



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

90th Anniversary Year The Rotary Club of Northampton

May 2012

President Roger Morris



Our President writes -The past month or so has seen several significant events, both for the Club and also for me personally. First, on 30th March the Club's International Evening – our swansong at St George's – went off well; I was sorry not to be able to be there myself to hear what I understand was an excellent speech by the CBI Director-General John Cridland CBE, whom we were very fortunate to be able to welcome. On your behalf I must again thank David Allitt and his team for all the work they put in. We have set a high standard in recent years in attracting well-known speakers; somehow we keep on rising to the challenge of maintaining it year after year!

Reference to the St George's swansong leads me into our very significant Monday lunchtime move to Sunley Conference Centre from 2nd April. We had I think been meeting at St George's for approaching twenty-five years (that's around a thousand lunches for anyone from the late 1980s with a respectable attendance record!); the new plan seems to be working well so far at Sunley after four weeks, and again special thanks bear repeating to Graham Mortimer for quietly masterminding the logistics of the move. Maybe if the University takes its campus elsewhere one day we shall have to think again, but let us hope for some stability for the immediate future at least.

At the business meeting on Monday 2nd April I arranged for some wider discussion about the vexed issue of projects *versus* committees. I cannot summarise that debate in a few lines here, but I think it is recognised that in truth we need to combine elements of both if we are to run activities successfully. Any significant event needs a mixture of leading and driving to bring it about; equally no event of any significance can take place without its delivery team of committed (? and "committeed") helpers both before and on the day. I know that President-Elect Brian May is giving more thought to this ahead of the AGM and his Club Assembly. I also recognise that some members – but not all – do miss the former committee approach, though the pattern we were used to of predominantly lunchtime meetings will no longer suit the new situation in which we have a successful and vigorous Satellite Group as a major factor in our Club dynamics. For my final words on this here, I will simply repeat what I said in closing at the business meeting – that it is gratifying, and a major strength of the Club, that when they are approached members are in my experience very willing to respond, and bring whatever they can to the issue in hand.

For the President's Weekend of 20th-22nd April I was very pleased to lead our party of 32 to the Longmynd Hotel in Church Stretton. Most of us, I think, dodged most of the wet weather there most of the time, and for the record on Saturday I led thirteen up onto the top of the Long Mynd itself (I hadn't mentioned beforehand that you could get very near by road if you knew the way!), and on Sunday morning eleven onto the top of Caradoc over on the other side of the valley. The views and scenery of the area, and the Stretton Hills in particular, will I hope have persuaded those new to Shropshire to go and explore further for themselves some day.

Finally as I write, some 27 of us have just been for the 'fifth Monday' social evening to the Fusion Restaurant on Wellingborough Road. I have tried to ensure that we have had some regularly occurring but different social activities this year. Good ideas for these are always welcome!

Roger Morris

MAY 2012

- 1 **NO SATELLITE GROUP**
7 **NO ROTARY** Early May Bank Holiday
8 **SATELLITE GROUP** Speaker
12 *District Assembly Loughborough*
13 *Project reports to Secretary for AGM*
14 **BUSINESS MEETING** David George
15 **SATELLITE GROUP** Social
17 *Club Walk - Peter Newham*
19 *Visit to Kew Gardens*
20 *Car Boot Sale*
20 *Committee/Project plans & budgets to Secretary for Club Assembly*
21 **AGM** 6pm Council Jim Goodchild
22 **SATELLITE GROUP** Speaker
28 **CLUB ASSEMBLY: Plans & Budgets 2012/3** 7.30 Sunley Conference Centre
29 **SATELLITE GROUP** Social

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*
18 **Matthew Bell** Manager Collingtree Care Home - Dementia, Lunch Council
Evan Gregg
19 **SATELLITE GROUP** Speaker
21 *Club Walk - Brian Dickens*
24 *Car Boot Sale*
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**
15 *Dragon Boat Race*
16 **SPEAKER** John Lawrence
17 **SATELLITE GROUP**
19 *Club Walk - PD*
22 *Car Boot Sale*
23 **SPEAKER** 6 pm Council Ian Lowery
24 **SATELLITE GROUP**
30 **7.30 SILENT AUCTION** and Hog Roast at the Old Dairy Farm Upper Stowe

COLOUR CODE:

Sunley Conference Centre LUNCHTIME 12.35 Council 6pm
SATELLITE GROUP MEETINGS 6.15 Four Pears Little Houghton
COMBINED MEETINGS See list above
LUNCHTIME DUTY HOST and GRACE

Rotary Walk



The April Walk- Brington.

Lawrence J., our major-domo for the day, which opened portentously with hugely threatening skies and an atmosphere redolent of the Ides, if not of March, at least of April, can always be relied on to produce good copy, though your humble scribe does have the occasional twinge of conscience in exaggerating (*slightly*) his vertically challenged athletic feats in mastering each rural perambulation.

The April walk was, as they say, *something else* however, and my pre-prepared jibes as to Lawrence, if not of Arabia at least of Brington, leading us through the desert of a drought-ridden, parched and inhospitable North Northamptonshire were replaced by the potential risk of crotch-high wallowing (*at least for the shorter among us*), in mud, and resulted in the expedition being confined to a well thought-out plan B on metalled terra firma.

This proved very effective for the 6 brave souls who had not cried *chicken*, and, either justice or John's religious connections ensued that the Heavens remained actually at bay at least until lunchtime. A good and respectful view of the Althorp Estate, towards which those of us with the facilities so to do touched our respective forelocks, then took place, followed by an erudite ecumenical exposition on the history and late aristocratic occupiers of the impressive Brington Church.

Joined by another 4 members and a semi-penitent deserter, a good lunch at the Saracens Head varied from a frugal low calorie single course to the Stan Evans two course extreme concluding with dessert of camel dropping (*masquerading as Apple Charlotte*) lubricated by glutinous ersatz custard. (*— but mock this we must not, — everyone has their psychological hang-ups, and, maybe Stan had a difficult childhood!!*)

John's risky decision not to cancel turned out however to well justify the risk, and demonstrated that, whilst Rotary may not exactly be the SAS, — "*He Who Dares Wins!*"

Peter Newhamead varied from the low calorie Head

The Rosebowl Trophy

On 2nd April this inter-club trophy was fiercely competed for in the form of a Darts Match between Northampton West, Becket, Nene Valley and ourselves at The Artichoke pub, Moulton. (Unfortunately Apollo couldn't field a team).

One of our players said before the match "I don't see the point" He was promptly dropped. Despite this discard of a myopic member we lost narrowly to West in the final.

It went down to the wire, literally, as having missed our double to win the match our opponents triumphed on the next throw. Exciting stuff! Well done West!

The occasion was conducted in true Rotary fellowship, rounded off by a Curry supper and washed down with some fine ale. We look forward to a chance to win it back in due course.

David Harrop

E & O.E

Life's like that:-

My father drowned. So at the funeral we got him a wreath in the shape of a lifebelt. It's what he would have wanted.

My wife started horse riding to try and achieve some weight loss. It worked. The horse lost 30 lb in the first fortnight.

I had a one night stand once that went horribly wrong. We've been married for 30 years.

My friend told me that he thought he was the worst Vet in the world. I said "Don't put yourself down."

On today's BBC news: "The Scandal of Scotland's Battered Women." (Wow, and I thought they'd gone too far with the deep fried Mars Bars).

My girlfriend was dating a circus clown before we met. I suppose I have some pretty big shoes to fill.

I said to my doctor, "Call it a hunch, but I'm pretty sure I have an abnormal convex curvature of the upper spine."

My 15 year old daughter has just banged her head. I'll be taking her out of that school.

I've found a website where you can send off old bits of gold chain for money. I'll post a link later on.

My local chip shop has started using magazines instead of newspapers. I'm currently eating them out of House and Home.

The two differences between an oral and a rectal thermometer:- the experience and the taste.

Environment

In the absence of any pearls of wisdom from our Environmental Officer:-

A wry thought: won't it be nice when this 'drought' is over and we can return to dry, warm, sunny weather? No more floods, torrential rain or hurricanes! On the up-side, I'm not being inconvenienced by the hosepipe ban; are you?

May

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

Liz Middleton - 2nd

Rosemary Good - 16th

Gethin Jones - 24th



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 - David Harrop - email: djharrop@btinternet.com

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 28th

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