

# ROTARY NEWS

ISSUE NO. 4 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HODDESDON February 2014



Just in case anyone missed it our very own Roger Merton has been recognised by the Queen in the 2014 Honours List. Recommended by another PP (Peter Haynes), Roger is now an MBE and has been mentioned in both local and national despatches. Whilst Rotary is only one ingredient in the mix that earned this prestigious award, Roger's **Club colleagues are very proud of his achievement,** *continued on page 9*

even though the result has involved a measure of leg-pulling and forelock-touching Some of the "Ingredients" taken into account were:

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District 1260 - Chartered 1947 - Club No: 19256 - Charity Number 270925

## A few word's from our President

I would like to welcome you to the latest edition of the bulletin. Christmas and the New Year now seem a distant memory as we move into 2014 and the many events that we have planned for the year ahead.

Since I last wrote we have had a very successful celebrity evening and I would like to record my thanks to everyone involved in organising the evening and to everyone who came along to support it. We raised over £6,350 which will enable us to carry on the good work that we do in the community and throughout the world – It is particularly pleasing to learn that polio has now been eradicated in India.

The Remembrance Service in Hoddesdon was again well attended and it seemed to me that there were more young people attending this year than there has been previously. Once again many of our members were involved in selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

The Carol Service at Halleybury was also an enjoyable evening and I would certainly recommend it as an occasion not to be missed in the lead up to Christmas.

Members of our Club do a lot of good work in the community both as Ro-

tarians and in other aspects of their lives. This work is done both locally and further afield, so it is particularly pleasing when one of our members gets recognised for their work. I am of course referring to Roger Merton and I would like to record my congratulations to Roger on being awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List. Finally my thanks to everyone for their help and support over the last few months.



Ken Ayling

**If it KEEPS, then it's right to be giving it to Foodbank**

You've heard about the people keeping everything in store and shouting from the steeple the fact that they've got more? Well here's a different version to change that little rhyme, for this is no perversion and certainly no crime! Let's cheerfully be popping one item from the list \*, each month, when doing our shopping just one tin - got the list?

*and here is the list . . .*

**Milk (UHT or powdered)  
Sugar (500g)  
Long life fruit juice  
Tins of Soup**

**Pasta sauces  
Sponge pudding (tin)  
Tinned Tomatoes  
Tinned Vegetables  
Breakfast cereals  
Tinned Rice pudding  
Tea Bags  
Jar of instant coffee  
Instant mash potato  
500gms Rice  
500gms Pasta  
Tinned meat/fish  
Tinned fruit  
Jar of Jam  
Packets of biscuits  
Snacks**



**Peter Lardl**



## Local Schools Support SHOEBOX Scheme

Hoddesdon has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Rotary Shoebox Scheme for quite some time. Started in 1994, the Scheme was first intended to provide children in north-east Romania with Christmas gifts. Since then, it has become a national project supported not only by Rotary Clubs but also by individuals, schools, churches, Inner Wheel, Rotaract & Interact and others. It operates all year round, with boxes distributed to known contacts and a guarantee that every Shoebox goes to a deserving child or family. Each year around 60,000 Shoeboxes or gifts are distributed to many different countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including Romania, Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Albania, Croatia and Kosovo.

Toys are especially useful throughout the year for birthday presents in orphanages, homes and hospitals. All age groups, including teenagers, have welcomed the boxes. Deliveries have been made to children (including street kids), to adults in TB and AIDS hospitals, to disadvantaged families, to women's refuges and to older folk in hostels with no supporting families.

The boxes travel either overland by lorry or by sea container, using the services of International Aid Trust - a Christian Charity which has a long association with Rotary in NW England and helps with both transportation and warehouse storage.

Plans for our traditional collection and distri-

kindly agreed to receive filled Shoeboxes on behalf of the Club on Friday 22 November and took the opportunity to thank all the contributors. Over 50 Shoeboxes were collected from Sheredes and later that day a collection was made from John Warner School, where members of the Interact Club and the staff had also been busy. The following Monday over 200 Shoeboxes were delivered to the collection point in Hertford, from where the lorry was due to leave 48 hours later on the next stage of the journey to



Eastern Europe. The consignment included the regular contributions from Hoddesdon Methodist Church and 1st Hoddesdon Boys' Brigade, together with Club members and friends. Also included was one from the Mayor, who had been so impressed with the scheme that she had filled a box over the weekend, with the promise of another one in 2014. Our grateful thanks to all contributors. Jeff Ryan, International Committee Chairman



bution in time for Christmas 2013 were drawn up in September. We are always looking for new contacts and it was agreed that Sheredes School should be approached to seek their involvement, and the School responded positively, with an invitation to address a Year 7 Assembly. Both students and staff were enthusiastic supporters, led by Richard Hammond, Head of Year 7.

To publicise this new partnership the Mayor of Broxbourne, Councilor Bren Perryman,



## WHY JOIN ROTARY?

This is the fourth in our series started in May 2013 and give clues about what our motto "Service Above Self" means in practice. Hoddesdon Rotary Club members join to put back something into our local community and to help worldwide where possible. The theme for 2013 -14 is "Engage Rotary & Change Lives - we have tried to do this in the following ways:-

**Donations – from funds from sponsored events run by our Ways & Means team and others, to fund help for international and local communities.**

**Our 2013 Celebrity Night main black-tie fund-raiser involved football stars Pat Jennings and Bob Wilson seen here with President Ken Ayling. A Quiz Night raised £823. Proceeds from these and other events helped us provide:-**

- £450 to local charities like Home Start and Teens Unite
- £500 for Christmas parcels and presents for women's refugees
- £806 to restore Belmont bus
- An Easter Dinner for local elderly and infirm at Broxbourne Civic Hall @ about £4500 annually
- £487 for evening drives/suppers - again for some of our local elderly
- £300 for Shoeboxes - filled with items for the needy (young and old) - some of which went to E. Europe in time for Christmas. Significant local community involvement was key.
- £200 to Herts Action on Disability
- £134.50 for an I-Pad for a local youngster in special circumstances
- £476 to send 2 local youngsters to participate in the Summer Special Olympics in Bath
- £500 in each of two years towards Sand Dams in Kamba and Maasai regions of semi-arid Kenya
- Polio eradication - £2400 from our total subs and another £400 from a special public appeal where receipts were doubled by Rotary International
- £500 to Guildford Eye Project - tackling avoidable blindness in India
- £7500 from Club member David Johnston's Kilimanjaro sponsorship to Shelterbox with another £1350 from Club funds. Another £7500 will go to Noahs Ark (N. London charity).
- £400 donations to various charitable organisations recommended by our speakers (e.g Wheel Power).
- £500 agreed for Bikes4Africa - 50 refurbished bikes for The Gambia to get kids to school.

### **Other Help – actions rather than funds**

- Annual Health Awareness Day - free blood tests and advice from a tented ambulance.
- Welfare Committee support for Hoddesdon & District Old Peoples organisation
- Car transport for George Fuller Club and H.O.L.D.
- Events for youngsters, such as our Technology Tournament, Essay Competition, Mock Interviews and "Youth Makes Music" at Broxbourne Civic Hall (partnered with East Herts Concert Band and Orchestra), Kids Out Day (disadvantaged kids to Paradise Wildlife Park) and the much-praised Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Training weekend for 18-30 year olds.
- Collections for the Broxbourne Food Bank and British Legion Poppy Appeal
- Periodic local war graves cleaning days.

**These things illustrate what we do. Benefits reward both the recipients and the providers- one of the many satisfactions from membership of Rotary.**



Meanwhile, why not try us out? We are delighted to welcome visitors who wish to find out more about what drives us. Come to a Monday lunchtime meeting and hear first-hand?

CONTACT John Hiscock - [secretary@hoddesdonrotary.org](mailto:secretary@hoddesdonrotary.org)



## THE TRUTH ABOUT BARCLAY PARK

Pam Hallesy inspired Hoddesdon Rotarians on Jan 20th with her story of Broxbourne's open spaces.

In Rye Park Pam began to bring new life to the northern parks of our Borough, for which she is the Manager. Initially the members of tennis, bowls and football clubs were reluctant to do any digging, planting or to join in other activities to improve the appearance of the park, but after an uphill struggle a *Friends* group was formed and is now helping to make a real difference. In the near future it is planned to apply for a Heritage Lottery Grant to refurbish Rye Park radically, so as to make it an even more attractive place for local walkers, garden enthusiasts and games players.



Meanwhile, Pam reported, she is well supported by a group of residents by the formation of the *Friends of Wormley Open Spaces* who have been granted the status of a Nature Reserve because of the rare plants which grow in the top field. A *Green Flag* has been awarded to Wormley regularly each year.



In 2012 Pam gave a presentation to the Broxbourne Environmental Panel in the Council Chamber at Bishops' College explaining her vision for Barclay Park and the need for a *Friends* group. She explained that such a group would be able to apply to various funds not otherwise available. In a very short time the *Friends of Barclay Park* had established a Committee, opened a bank account and

raised initial finance from local residents, including a substantial donation from The Hoddesdon Society, making up the pump-priming contribution required before an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund could succeed.

With £75,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund the work of dredging the lake, removing hundreds of carp (which had become diseased because of overcrowding) could be put in hand. The edges of the lake were rebuilt with wooden stakes and reeds, protected by wire mesh, through which they are now growing into an attractive border. The Barclay Jubilee Walk, on higher ground beyond the lake, was officially "opened" by the Mayor in Jan 2014 and trees (donated by local people, some in memory of family members) were symbolically "planted" among the surrounding ground cover plants which will create a patriotic



colour scheme for this corner in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. As well as local residents, Barclays Bank and MSD have participated by contributing plants and manpower to help with the planting. Peter Lardi gave the vote of thanks to Pam for a very colourful and well prepared talk which made clear what a wonderful opportunity we all have on our doorstep to see and experience the beauty of this open space which Robert Barclay and his family donated to the people of Hoddesdon. The Mayor of Broxbourne holds the Green Flag, awarded for the first time this year to Barclay Park, certifying the high quality of this open space. Clear-



flowing Spital Brook now keeps the Barclay Park lake fresh and free of the algae which had been accumulating regularly on its surface. The Sign, unveiled at 10 am on Saturday 18th January, names the benefactors and volunteers involved in the creation of Barclay Jubilee Walk.





## Visits to Other Clubs

When the above words are read out each Monday at our lunchtime meeting there is almost always a deafening silence, and I understand that there are many Rotarians throughout the world who have never visited any club but their own. I've not been to many other clubs myself but those I have visited have always been interesting in very different ways. I thought people might like to read of some of my experiences and I hope these might encourage members who have not already done so to take the opportunity to visit other clubs when they are away from home. The starting point is usually to ask our Club Secretary to look in the International Directory and let you know the names and dates and times of meetings for clubs in the area you will be visiting. Often, of course, you will be unable to fit a visit into your schedule but, if you can, it will almost certainly be worth the effort. Shortly after I joined Rotary in the mid-1980s I went to the United States for a couple of weeks to visit a friend who was working there. We stayed in Connecticut and I was able to make two visits to the Westport Club. This was at the time when "women in Rotary" was a hot topic, and the American clubs had been told (following a test case in California) that they must amend the constitution of every club to permit women to join. It was also a time when classification of membership was more rigidly enforced so I



was surprised to find that about two-thirds of the members were lawyers. The "get-out" was that they were real estate lawyers, matrimonial lawyers, corporate lawyers etc. (you get the drift!). The proposed amendments to the constitution were debated extensively and numerous suggestions were made but without any agreement being reached. I then said to my neighbour "Why don't you just say ..... (I forget the actual words)" and he said "What a good idea". He stood up and made the suggestion which was immediately accepted, so my visit resulted in a more permanent impact than I had anticipated! Just before our daughter was due to go to University to study Russian and German I contacted the four Rotary Clubs in Munich and one of the club members agreed to take her for two weeks to brush up her German language skills. We subsequently had their son to visit us in the UK and we also visited them and attended a concert which their club had organised. In 1993 we visited Australia and I attended a breakfast meeting of the Sydney Cove Club held on a yacht in Sydney Harbour. There were about 200 members and visitors present and, because I had come from the farthest distance, I was asked to stand up and tell them something about our club. I was able to tell them about our major fund raiser at the time, the Traction Engine Rally. Later in the same holiday I visited the Alice Springs Club where I spent some time after the meal putting invitations into envelopes for an event they were organising to promote Aboriginal Artisanry. I remember being fined because I couldn't remember if our club already had an Alice Springs banner!

John Neighbour



As we have done each year recently, the International Service Committee placed an order with Cwmbran Rotary Club for their Christmas Puddings. Jeff Ryan, currently chair of International, took delivery of the consignment in November and they were all duly handed to Rotarians who had mostly sampled the excellent puddings previously. Jeff was just thinking about settling the account as the date of the District Committee drew near. Imagine Jeff's surprise, on the very morning of the Committee meeting, to hear a knock at the door where there stood a burly postman with an additional large parcel of Christmas Puddings, totally extra to the order. Without hesitation Jeff placed the parcel into the boot of his car and that very night carried them to Tilsworth. As delegates were leaving the hall, With the help of Eric Beard and Terry Fisher, he sold the entire consignment and returned home with an empty carton and a pocketful of helpful additional cash for the Alzheimer's charity which Cwmbran were supporting at Christmas. Well done Jeff & Co

Peter Lardi

## THE 200 CLUB

2014 saw the commencement of the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the Club and over the last 10 years over £36,000 has been paid out in prizes and a similar sum handed over to the club charitable spending arm for expenditure both locally and nationally but far and above the largest expenditure was on the annual Easter Dinner for the local retired folk which still continues today. The membership has fallen in recent years and this can be accounted for by a combination economic conditions and a dropping off in the number of non Rotarians remaining in the Club. The cost of joining is £52.00 per annum, most members pay by Standing Order, with draws being made on a quarterly basis. *We are looking for new members to join*, and get to the target figure of 200. The continued success of the 200 Club is vital to the continuation and furtherance of the charitable work carried on by the Rotary Club. If you know of any local people or businesses that would like to join I will be glad to hear from them. Interest in becoming a Member should be made to me the undersigned and any approach will be followed up by filling in a simple one sided sheet. A number is allocated for membership which then goes forward in the Quarterly draws.

**ROGER ABRAHAM**  
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## 2014 Ways & Means Events

**The Ways & Means Committee are pleased to announce preliminary details our fundraising events for the year**

**Summer Jazz Lunch**

**July/August**

**Venue: TBA**

**Celebrity Evening**

**Date: 7th November**

**Venue: Broxbourne Civic Hall**

**4 course dinner**

**With Mick Miller & MC Lindsay Jones**



**Contact Peter Haynes or Roger Merton**  
**MBE**

**01992 446016/01992 441410**



## British Railways Totem Signs

Our speaker on 25 November was Paul Leadley talking about his collection of British Railways 'totem' station signs. Paul's interest began around 1980, when he acquired his first sign from Collectors Corner, near Euston Station. At that time station signs could be obtained for as little as £5. Totem signs first appeared following the creation of British Railways in January 1948. Over time they were fitted to a majority of stations. For operating purposes the newly nationalised network was divided into six Regions, each of which was allocated a separate colour for signage etc:  
 Eastern Region - dark blue : London Midland Region - maroon : North Eastern



Region - orange/  
 tangerine : Scottish  
 Region - light blue :  
 Southern Region -  
 green : Western  
 Region - brown  
 In England and  
 Wales the new  
 Regions reflected  
 the boundaries of  
 their former owners:  
 the Southern  
 and Western Regions  
 replacing the

Southern Railway and Great Western Railway respectively. The exception was the former London & North Eastern Railway where responsibility was split between Eastern and North Eastern Regions. In contrast the Scottish Region assumed responsibility for all railways in Scotland. Paul explained that many individuals owned one or two totems. Others, such as himself, were collectors who routinely bought, sold or exchanged totems. He brought along several signs demonstrating the two themes of his collection - local signs and those with a bird connection. Of particular interest was the dark blue Eastern Region sign marked Broxbourne - one of only six believed to have survived. It was removed at the time of electrification of the line from Liverpool Street to Bishop's Stortford around 1960. The other photograph illustrates a second Broxbourne sign, displayed at the Kidderminster Railway Museum in Worcestershire. Paul knows of two other owners of Broxbourne totem signs, leaving two unaccounted for. With the exception of Cheshunt, Paul has a totem sign for each station between Tottenham Hale and Audley End. Also 'missing' from his collection are totems from Rye House and Ware on the branch line from Broxbourne to Hertford East - so if any reader can help in this respect, please make contact. And on the subject of birds, Paul has totems from (amongst others) Gleneagles (light blue), Leighton Buzzard (maroon) and the delightfully named Swan Village (brown). Prices have increased dramatically since the early 1980's, when the last of the Regional totems were replaced by standardised British Rail signs (black lettering on white backgrounds). Totem station signs feature regularly in railway auctions, with minimum prices usually in the hundreds. Others, because of rarity or some other feature, regularly realise four figure sums. The current world record for a sale through auction is a staggering £12,700 for Paddington in 2009 - food for thought indeed!

Jeff Ryan



**This is an extract from the temporary rules put in place at Richmond Golf Club during the Second World War. No wonder Hitler could not defeat us with this wonderful attitude to the worst he could do - anyone actually finishing a round of golf would deserve a medal!**

### Richmond Golf Club

#### Temporary Rules 1940

1. Players are asked to collect Bomb and Shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to mowing machines
2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonable, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways or in bunkers within a club length of the ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball laying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Result one stroke!





# YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE.



(Continued from page 1)

**Married to Jennifer for 50 years (background, not a reason for the MBE) with 2 children and 4 grandchildren**

**50 years in the tobacco industry: Hon, Treasurer of the Trade Association for over 20 years and President for 2 years. Sir John Harvey-Jones Award for Initiative in 1991, a Lifetime Achievement award in 2006 and still involved in the trade.**

**Joined the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders (Master 1996/7) and became a Freeman of the City of London. Remains Benevolent Fund Trustee and Welfare Committee chairman.**

**50 years + from 1960 running Youth Clubs in London and outer London, from worker to Chairman. Trustee (and Deputy Chairman since 2011) of the Federation of London Youth Clubs - 75,000 youngsters in 400 organisations.**

**Over 30 years as Honorary Treasurer of Ware, later East Herts, Citizens Advice Bureau and still a Trustee/Board Director**

**Active member of our Rotary Club after joining in 2003 - President in 2011-12, current Ways & Means Chairman. Herts FA awarded Roger a special 25-year service certificate in 2011. He joined the Committee of Hoddesdon Town Football Club in 1979 and has been Chairman from 1994.**

**Typically modest - *I couldn't do all this without my wife and everyone else supporting me* - Roger is nevertheless both surprised and "chuffed" by his award.**

**Away from his many busy activities Roger likes nothing more than a quiet snooze when the opportunity arises.**

**His Hoddesdon Rotary Club colleagues are not at all surprised and are delighted for him.**



**The Rotary Club of Hoddesdon has inducted its 40th member Lawrence Bone, a retired banker who managed a portfolio of high net worth clients. He lives in Hoddesdon with wife Suzanne. Lawrence is no stranger to Rotary: he first joined our Club in 1991 but had to withdraw for business reasons. He has been a member, then Chairman of Hoddesdon Voluntary Council and is now enthusiastic about making a practical contribution to our rotary fund raising and fellowship.**



*It's on the tip of my tongue, but I can't quite remember. Does it ring a bell? What was it? Might have been at the golf tournament where I was able to scout around for a prize. Or was it when I had to stop the car on the way to the pub as four swans crossed the road? The passengers thought it quite funny. I've got to get a hold on this idea of giving people lifts... I can't manage a fuller diary, but it's good to take the kids out, especially the not-yet-twenties united in the idea of what they want to do; perhaps they have a young leader amongst them; they could hunt around at a conference to find one. It would be easier to go in a nice bright bus rather than my car... had to get the AA out the other day to start it! It might have been a computing problem. I had a computer, but it was replaced; that set my heart racing, but I was told to keep taking the tablet. I think it is quite a grave problem and special needs of Olympic proportions must be addressed to cope with it. If only I could remember! Ah! Beans. That's it... beans. Oh... might have been sponge pudding.*

**What do they serve for a dinner at Easter, or give as a present at Christmas for that matter?**

Being tuned in to the Secretary's sense of humour, I'm sure you've all recognised the 22 projects that have been initiated or supported by the Community Service Committee in the past 12 months.

In case you need some prompting here they are in alphabetical order. Fit them into the story!

- Assistance for a child with Hunter's Disease to attend a national conference (£100 towards the £285 total).

- Belmont Bus: completely refurbished, repaired, and made 'good as new'
- Broxbourne Foodbank support: now a collection of food on the first Monday of each month
- Christmas presents for about 30 children at the Women's Refuge
- District Scout Fete: putting competition and sponsorship of the coconut climbing trees
- Easter Dinner: over 300 people transported, fed and entertained
- Four Swans Vision: support and advice
- George Fuller Club monthly transport
- HAD (Herts Association for the Disabled): £200 towards District support for a computer
- Health Awareness Day: 225 people had blood pressure tests
- Hoddesdon Christmas Parcels Scheme, supported with £200
- Hoddesdon Organisation for Local Disabled monthly transport
- Homestart supported with £200 towards an outing for families under pressure
- Kids Out to Paradise Wildlife Park: six children from Hailey Hall taken



- Purse bells for 300 born-early ladies
- REPoD Memory Box (Belmont Home)
- RYLA: Three youngsters nominated

Special Needs Olympics at Bath: support of £476 (match funded by County Council) for two youngsters to participate

**teens:unite**  
FIGHTING CANCER

partici-

Summer Evening Drives: six evenings for about 12 people per evening arranged and hosted

Tablet computer provided in conjunction with the Five Clubs for an 11 year old with Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy



Teens Unite supported with £250

War Graves: putting crosses of Remembrance on them in November.

The Committee has also been working on, but not yet succeeded, in putting a gift in memory of Gerald Cookson at the St Elizabeth's school which was so close to his heart.

To be continued...

David Bradburn, on behalf of the Community Service Committee

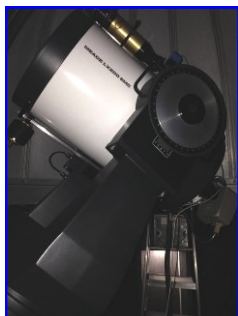


The title stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. Rotary International designed the programme and it has been offered in UK since 1972. It is an all-weather outdoor activities weekend during which candidates have intensive training in a wide variety of situations – a little like Outward Bound. There are challenges, fun and adventure for all. In some instances, if outstanding leaders emerge they may be selected for a three day leadership course in California. Our consistent feedback is that, everyone who takes part really enjoys the experience and emerges better equipped to tackle what life throws at them. Youngsters and young adults between 18 and 30 years are eligible, if you know someone who you think could benefit please contact the Community Service Chairman



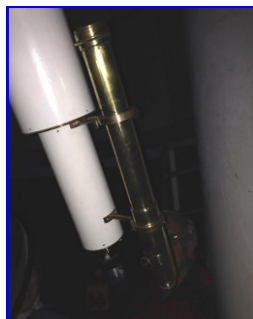
## Visit to Bayfordbury Observatory on Tuesday 28 January

A group of 37 members, spouses and guests was scheduled for this visit but last minute illness etc. reduced our final numbers to just 24. Unfortunately, John Neighbour had failed to organise the right sort of weather so we “enjoyed” a damp and cloudy evening. The observatory is part of the University of Hertfordshire and carries out valuable research work in conjunction with other similar organisations throughout the world. Our visit started at 7 p.m. with a short illustrated talk by Gra-



ham, a mature post-graduate student. He set the scene starting with our own planet and gradually working up through the solar system to other stars within our own Milky Way galaxy and then on to other galaxies. It was fascinating to see some of the scale diagrams. I think we all knew how small the earth was compared with Jupiter and how small Jupiter was compared with the sun, but it came as a surprise to me to see how insignificant in size our own sun was in comparison with some other stars such as Betelgeuse and Arcturus, which is the brightest star visible in the northern hemisphere. We also heard how an early French astronomer, Charles Messier, devised a numbering system in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to classify “fuzzy objects” which were getting in the way of his observations. These turned out later to be other galaxies but modern day astronomers still use the Messier Catalogue to classify these. One of these galaxies, known as M82, has been setting the astronomy world on fire when on 21 January (just a week ago!) someone spotted an explosion known as a category 1a supernova. Apparently this is one of the closest such events to have occurred and is only a mere 11.4 million light years away. After our introductory talk we split into two groups. Our sub-group was taken outside by Alex (a research student) and Peter (another mature student) for a tour of the telescopes. There are some radio telescopes which we looked at briefly. They look a bit like TV satellite dishes but somewhat larger. We then were taken inside three of the small observatories but because of the rain we were unable to see anything or even open up the observatory ceiling. We were given some technical information about the equipment but this was rather over my head,

although I do remember Alex telling us that part of one of the telescopes was over 100 years old. We later heard that the second group visiting the telescopes was luckier and they were able briefly to view Jupiter through a break in the clouds. We returned to the main building, passing the Patrick Moore building on the way, and then visited the small planetarium which has been in existence for about 3 years. Another student, Lee, gave us a very interesting demonstration. He first pointed out some familiar (and some less familiar) constellations and zoomed in on Jupiter to show us a larger image of that planet with its moons. He also zoomed in on galaxy M82 (mentioned above) and showed us that this closely resembled our own spiral galaxy. Lee dealt very well with a number of questions, one of which involved explaining how we measure the distance from us of various celestial objects. The nearer ones (just a few million light years away!) can be measured by parallax. When you hold your finger in front of your face and look at it first with one eye and then the other, the finger appears to move. They can do this with stars etc. by viewing them from different points on the earth and using trigonometry to work out the distance. For more distant objects they use a method involving “standard candles” taking as their reference point a star which has a steady and constant output (OK, so I didn’t completely understand it!). I was particularly reassured when Lee said that he also had no real concept of the distances we were talking about – they were just really numbers. Back to the main group for a final session lead by Lee. His particular area of interest uses infra-red light and he showed us the images produced by an infra-red camera. Infra-red light behaves in a very different way from “normal” light and to demonstrate this he asked Alex to put a black plastic bag over her head and then pointed the camera at her. Her image could be clearly seen on the screen. Conversely, he next asked her to hold a clear sheet of Perspex in front of her through which we could see her clearly, but when he pointed the camera at her there was a large rectangular opaque area where she was holding the





sheet of Perspex. Overall slightly disappointing because of the inclement weather but nonetheless a very interesting and enlightening evening, and thanks to Graham, Alex, Lee and Peter for giving up their time and passing on their enthusiasm. To conclude the visit, Lee took a photo of our group with his infra-red camera which is detailed below, and if any of you are able to identify anyone from this then you obviously have the eye to become an astronomer.

- 1. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.**
- 2. A will is a dead giveaway.**
- 3. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.**
- 4. A backward poet writes inverse.**
- 5. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.**
- 6. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.**
- 7. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.**
- 8. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.**
- 9. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.**
- 10. A calendar's days are numbered.**

## **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

On 10<sup>th</sup>, February we were given a presentation by Dr. Karen Lehner accompanied by John Adler MBE, JP, on the dedicated work done by the Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled. They are both trustees of the Farm with John specialising in fund raising and Karen still finding time to help with the riding aspects as well as being a paediatrician with many years experience of working with children with special needs. Barrow Farm is a specially equipped riding centre providing the opportunity for children and young adults with special needs and disabilities to develop their abilities and enrich their lives through riding. It has long been recognised that riding provides an all round physiotherapy benefit and helps in many other ways including self confidence, learning patience and equipping riders with coping skills and discipline. These, and many other benefits, are gained while the young riders are having fun!

To provide this service Barrow Farm has both an indoor and outdoor riding area, 12 highly trained ponies, and a large voluntary work force supporting 4 regular staff. The Farm currently provides for over 100 riders each week including pupils from 3 schools specialising in disabilities and learning difficulties. The success of Barrow Farm is such that, sadly, they have a waiting list for riders.



## Great Britain – Early 1914

At the dawn of 1914 what really concerned the British Government? Certainly not war in Europe – much more likely civil war in Ireland. Home Rule had been a political hot potato for decades but the Home Rule Bill, about to reach its third reading in Parliament, provided for a united Ireland. Ulster prepared to fight for separation, recruiting 100,000 men for the Volunteer Force (UVF), commanded by a British General with British officers who had resigned their commissions. A formidable force, it received arms from foreign powers and engaged in serious military exercises. Churchill, at the Admiralty, sent the Third Battle Squadron to Belfast, to be dubbed as “the butcher of Belfast”, and the military presence was increased. In July the Home Rule Bill passed its third reading but the Lords passed an amendment excluding Ulster. Only the outbreak of war in Europe prevented a serious crisis as the “Irish Problem” was put on hold.

Closer to home the Suffragettes, active since 1912, stole newspaper headlines. Sylvia Pankhurst was arrested in January and, in response Mary Richardson slashed Velasquez’s “Rokeby Venus” in the National Gallery for which she served six months in prison and which set off a spate of further



art vandalism. Others threw bombs at London churches and disrupted services. Fifty-seven women were arrested attempting to reach Buckingham Palace while a petition, said to be signed by a million people, was presented to Parliament. Yarmouth Pier

was burnt down in April. Little wonder that the Bosnian crisis in July made few headlines.

Throughout Industrial Europe social and political unrest was endemic, threatening the collapse of autocratic rulers and even democratic governments. In January builders went on strike in London, a strike which lasted until the war began with terrible suffering among the strikers’ families. The Yorks miners followed in March, the Electricians in April, the Railway workers in June. Even during the war unrest was simmering



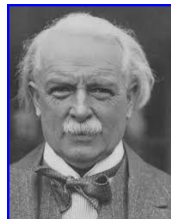
and strikes quite common. Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, described the arms build-up in Europe as “organized insanity”. The “Naval Race” with Germany had stretched British finances to the limit, financing 24

Dreadnoughts. The Government aimed to cut costs and taxes and the idea of compulsory military service was rejected in February and the Chief of the General Staff, Sir John French, resigned. The Regular Army, experienced only in colonial conflicts, was barely large enough to cope with Ireland, and unlikely to make any im-

pact on war in Europe, fast becoming a military continent, with 7.2m in the German and Austrian armies, and 9.2m in the Russian and French. Only the Royal Navy presented a dominant fighting force.

Britain’s international commitment was unclear. Her blood-ties with Germany were very strong but her Naval strength (13 Dreadnoughts) and colonial ambitions expressed in sabre-rattling speeches aroused suspicions. This had encouraged closer ties with France and Russia. Though these fell short of military alliance they did include unofficial military talks and an agreement to defend the North Sea and Channel while France covered the Med. Most significantly Britain, with France and Germany, had guaranteed the neutrality of Belgium in 1839, her only concrete commitment and it was this that tipped the scales in August 1914.

Andrew Hambling



The Rotary Club of Preston is saddened by the death of its past president and honorary member, the footballing legend, Sir Tom Finney. Sir Tom joined the Rotary Club of Preston in December 1961 and was president for 1971/72. He always showed the same loyalty and commitment to Rotary as he did to Preston North End Football Club, attending meetings on a regular basis until only recently. As well as being an active Rotarian, his post football career was dedicated to serving the local community in Preston. He served as chairman of the local health authority and chairman of the local magistrates bench. Keith Cameron, President of the Rotary Club of Preston said: "His dedication was widely appreciated and he was much loved in the local area, as much for his community service as his legendary footballing skills. Such was his popularity that even local criminals were known to brag when they were sent to prison that it was Tom Finney that had 'sent them down'. At Rotary street collections, Tom was always placed in the busiest parts of town and inevitably had the heaviest tin by the end of the day." Rotarians held a special celebration to mark his 90th birthday at Preston North End football ground in 2012. The event attracted Rotarians from all over Lancashire who shared many stories of Tom's exploits on and off the field. He will be greatly missed.

**shelter  
BOX**

**On the 6th January our guest Speaker was David Swain of Barton Le Clay Rotary Club. David is a Shelterbox ambassador and came to give us an update on the excellent work that**

**has been done in recent months for both Syria and the Philippines following the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan. A vote of thanks was given by David Johnston, and a cheque for £8850 (15 boxes) raised through our Killmanjaro climb and other events organized by the International committee was presented by President Ken.**



#### **A CASE FOR MORE WINE**

A herd of buffalo can move only as fast as the slowest buffalo, and when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular culling of the weakest members.

In much the same way the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, we all know, kills off brain cells, but naturally it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first.

Therefore does regular consumption of wine eliminate the weaker brain cells, constantly making the brain a faster and more efficient machine ?



## Foundation helps Mercedes

**MERCEDES** lived in one of the poorest areas of Honduras called 'The valley of the Deer'. High in the mountains, this area is a six hour drive on winding gravel roads from the nearest city. Most homes consist of two rooms with adobe walls and mud floors. One room is a kitchen with an adobe oven. The other is a bedroom with one bed for the entire family. It goes without saying that there is no running water. Mercedes would regularly go to the city to beg for food for her family and her frantic desperation led people to think she was crazy. Her husband had been hurt and could not walk and was no longer able to support his family so it was up to her. She was without hope and hungry most of the time. One day, Mercedes walked into a clinic for some medical care. Her sad hungry eyes caught the attention of a friend of Rotary. She saw something in



Mercedes that made her want to reach out and help. She contacted a Rotarian and with only a small effort by a few Rotarians Mercedes was provided with some seeds for planting in her garden, an old manual sewing machine and some fabric. She promised to put her gifts to good use as she returned to her valley with joy. Many months later, the Rotarians visited her home. Not only had she made clothes for herself and her children, she had also made some to sell to others. Not only had she planted the seeds to provide her family with food, they had also grown enough to sell to others as well. Through their efforts, they raised enough money to buy a small piece of land with a few coffee plants on it and room to plant corn and

beans. Seeing that Mercedes had potential, the Rotarians asked her what else she could use. She suggested that a source of water would be immensely valuable to the community because in the dry season the locals went hungry. Nothing would grow and when the rains did come, they were so fierce that they often washed away the newly planted seeds. A well would provide them with water all the time, allowing crops to grow year round so they could feed their families. The Rotarians from Honduras and clubs in Houston in Texas (where I heard the story) raised the money and were successful in getting a matching grant to provide a well in the middle of the valley of the deer. In addition they provided more seeds, farming equipment and sewing machines. I heard from a friend in Houston recently that just last year they went back to the valley to find that Mercedes and several of her neighbours had built new houses. She escorted them to the fields which were once dry and dusty to show them row upon row of bean sprouts. Many of the local residents came out and proudly showed the Rotarians their own lush green fields. The project had changed the lives of an entire village. Their joy and pride showed in their smiling faces, especially that of Mercedes. She will tell you about the value of our Foundation and how it can help the hungry, the homeless, the sick and those without hope.

**teens:)** unite  
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# Ending polio worldwide.



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To show the current situation, here is a selection of facts and figures extracted from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative website as at 22 January 2014. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Its goal is to eradicate polio worldwide. The first four cases of wild poliovirus type1 (WPV1) have been reported for 2014. All cases were reported from North Waziristan, Pakistan. North Waziristan is the district with the largest number of children being paralyzed by poliovirus in the world. As long as polio still exists in reservoirs like North Waziristan, the world will always be at risk of outbreaks. Immunization activities have been suspended by local leaders since June 2012. It is critical that children

in all areas are vaccinated and protected from poliovirus. Immunizations in neighbouring high-risk areas are being intensified, to further boost population immunity levels in those areas and prevent further spread of this outbreak. The climate of violence continues in the country, with three health workers and accompanying security personnel killed this week, an act condemned by the government and political and religious leaders. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative mourns with the families of the victims. The WHO/UNICEF Strategic Plan for Polio Outbreak Response in the Middle East outlines the action plan for Syria and neighbouring countries in response to the circulation of wild poliovirus following importation. The objective is to stop the outbreak in Syria by the end of March 2014 and prevent any further international spread. No new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases is now 16. Prior to the outbreak, wild poliovirus was last reported in Syria in 1999. WHO and UNICEF are committed to working with all organizations and agencies providing humanitarian assistance to Syrians affected by the conflict. This includes vaccinating all Syrian children no matter where they are, whether in government or contested areas, or outside Syria.

**Wild Poliovirus (WPV) cases by country in 2013**

<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Cameroon</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Somalia</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total in 2013</b>	<b>389</b>
<b>Total in endemic countries</b>	<b>157 (Pakistan,</b>
<b>Afghanistan, Nigeria)</b>	
<b>Total outbreak</b>	<b>232</b>



## MOCK INTERVIEWS

Rotary commitment to young people and school pupils in particular is well known: we try to make a difference through challenge (e.g. our Technology Tournament) reward (our bursary scheme for those taking initiatives towards vocational and personal development goals), through encouragement (essay writing and public speaking) and participation in events like our Easter Dinner for the local elderly.

For many years we have joined others in supplying committed individuals for Mock



Interviews at a variety of schools including John Warner, Broxbourne and Cheshunt schools. Our latest organisers are from Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce. The feedback we get is very encouraging – the youngsters who take part feel they have gained real insight into a critically important part of the transition from school to work: those who do the interviewing consistently derive a great deal of satisfaction and it is not a difficult task. Professionals can charge £85 an hour but we are noble beasts naturally. Mock interviews allow mistakes to be made before they count. Face to face coaching has greater impact than the written word on the pupils involved. We set a friendly but realistic scene, show what should be expected in a proper interview and how to improve self-presentation. The aim is to give practical guidance and experience that emphasise the positive, draws attention to weak areas and generally boosts confidence. We draw on whatever wisdom age confers plus our business experience and it seems to work! Schools prepare their pupils (we have worked with 14 year olds up to 6<sup>th</sup> Form) sometimes with a specific job specification but lately without – in case some are not interested in the job described and do not commit to the process. We always tell them to research when facing a real job so that intelligent

comment and questions can be inserted into the interview to show initiative. They bring a CV, academic record and attendance notes. We have scripted questions but tend to adapt “on the hoof” a little: we are looking at punctuality, dress, body language, attitude, level of confidence, quality of response and understanding of the hints and clues being given. It is important that each pupil has a firm grip on their individual USPs (Unique selling Points) – it is surprising how many have not fully conveyed the talents they have. We rarely encounter the slightest bad attitude: many are a little nervous at the start but go away with a smile. We give each pupil specific feedback on their performance before passing it to the organisers with our overview at the end of the Mock Interview session. Being involved makes me, for one, proud to be a Hoddesdon Rotarian.

John Hiscock

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### Dates for your Diary

**3rd March Food bank Collection**  
**12th March Essay Competition Prize Giving**  
**19th March District Council at Tilsworth**  
**20th March Easter Dinner**  
**31st March 5th Monday at Brickendon**  
**7th April Food bank collection**  
**11th April RIBI Conference**  
**28th April Andrew Hambling: The Somme**  
**1st May Visit to The Somme**  
**10th May District Conference**  
**19th May Neil Haynes: My Life Has been a miserable failure (sound interesting :))**  
**2nd June Food Bank Collection**  
**7th June Ware Rotary Fete**  
**13th June RYLA**  
**14th June Dragon Boat race**  
**17th June Technology Tournament**  
**30th June 5th Monday at Brickendon and Presidential Handover**

### The Object of Rotary

Is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular:

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarians personal, business and community life.

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

### WHO'S WHO DURING 2013-2014 IN HODDESDON ROTARY CLUB

President: Ken Ayling  
President Elect: Peter Haynes  
Vice president: Ted Gradosielski  
Immediate Past President: Keith Theobald  
Secretary: John Hiscock  
Treasurer: John Glover

#### Council Members

Eric Beard, Terry Fisher David Johnston,  
Peter Lardi, Robert Lorenzini

#### Chairman of Service Committees

Club Service - Peter Haynes  
Community Service - Arnold Granat  
Foundation - Meirion Morris  
International - Jeff Ryan  
Membership - Howard Connor  
Vocational - Chris Waddington  
Ways & Means - Roger Merton

-----  
Attendance: Bill Statham  
Auditor: David Kemp

Bulletin & Communications: David Johnston  
Chase the Ace: Terry Fisher  
Code of Practice: David Bradburn  
Entertainment: Peter Shepherd  
Evening Drives: Roger Lee  
Extension: Meirion Morris  
Friends of Rotary: Keith Theobald  
George Fuller: Arnold Granat  
Sergeant at Arms: Barry Fitzpatrick  
Sport: Robert Lorenzini  
200 Club: Roger Abraham  
Club Archivist: Tommy Knight  
Speakers/Programme: Neil Haynes

**Speaker's Corner:** We are always looking for any of your interesting friends/acquaintances who would be able to come and talk to the club and educate us. Please contact Neil Haynes on 07802 632865 or [neil.haynes@paulwallace.co.uk](mailto:neil.haynes@paulwallace.co.uk)

