



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

90th Anniversary Year The Rotary Club of Northampton

June 2012

President Roger Morris



Our President writes:-

Four weeks may still remain as I write, but the last few days of May have I think seen the final flourish of my Presidential year. We have just enjoyed a remarkable weekend hosting about 25 visitors from our twin Club Pirmasens and our Ukraine linked Club Kiev Centre. Exceptionally hot weather (how often can you say that this year?) coupled with a full and well-organised programme combined to give our guests an experience that they clearly greatly enjoyed.

It bears repeating how much was owed for all this to Michael Pearson, our principal and tireless organiser. On Saturday 26th some 45 of us spent a day in Cambridge, largely arranged by Michael and David George, and on Sunday 27th we spent a day in Stratford-on-Avon, for which Brian May was primarily responsible, helped also in the planning by Elspeth. Once again I repeat my thanks to all those who hosted, did airport runs, and in any contributed to what was an excellent event that did credit to our Club. I should also record – if you missed my announcement – that we received two very generous donations. From Pirmasens came 500 euros, and also from Kiev came £100, both of which we are putting towards the joint Northampton Clubs Change of Scene project.

It was in recognition of his signal contribution to the development of Rotary work in Kiev, and to the respect in which he is held in Northampton after what has been done between our Clubs, that on behalf of our Club presented Dr. Igor Sergeyevev (President there in 2000-01) with a Paul Harris award. We were fortunate to be able to do this in a more-or-less public setting in which key Pirmasens members and partners could also share, and I record here again our Club's congratulations to Igor.

That has not been our only award this month. Recently I have had the pleasant task of visiting Bernard Thorne to tell him that the Club Council had decided to award him honorary membership. Bernard has been a Rotarian since 1963, being our second-longest serving member, and I am pleased to say that after a difficult winter he now hopes to be able to come back to us very soon. We shall all want to congratulate him on both counts!

Finally, we have now passed Club Assembly, and been visited accordingly by incoming Assistant District Governor Robin Green of Northampton West. Were there a Rotarian handover torch relay, it would now be well under way! I am at this point merely clinging on to the perch, and trying to keep the audience entertained while they await the act given top billing for 2012-13. The numbers attending Club Assembly were disappointingly low, but it is clear that Brian has clear ideas of what he wants to achieve next year, and a committed band of others resolved to support him in that task. I endorse his aspiration that every Rotarian should make an active contribution next year in whatever way open to them.

Roger Morris

JUNE 2012

- 4 **NO ROTARY** Jubilee Bank Holiday
5 **NO SATELLITE GP** Jubilee Bank Holiday
11 **BUSINESS MEETING** John Gower
12 **SATELLITE GROUP Social**
13 *Kids Out*
17 *Car Boot Sale*
18 **Matthew Bell** Manager Collingtree Care Home - Dementia Lunch Council
19 **SATELLITE GROUP Speaker**
21 *Club Walk - Brian Dickens*
25 **HANDOVER** David Harrop
26 *Jim's Evening Drive with clues, prizes & food*

JULY 2012

- 2 **BUSINESS MEETING** Gethin Jones
3 **SATELLITE GROUP**
5 *District Council*
9 **JOHN JONES** Manager Sunley Conference Centre Desmond Keohane
10 **SATELLITE GROUP Speaker**
15 *Dragon Boat Race*
16 **LEN HOLDER** A Mariner's Tale Ian Lowery
17 **SATELLITE GROUP Social**
19 *Club Walk - BD*
22 *Car Boot Sale*
23 **BOB MILL** Your Money - Your Vote (BBC Editor) Chris Mahony
24 **SATELLITE GROUP**
30 **7.30 SILENT AUCTION** and Hog Roast at the Old Dairy Farm Upper Stowe

AUGUST 2012

- 6 **PETER DUNKLEY** Music Hub Graham Mortimer
7 **SATELLITE GROUP**
13 **BUSINESS MEETING** Peter Newham
14 **SATELLITE GROUP**
19 *Car Boot Sale*
19 **SG Duck Race Kislingbury**
20 **STAN EVANS** Alcohol - Your Poison Lunch Council Barry Nuttall
21 **SATELLITE GROUP**
23 *Club Walk - PD*
27 **NO ROTARY** August Bank Holiday

Sunley Conference Centre LUNCHTIME 12.35 Council 6pm

SATELLITE GROUP MEETINGS 6.15 Four Pears Little Houghton

COMBINED MEETINGS See list above

Lunch Time Duty & Grace

Rotary Walk

Milton — May 2012



Modesty should perhaps inhibit me from chronicling any Walk of which I am personally the Organizer, particularly when it reprises a similar but rather more snowy adventure some 16 months ago, albeit that the memory of many Rotarians runneth not that far back. Nevertheless, with all due humility, I will put metaphorical pen to paper, to modestly capture the sheer excellence of the expedition and its impeccable organization.

Although somewhat short in numbers (six walkers in all), this included several of the usual suspects in enthusiastic form, setting off from the Greyhound at Milton after a punctilious and erudite exposition on Health and Safety and the avoidance of hazards other than those arising from co-proximity with our fellow adventurers. Surprisingly, even the weather was with us.

Unexpected bodies were not part of the intended divertissements for the Walk, but an encounter with a very dead and somewhat bloated ovine corpse brought out in Lesley, if not the Florence Nightingale, her compassionate concern for the humane disposal of dumb beasties, (—*watch out David*), and its mortality was duly reported!.

(It must be said at this point that an unfortunate incident which followed, involving contact between your humble scribe and a glutinously oiled canal ratchet is best glossed over, particularly as it failed totally to elicit the Rotary sympathy that should be a sine qua non of such misfortunes, — which could happen to anybody, and of which Lawrence. J can usually be relied upon to provide copy!)

After this a grassy scramble led us to close-ups of the A43, the canal and its banks and then the pastoral tranquillity of the high-speed Rail line before arrival at the rather more scenic Blisworth Marina. Picturesque canal bridges and the towpath gave a very varied choice of attractive scenery, even if some of us were less than convinced of the attractions of life on a narrowboat as we tramped past them.

Our small select band was augmented on our return to the Greyhound for lunch by the welcome addition of Barry Clarke, John Allen and mine own domestic Minder, to whom, in flagrant contradiction of the Rotary Code of Omerta, (*not to mention in breach of the mantra of Rotary Friendship*), the unfortunate incident, not “*of the dog at night*” but “*of the oily ratchet*” (and handkerchief) was wilfully disclosed. — (*your turn will come Lesley — come the Revolution*)

— Nevertheless, it was an entertaining adventure as usual!
and on the website there has been a slight change in the Organisers of the next three walks, June now being Desmond Keohane, July — Brian Dickens and August — Peter Davies.

Peter Newham.

Walkers please note:-

*In connection with the future diary in the Newsletter and on the website there has been a slight change in the Organisers of the next three walks, **June** now being Desmond Keohane, **July** — Brian Dickens and **August** — Peter Davies.*

Kew Visit- May 2012.

Such an august occasion as a visit by distinguished Rotarians and their acolytes to that centre of horticultural excellence, Kew, particularly when meticulously and immaculately organised by the Alan Tichmarsh (*or perhaps Percy Thrower—for those who remember!*) of Rotary excellence Stan Evans, requires a more profound and reverential tone than that light-hearted gallimaufry and hyperbole which from time to time chronicles our monthly Rotary rambles, and so shall it be!

No mention shall therefore be made of the unearthly time of departure, long before your average Rotarian had usually stirred from his (or her) beauty sleep or even put on the face-mask and inserted the teeth. But off to the Smoke we went, reverting on the coach once more into the pre-arrival torpor that was hopefully to be the prelude to a Charlie Dimmock type experience among the potted palms and pelargoniums, not to mention the azaleas and the Rhododendrons. In fact it was precisely those flowers which were overwhelmingly and magnificently on display in parts of the garden.

Following an erudite exposition by our worthy Leader on the delights to come, including an Olympic flower display alleged to be visible from Mars, (*or was it just passing planes*) we arrived; although those of us who were not accustomed to the big city and its parks were rather overwhelmed by the size of it, (*as the art mistress said*) Most of us consequently split up, though the majority opted at some stage for the mini-train, a useful feature not only for children but for the senior and those enjoying their second childhood, and more seriously a very good opportunity to obtain a commentated overview of the Gardens. Given the many different venues a collective résumé of our progress is not easy, the historically inclined amongst us veering towards the fascinating Georgian Kew Palace and kitchens, unusual for remaining in its original state,, whilst the Temperate and luxuriant Palm House also had their devotees.

Rhododendrons and the Azaleas were in peak bloom and camera lenses were certainly popping in this area, showing photographic Rotarians against a suitably efflorescent background. — at this point it would be to lower the tone to dwell on the 15 tons of Horse Manure which are understood to be regularly delivered from the Horse Guards stables, and are de rigueur for a complete itinerary, but none of our ensemble would admit to such an adventure.

An attempt to obtain from those present the occurrence of any sufficiently momentous incident to justify inclusion in this account elicited only from our Leader that he had come within an inch of parting company with an extremity, fortunately believed to be merely his nose, in a badly behaved sliding door, but this was hardly headlines for the Sun, or even the Chronicle and Echo, and the same number mounted the coach for the return as were counted on!

Finally, a vote of Thanks to Rotarian Stan for the organisation of what Winnie the Pooh would have termed a “*Great Expotition*”, albeit not to the Hundred Acre Wood, and with which fault could not be found (*despite strenuous attempts so to do*) or perhaps Wallace and Gromit would even more appropriately have described as a “**Grand day out**”!

Peter Newham

Rotary Club of Northampton Fund Raising Committee

Car Boot Sale - Sunday 17th June
This date was confirmed by University on 29th May .

The VENUE is:- **The University of Northampton
Park Campus, Boughton Green Road
Northampton, NN2 7AL**

Please indicate if you are able to help by printing your name in any of the slots on the board being circulated. Thank you for your help in this fund raising event.

(Please note the date has been changed from the **24th June**—sorry for any confusion)

Stan Evans



(Ok if I win you can drive the next time)



13th June 2012 at Wicksteed Park

Jim writes:- (an extract from his confirmation to volunteers)

“Our schools have asked for 18 helpers. Thank you for volunteering and we now have enough. Janet and our grandson Alex will also be there. Graham & Evan, I didn’t know you wished to join our select crowd. The arrangements are as usual for the Day and we have the same schools, Northgate, Greenfields & Greenoaks, 113 children + 53 teachers.”

Jim had great difficulty in obtaining the bare minimum of assistance from members in support of the teachers at this event. Even this number is made up by willing family members of the Rotarians involved.

As someone who has enjoyed helping for at least the last 3 years, I don’t understand members’ reluctance to assist with this very worthy enterprise. One or two more helpers would not go amiss so it’s not too late to let Jim know. He says he’s even booked some good weather, just like in previous years—I don’t know how he does it! As you see in the photo above, there are perks! Ed..

Twinning Weekend

The highly successful and enjoyable time we spent with our Rotary friends from Pirmasens and Kiev was crowned by glorious weather, which gave our visitors a warm feeling in every respect.

Our 20 visitors from Germany arrived early Friday afternoon at Birmingham airport in good time for our official Welcome Dinner at the Sunley Conference Centre, where old friends and new soon created a lively atmosphere, helped by the Holcot Players performing "dinner for one" (Miss Sophie). In responding to Roger's welcome, Wolfgang Renz (President of RC Pirmasens) spoke warmly of our relationship and presented a cheque for 500 Euros to be put towards our 5 Club's "Change of Scene" Project. Unfortunately our 4 friends from Kiev came on a later flight and were delayed in immigration at Luton which meant that they were too late to join us that evening.

Our day trip to Cambridge gave us all an outstanding experience, from our guided tours in the morning to meanderings in the afternoon, culminating with a sublime choral evensong at Kings College Chapel, which everyone found most impressive and uplifting. David George's influence enabled us to have great choir stall seats. Dinner on the way home at The George in Spaldwick gave us an opportunity to welcome our Kiev friends officially and for Roger to present Igor Sergeyev with a Paul Harris Award. Larisa Borodina (President) brought greetings from Kiev and reported on the good use of the equipment we had presented to the Children's Oncology Department and the benefits being obtained. Our numbers of 47 at the George seemed to overwhelm them, and although the food was good, the service was very slow which meant a very late return with an anxious driver looking at his hours on the tachometer.

Notwithstanding our late night we promptly set off on Sunday morning for a delightful day in Stratford on Avon, superbly arranged by Elspeth and Brian May. Our first stop was Mary Arden's Farm (Shakespeare's Mother's family home) where the Elizabethan atmosphere was well created, inside and out, and included an entertaining falconry display. Sunday Roast Lunch at the historic Shakespeare Hotel was of a very high standard and impressed our guests. Most of the party walked along to Shakespeare's Birthplace in the afternoon where the displays and presentations were excellent, together with actors in the gardens giving well-known excerpts. Our final tour was backstage at the new Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The modern technology was breath-taking, particularly when we learnt that lighting sequences in faraway theatres, even New York, could be controlled from Stratford. The attention to details in costumes and props demonstrated the huge overheads that productions carry.

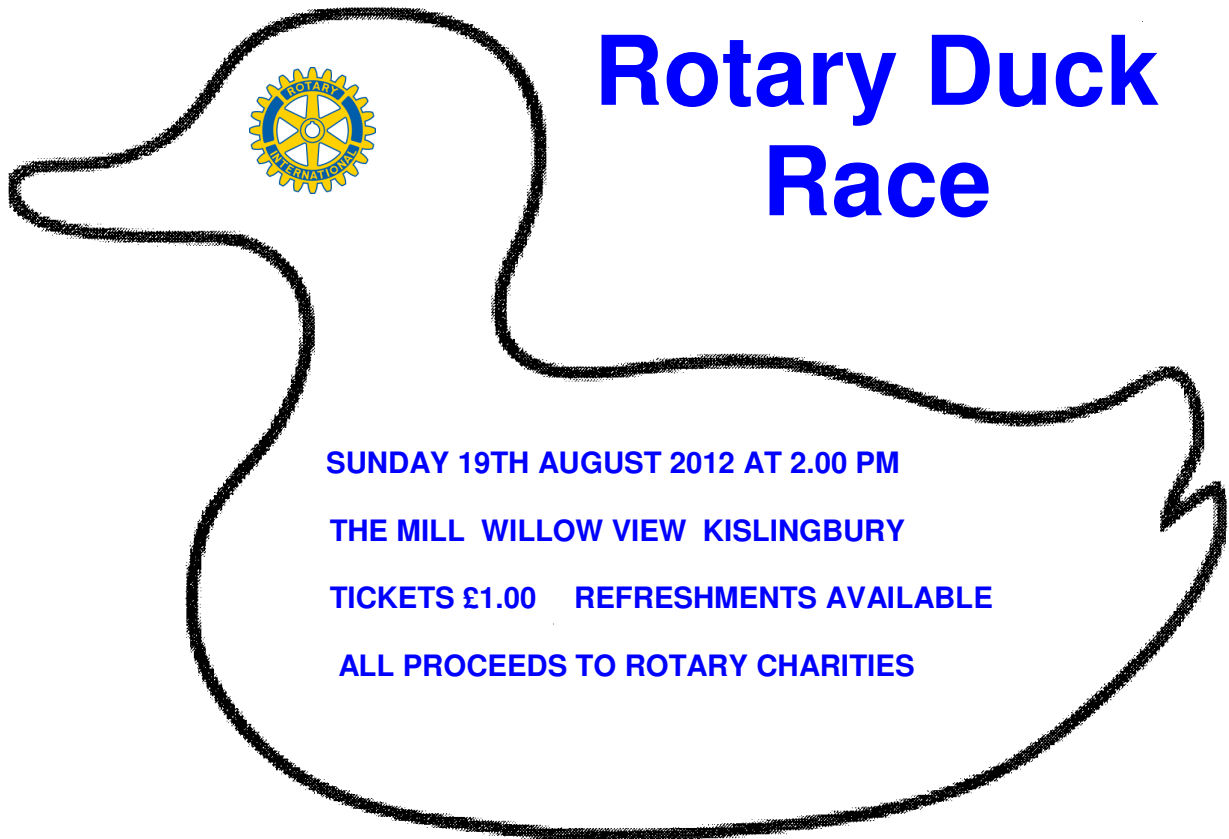
A return to Northampton as scheduled this time, gave opportunity for a relaxing evening of home entertainment or individual arrangements with hosts and guests. One group, including our Ukrainian friends and those from Pirmasens staying at the Holiday Inn plus others, met for an informal buffet and convivial evening at The Four Pears. Igor Sergeyev thanked us for the honour we had bestowed upon him and presented President Roger with £100 from his club to go towards our local social project.

Our farewells and speeches of great appreciation from our visitors were made on Monday morning over coffee at Sunley, concluding a most enjoyable and rewarding time of Rotary Fellowship. We are now left with a pressing Club invitation to Kiev, and the scheduled visit to Pirmasens in two years.

(Many more photos can be viewed on our website)

Michael Pearson





ADVANCE NOTICE IS GIVEN OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENT, WHICH IS NOT TO BE DUCKED BY ANY ROTARIAN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE ACCESS TO CHILDREN OR GRAND CHILDREN, OR ANYONE WHO LOVES MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER.

EIDER AILEEN STEPHENS OR ROSEMARY GOOD WILL BE TWISTING ARMS TO FEATHER THE CAUSES MENTIONED ABOVE. I WAS MERE(LY) ASKED TO FLOAT THIS BY YOU IN THE FIRST INSTANCE - i.e. egging you on, get my drift? Ed.

Editor's Farewell Note

There is nothing more forlorn than an IPP, following his year of hectic activity in the chair. A culmination of 3 years of having to pay particular attention to what is going on in the Rotary world and doing his or her best to lead our great club, as many have so ably done before. I did enjoy my time in office. Then what happens? Make him Newsletter Editor - to keep him quiet; keep him busy!

But it has been, for me, a relaxing task to spend a year as Newsletter Editor and have a bit of fun (at times) in recording the activities of my fellow members through this medium, and now comes the time to let someone else take charge.

I shall now be handing over to Roger and hope that he too finds it as enjoyable as I have. I do hope that you too have enjoyed these recent issues. I thank everyone for their support and contributions (which saved me making it up) and please continue to assist the incoming editor in similar fashion.

David Harrop

(APHORISM:- A short, pithy statement or maxim that expresses a wise or clever observation or a general truth.)

(Some examples:submitted by Stan the Man– Ed.)

1. The nicest thing about the future is . . . that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humour, you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Scratch a cat . . . and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. - like, it could be the right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
15. Be careful about reading the fine print . . . There's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos in strange places? (And rap music will be the Golden Oldies!)
18. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Yugo.
19. After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
20. Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind . . . and the ones that mind don't matter.
21. *Life isn't tied with a bow . . . but it's still a gift.*

(PS -If a word was misspelled in the dictionary, how would we know without asking Peter?)

Life's like that:-

Things Confucius DIDN'T SAY

Man, who wants pretty nurse, must be patient.

Passionate kiss, like spider web, leads to undoing of fly.

Lady who goes camping must beware of evil intent.

Squirrel who runs up woman's leg will not find nuts.

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

Man who eats many prunes get good run for money.

War does not determine who is right, it determines who is left.

Man who fight with wife all day get no piece at night.

It takes many nails to build a crib, but one screw to fill it.

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Man who stands on toilet is high on pot

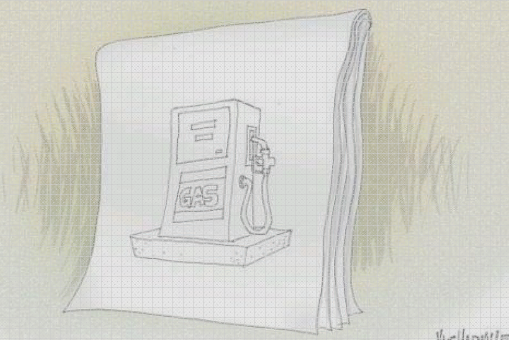
POLICE ARTIST SKETCH OF ROBBERY SUSPECT

=====

Finally, from another old comic:-

"Doctor, I can't pronounce my F's, T's and H's."

"Well you can't say fairer than



Environment

The dramatic forecast was:-

“Britain is facing the coldest May for a century with winter poised to return, bringing snow and bitter winds. “

The reality:-

“The coldest or near coldest May for 100 years in Central and East parts with a record run of bitter Northerly winds. Snow at times especially on high ground in NE / East. Spring put in reverse. This May has provisionally been decidedly average when you look at the month as a whole with an average temperature of 10.1 C, just 0.1 above the long term average. NE and E England recorded an average temperature bang on the long term average of 9.9 C (up to the 28th May). In addition, rainfall was 59.8mm (90% of normal) and sunshine was 192.0 hours (104% of normal).”

So there you go -roll on Summer!

June

This month's Congratulations and Best Wishes go to:-

Andrew Cowling - 11th

Roger Morris - 13th

Paul Bundyford - 26th



Illness of Members. If any Rotarian hears of the illness of a fellow member, their wives, husbands or partners, or any of the extended family of Rotary, please could they phone [Liz Middleton on 01604 830047](tel:01604830047).

CLUB ADMINISTRATION & THINGS SECRETARIAL

Meals: - Apologies for absence. Lunch Group only. Our venue has to be informed **by 10.00 am** on the day of the meeting of the total number of persons attending. Please also note that Rotarians who wish to bring guests must contact the Secretary and inform him, as per the 'Apologies' procedure. When notifying the Secretary of your intention; either to bring a guest or apologise for absence, please ensure it is received in good time by him. **Tel. 01604 821560 (N.B. not to his mobile no. which might not be heard or read in time) or email: richardmac@ntlworld.com**

Duty hosts: - Hosts please note; when it is your turn and you cannot attend, it is your responsibility to arrange for someone else to swap with you; usually with the next person shown on the duty roster. The Duty Host will also be asked to say Grace. If you have any religious objection to this please inform the Secretary in good time.

Copy: -The Newsletter is a vital means of communication in a club of our size with its diversity of activities. The Editor, David Harrop, welcomes contributions from members of all things relating to and/or of interest to our members. Valid comment or suggestions for improvement will also be noted and heeded at his discretion! The majority of members will receive this Newsletter electronically but a few copies will be printed for those members who cannot. These hard copies will be available at the meeting immediately following its circulation.

In order to keep the publication as concise as possible, will contributors please try to confine their submissions to one page only, ideally **using the standard Arial font**. Remember too that the addition of photographs can significantly increase the size of an article. The Editor will attempt to publish, at his discretion, all such articles received in the current or following editions, subject to space being available.

Editor - (Roger Morris, email: rjb@morris.demon.co.uk -- for the July issue)

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 28th

Data Protection Act 1998

A record is maintained by the club of members' personal details. These details are not divulged to anyone other than fellow Rotarians. If you wish to verify or correct the information held please contact the Secretary.