St John's Green, Colchester CO2 7EZ. Everyone is welcome to this evening meeting, from 5.45 to 6.30 pm.

Events

On **Tuesday 29 November** we're having a fundraising event in aid of the Skillz4Life project (see the September Roundabout). The venue is the Headgate Theatre, at 7 for 7.30pm. Advance booking is essential.

Our annual **Christmas collection** will start on Thursday 8 December, in Lion Walk. Please help if you can.

A date for next year's diary ... the Rotary Club of Bielefeld Süd celebrates its 50th anniversary on the weekend of **10/11 June 2017**. A visit will be planned!

Welcome to our two new members



We were doubly delighted to induct two new members. Val Tyrrell has transferred from Rotary Talbot which has sadly closed. During her 16 years there Val had held most posts (excluding Treasurer). Graham Rookyard's ears pricked up at this news, sensing he might help her complete the full suite. Amongst the many activities that keep Val busy are singing, noted by Pat for the music festival, and walking her young dog, so perhaps we have another pair for the Club walks.

Andrew Allen has been in music for much of his life and has recently retired from the Colchester Institute where he was Director of the Creative Arts Faculty. His involvement with music continues not only as a performer but with posts on the Essex Music Education Hub Partnership Board and the Colchester Arts Centre Board. Pat has already set Andrew to work helping her with the music festival website, so he will have a busy year ahead of him.

We warmly welcome our two new members and we are sure their membership will strengthen the club.

Ann Reeves

The reactions seem to be a little mixed on this photo! (Editor).

Alex Johnston

At our lunch on October 18, Rotarian Alex Johnston gave us an insight into his life and career. His short presentation started with a few words on his life in Scotland before moving with the family to England in 1981. After starting his career in the shipyards of Scott Lithgow in Greenock he was approached by the local Lloyds Surveyor to join Lloyds Register in London.

Moving the family south in 1981 was a big wrench but worked out well in the end. Living first in Silver End near Witham both older daughters went to Silver End primary school with daughter Leigh gaining a place at Colchester High School for Girls in 1987. However, after eight years in London Alex was asked to transfer to South Korea in 1989 which meant serious family decisions needed to be made. It was considered that the American schooling system in Pusan South Korea would not have suited Alex's older daughters so the decision was made to send both Nicola and Leigh to boarding school in Scotland and to take Laura, their youngest daughter, to Korea where there was a primary International school run along British lines.

Alex's career in Pusan flourished and he and his wife Alice led a very active social and professional life with involvement in St Andrew's Society and as a charter member of the newly formed Tongbaek Rotary club which gained its charter in December 1989. She worked as a

teacher's aid at the international school for the first four years in Korea. In January 1993 Alex was transferred back to London for 18 months but returned to Pusan in August 1994 where he remained for the next 8 years

His professional career as the Manager of the Plan Approval Services went from strength to strength and involved him in many discussions with ship owners and shipbuilders alike whilst running a very busy office. South Korea at that time was the largest shipbuilding nation in the world, building vessels at a rate of one ship every week and by 2015 was producing 41% of the world's tonnage.

Promoted to Senior Principal Surveyor in 2002 Alex and Alice moved back to London where he took up a position as Global Technology Leader for hull structures and became involved late in his career with producing new ship rules for oil Tankers and bulk Carriers being produced by the International Association of Class Societies (IACS). This involved Alex in extensive travel overseas for the last five years of his career before retiring after 29 years with Lloyds in 2010. His three daughters are now happily married and have given him seven grandchildren (no. 8 on the way) to brighten up his retirement. He and Alice now live in Great Horkelesley and he is looking forward to being an active and productive member of our club.

Sunny days and volunteers made £47,000 for Essex charities

The Marks Hall Garden and Country Show on 16 and 17 July this year welcomed thousands of people who enjoyed the warm sunshine and the many attractions on offer.

Proceeds of just over £47,000 were announced at our meeting on 11 October. Club President Eugene Kraft acknowledged the tremendous effort by many volunteers.

Sabi Stafford from Essex Air Ambulance and Rebecca Lee from Marks Hall Gardens and Arboretum were overjoyed to each receive a cheque for £15,400 for their charity. Sabi and Rebecca were also presented with a Rotary Community Service award for their outstanding contribution to the event.

Eugene also commended the volunteers from the 9th Colchester Sea Scouts who helped with the car parking. A donation of £1,000 was made to them, accepted by Paul Stickland and Dave Fitt.

The remaining funds are earmarked for our new three-year project with Colchester YMCA – *Skillz4Life*. This will initially empower a group of 10 to 12 young people with a variety of skills, gained through a range of activities, some of which will involve Colchester Rotarians. There will then be an opportunity for this group to pass on their skills to other people aged 16 to 24 via a rolling ten-week programme.



Left to right: Rotarian David Burrage, Event Chairman; Sabi Stafford; Eugene Kraft; Rebecca Lee; Rotarian (Kelvedon) Nigel Dyson, Show Director.

Inner Wheel Charter Lunch

The Inner Wheel Club of Colchester's 89th Charter Lunch took place on Sunday 23 October at the Colne Valley Golf Club, presided over by Club Secretary Carol Ninnim. The principal guest was Inner Wheel District 24 Chairman Janet Larkey, accompanied by her husband, Rotarian George Larkey. Our club was represented by President Elect Pat Prestney. Many other Rotarians were also present, and together with the host Club all had a very enjoyable lunch. The photos show those named above, with Carol's husband David.

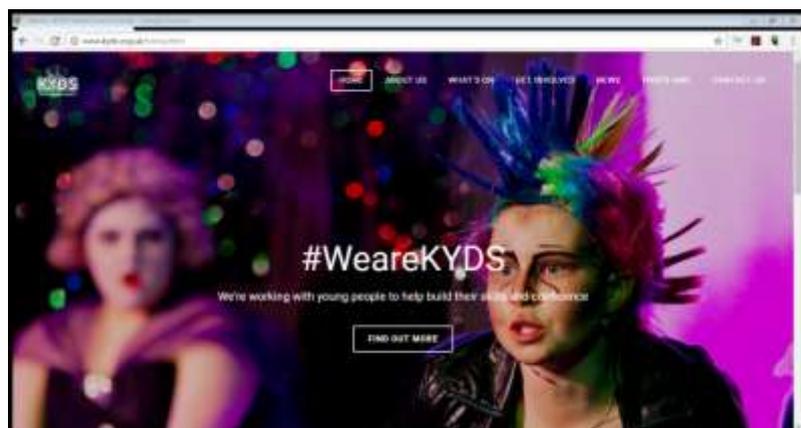
From Ian McMeekan and John Enfield



KYDS (www.kyds.org.uk/)

James Stocker was an excellent ambassador for this Youth Drama Society, based in Tiptree. We were pleased to support them with a donation earlier this year, which will go towards capital purchases such as display boards and make-up as well as workshops and training funds. The society was formed in March 2009 and has two productions each year, each with around 30 young people. James commented that they change over the course of rehearsals and the final show, becoming more confident. Workshops also build skills in teamwork, communication, creativity and responsibility.

The society's strategy is for growth, quality, accessibility and sustainability. The challenges are voluntary support (there are no paid staff), venues and space, long-term funding and stability. James and his colleagues would like to work with our club to establish local connections and access to expertise.



The big bus pass challenge

What a day. Pat Prestney and I met at 9am at the bus station for photos then battle commenced. There were three teams: Forum, Centurion and our club, seeing who could cover the most miles in a day.

We were so fortunate - every connection was made, every bus ran. As I said to someone, just have a vicar on your team and all goes smoothly. I could now write a thesis about buses, the lack of loos at bus stations, the variability of comfort, the standard of driving, the different operators etc etc. One bus line called Regal was just that - very plush with large comfy leather seats. As for Trusty buses, well you could just about trust their old, reconditioned stock. We have seen parts of Essex we never knew existed, nor wish to visit again. Our trip covered Chelmsford, Stansted Airport, Harlow, Ongar, Brentwood, Basildon, Rayleigh, back to Chelmsford then Colchester and for the finale out to Harwich and back!

We had a punishing schedule with just minutes between buses except after 19.45 we had a gap till our next major 3 hour stint but I had filled that with a local circular run. However by the time we got into Colchester at this point, a loo stop was essential and with just four minutes between buses it was hopeless to find a loo, use it and make the next bus stop so we had to ditch that bit. We were also feeling very weary from hunger so ran into Bill's and asked could they feed us in 20 minutes. Unfortunately they took 15 minutes to get the food ready so we bolted it down and ran. They did give us a big packet of cookies to take with us as an apology. Then came the very worst part - three hours out to Harwich and back through every single village that exists, including Dedham (!) and a trip to the port just in case we needed the ferry. The bus was freezing cold. When we got to Harwich the driver said everybody off so we told him we needed to go back again. He was insistent we must get off and walk to the other side of this open area as 'the insurance didn't allow him to carry passengers here'. So we got out into the cold night air and a little voice said 'over here'. There was our back-up man Colin Brodie (we had one on hand in case we got stranded somewhere) proffering sloe gin to warm us up. Back on the bus which by now was even colder and had us as the only occupants, through all those villages again to get back to Colchester going uphill for midnight. We were exhausted and cold but had done it.

We had one misadventure. We had borrowed Ian Mac's Polio Teddy as my two are on various holidays. Pat was in charge of him and we had promised solemnly that we would look after him very carefully. We were at a bus stop somewhere Ongar way where we had no idea where we were - the driver had said this was where we needed and the timetable at the stop indicated that our next bus would be coming soon. Our back-up driver Colin pulled into the bus lay-by to check all was well and Pat leaned into the car to chat. I told him to move as a bus was coming so off he went and a bus pulled in, not the one we wanted so we waited. This bus pulls off and I am looking down the road and there is this funny looking object in the road. Oh no - it has a purple jumper - it's Teddy and the bus has run over him! I told Pat and she just ran out in the road to grab him before he could get hit again but almost got hit herself. Teddy is a sad state, black tyre marks across his head, a bent face and no eyes. Sorry but we went slightly hysterical and just sat laughing. Pat insisted his eyes had just been pushed in but no, they were missing. There is no way we could give back this bear and live to tell the tale, so some rapid phone calls to the District Governor to see if he had a spare we could get before the Rotary meeting the next day. Luckily he did so - we could give Ian the new one and be let off for damaging his other one who is now Blind Pew bear.

Many thanks to our wonderful back-up team of Roy Chapman, John Sparkes and Colin Brodie - we couldn't have done it without you chaps. And thanks to all the generous sponsors who helped raise over £600 (Including Gift Aid) for the Alzheimer's Society. Unfortunately we didn't win -

Centurion managed to win, covering 240 miles to our 235, Forum were penalised for using car back-up so only managed 215 miles. Tony Dutch is already talking about what next year's challenge can be, so volunteers get ready please.

Ann Reeves



Sergeant Stuart Pearson QGM (Retired)



Stuart with his partner Julia

In August 2006, Stuart was four months into a six-month tour in Afghanistan and was posted to the Kajaki dam area. On duty on 6 September, he and his colleagues spotted members of the Taliban in the distance.

Stuart's description of the horrific happenings following this sighting had us spellbound at our meeting on 25 October as we heard about the explosion of landmines and major injuries, some fatal. Stuart lost the lower part of one leg and sustained significant to the other.

“Inspiring” is too bland a word for this presentation. After weeks and numerous operations at Selly Oak Hospital, followed by seven weeks at Headley Court for limb fitting and physio, Stuart was determined to conquer challenges he set for himself. On 21 February 2007, he received the Queen's Gallantry Medal. After meeting a representative from Blesma (a charity which enables limbless veterans to lead independent and fulfilling lives), he travelled to Breckenridge in California to learn to mono-ski. In March 2012, he enjoyed sky diving with the Red Devils but in April 2013 he broke his leg when landing after one of many more sky dives. Stuart was closely involved with

the film “Kajaki, the true story” which was filmed in Jordan in the summer of 2014 (now available on Netflix and DVD).

So, what did Stuart describe as the hardest thing he’s ever done? Running the London Marathon this year to raise more than £4,500 for Blesma.

We were pleased that Stuart and his family enjoyed a holiday in Jersey in August with Holidays4Heroes (www.hols4heroesjersey.org.ie/), supported by our club.

“End Polio” teddies

Our teddies are still on their travels – and they’re becoming dizzy with the variety of countries and experiences! Here’s one of them at Heathrow, ready to board a plane to Africa with Maureen Cosgrove, and his brother in Assisi with Pat Prestney.



Our walk around Flatford and Dedham



On Sunday 16 October a small, intrepid band of Rotary members, friends and family set off to explore the beauties of Constable country. The numbers had reduced to a dozen by late cancellations and those who couldn’t come missed a treat. Although the day dawned with rain, by the time the team had assembled in the two car parks (confusing!) at Dedham, the weather had decided it should be kind to us and the sun burnt its way through. I insisted that this was due to my wearing my ‘good luck’ wellies. The route was a very pleasant walk along the river from Dedham to Flatford. There was much discussion about whether the risk assessment should have warned about the large number of cow pats and who would have thought that big, brave John Powell was nervous of crossing a field full of cows!

At Flatford we stopped for well earned refreshments in the tea room where some found the lovely selection of cakes irresistible. Refuelled we set off back towards Dedham by a different route, all

enjoying the sun and companionship. A short drive then took us to the Carriers Arms, East Bergholt for lunch. Very naughtily after a hefty main course most succumbed to pudding. Well the fruit crumble and treacle tart sounded so delicious and we had walked a few miles. Then home for a late Sunday after-lunch snooze.

Our thanks to Oliver Peacock and Caron for organising a very enjoyable walk and lunch. We might make it an annual treat.'

Ann Reeves

Purple4Polio ambassadors

To mark World Polio Day, Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland shared the news that celebrity gardener Alan Titchmarsh and broadcaster Chris Tarrant will be supporting the Purple4Polio campaign as ambassadors.

<http://www.rotarygbi.org/rotary-welcomes-latest-purple4polio-ambassadors/>

“I’ll be with you all the way” said **Ade Adepitan** – as he also agreed to become the latest Rotary **Purple4Polio** Ambassador

<http://www.rotarygbi.org/ill-be-with-you-all-the-way/>

Rotary Foundation

A featured excerpt from Chapter 7, “3-H: a bright new dawn for the Rotary Foundation”

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/news-media/featured-excerpt-chapter-7-%E2%80%9C3-h-bright-new-dawn-rotary-foundation%E2%80%9D>

Global rewards

If you’re already a Rotarian, have you explored these discounts, special offers and opportunities to give back to Rotary through shopping?

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/member-center/rotary-global-rewards/offers#/offers>

Find out more about the Rotary Club of Colchester on our website

www.colchester.rotary1240.org

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Roundabout editor: Anne Kiely rotarycolchester@gmail.com 07876 800041