

# <sup>1</sup>ROTARY NEWS

**ISSUE NO. 6 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HODDESDON JULY 2014**

## **THE CLUB DISHES UP ANOTHER RESOUNDING SUCCESS**



Following the death in June 2013 of Rotarian John Stagg, for so many years the architect of Hoddesdon Club Annual Dinner for the elderly and disabled, there was a question mark over its continuity. There was only one person brave (or rash) enough to take on the challenge - Arnold Granat, new chairman of the Community Services Committee. Many looked on in trepidation as Arnold got his act together. Well, he did and as a result, some 336 guests were treated to a great evening out, with food & wine, bingo, raffle and professional entertainment. In addition, transport was provided by Club members and minibuses provided by the Club. Compliments abounded in regard to the food, Mike Marandi the entertainer and, many aspects of the evening, including excellent comments and praise for the students from Hailey Hall School who set to with a will in assisting the guests, serving meals and distributing prizes. Smiles all around and the picture shows just how the entertainer managed to involve and inspire the audience. The evening finished leaving the elderly feeling younger, judging by the smiles and compliments. As Arnold readily pointed out, the evening could not possibly have succeeded without the help and backing of the Committee as well as other members of the Club for which, he has expressed his thanks.

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

## A few word's from our President



Well here I am again, honoured and proud to be your president for a second time in 32 years. Reflecting back to 1982 when I last held the chair, we had 49 members of which 10 are still going strong although probably, not quite as active as they were then. During my previous presidency, I was asked if I had any plans for the year to which I responded by suggesting we held a Traction Engine Rally, a Celebrity Evening and a Summer Jazz Lunch, all of which proved successful. I am pleased to say that two of the items are on the Agenda for the coming year but the prospect of reviving the TE Rally is a 'non starter' for both economic and practical reasons. I will, however, use my best endeavours to ensure that our Club achieves great things during the coming year and, despite the resignation recently of three of our members, it is good to know that new blood is coming in. Already the 'new boys' are showing great enthusiasm by accepting committee responsibilities and I am sure they will inject new life into our club. Whilst age has always been a matter of concern within Rotary, now that we can look forward to longer life expectancy I see no reason why both new and existing members of post retirement age cannot give 20 years or more of service within the community and thus benefit mutually from the fellowship which automatically follows within our Club. As this is my first presidential message since I have retaken the chair, my congratulations must go to my predecessor, Ken Ayling for a very successful year and, in particular, receiving three highly prestigious awards on behalf of the Club at the recent District Induction Dinner, an achievement which I will find hard to follow. Due to the urgent request for this message from David, so soon after my induction, I am unable to report on any Club events and speakers but I will endeavour to do so in all future bulletins. I would, however, like to hear more interesting talks from our own members regarding their vocations which could also include a brief life story for the benefit of the more recent recruits in getting to know their colleagues better. I also believe the number of talks and sometimes indirect requests for financial support from outside speakers should be limited to say, one per month as the funds available from our Club's resources should mainly benefit the local community as well as outside and international charities. Finally, I would like to thank those who have taken office for the coming year and I look forward to working with them, thus ensuring that our Club's valued reputation is adopted on established principles adapted with strength of purpose and good humour and even improved when the need arises. Peter



**The Chairman of our Ways & Means committee Rotarian Roger Merton, accompanied by wife Jenny, daughter Sally and son Jeremy, attended Buckingham Palace on the 4th April to receive the OBE he was awarded in the 2014 new years honour's list. Roger very proudly received his honour from HRH Prince Charles.**

Dentistry professor and medico-legal advisor Roger Goulden spoke to the Club about Operation Smile. This world wide organisation provides free surgery to repair cleft palates and lips and other facial deformities for children around the globe. Over a two week period an international team of dentists, doctors, nurses and many other support staff set up a clinic in a town or village in a deprived corner of the world and carry out 300 to 500 medical assessments. Of these 100 to 150 children will have life changing surgery. In many instances these children will have not been able to eat properly or talk before surgery and in addition would have been destined to a life as outcasts because of their disfigurements. Roger showed film of a typical clinic in which he himself was personally involved. All the staff give freely of their time and Rotarians were amazed to hear that the cost of a full cleft lip /palate repair was a mere £150. The club were delighted to be able to make a donation of £500 towards the great work of Operation Smile. Pictured Roger Goulden ( left ) with the president of Hoddesdon Rotary Club Ken Ayling.





## THANK YOU HODDESODN !!!!!



getting African students to secondary school

Thanks to the wonderful people of Hoddesdon (and also Ware, Bengoe and Hertford) The Rotary Club of Hoddesdon managed to collect a staggering 90 bikes for the Bikes4Africa Charity, Jole Rider. These were safely delivered to the Charity at their warehouse in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, thanks to the generosity of our local

**PCL Transport Company** who donated completely free of charge a 26 ton lorry plus driver to ensure we were able to get them there. The bikes will now be refurbished and then shipped out in containers to The Gambia, West Africa. These will then be



allocated to various Schools which will then loan them to their pupils that may have to travel great distances to get to and from School – over 10KM for many! They will definitely make a tremendous difference to these young people. When we completed our delivery of the bikes, the founder of the Charity Joel Riders (David Swettenham) did comment “I have to say to you, that the bikes you collected and delivered are some of the best quality we have received. Please pass on to your fellow members our thanks and best wishes for a truly excellent job!” So once again well done to all our kind benefactors. **Keith Theobald**



**If it KEEPS, then it's right to be bringing it for collection at Lunch, on the 1st Monday of the Month**

**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 jist? 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**



## WHY JOIN ROTARY?

I first joined Rotary about ten years ago. Why? A friend had joined and seemed to be enjoying it, so I thought I would give it a try. I'll not pretend that I had a deep seated desire to save the world, it had more to do with not having enough to do on a Monday so some company for lunch was attractive! Having said that, as well as running my company, I was a volunteer with the Princes Trust and Samaritans so I couldn't have been completely heartless! About three years later I bought a company in Scotland, and spent the next three years flying up to Scotland on a Monday and back on a Thursday or Friday, so all the clubs and charity activities had to go. However it was not long before I got involved with the local

**SAMARITANS**

Need someone to talk to?



**Prince's Trust**

Rotary club in Boness, the village near Edinburgh where my company resided. I had lunch with them one day and we decided to put on a Fete for the local people, with the money collected going to fund some charity events the Rotary club had planned. There were the usual funfair rides and demonstrations of Scottish dancing, but the star attraction was a bear. Not a stuffed bear or a man in a suit, but a real black bear! Hercules went on to become famous, and was recently the star of a television programme. The owner, a sturdy gentleman dressed as Tarzan, put his bear through its paces in the roped off stage, and the audience loved it. The bear performed perfectly until the owner tripped and trod on the bear's foot. Hercules did not enjoy this and proceeded to give the owner a pat on the back. Unfortunately a pat in bear terms

is a healthy wallop to us, which left the owner spread-eagled on the floor face down. Then, just to make sure the owner had got the message, the bear sat on him! The sound of air leaving the owner's lungs could be heard way across the field, and he was pounding the ground with his fists! Fortunately the owner's wife was able to leap over the barrier and entice the bear away with some prawns, Hercules favourite food. Had she not, the children of the village would not have slept for months!



Eventually I sold the company and came back south, starting another company and also becoming involved with a charity that helped people who had had breakdowns recover their self respect and get back into employment. I have retired but I am still a director of both. One day, in September last year, I bumped into a Rotarian I knew from the past, who was shaking a collecting tin in the entrance to Sainsbury's. He quickly suggested I should rejoin Rotary. I played for time, having learned the hard way not to make decisions off the cuff. Then he invited me to have lunch on him at the next Rotary meeting. Now the decision was easier, accept the offer of lunch or put some money in his collecting tin and leave. Lunch won! I was surprised how many people remembered me from so many years ago, and the warmth of the reception. I joined the same day! So why did I join? Largely because the members are such an affable bunch, but also because they share my belief that life should not just involve taking but should also include giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. Colin Keighley.



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 Glover - [secretary@hoddessdonrotary.org](mailto:secretary@hoddessdonrotary.org)





## Enter the Dragon



The surface of the water was disturbed. A gentle breeze whipping across the expanse broke the mirrored reflection into a million fragments. The hull echoed to the lapping of water and trembled as the current whisked by. The very fabric of the vessel creaked as the mighty elements seemed to prepare to take hold of the fragile boat and thrust it where it didn't want to go.

The fearless crew of wyrms made their way to the dock and eyed the craft that was to be under their power. One by one they took their oars and their place on the benches in the bottom of



the hull, the ship groaning under the strain of ten muscled, disciplined, tars taking their place. The groaning turned to creaking. The creaking turned to the gentle sound of wood splintering and giving way under the perching mass of a hairless god\*. Repairs were quickly needed so that the enemy did not beat us into submission, and grand designs of how long it would take a crew-member to get home, find some wood and tools and return to repair the boat pa(i)led into insignificance as a bucket was found to prop up the sagging seat. 'Boom' went the drum. 'IN' shouted the crew, somewhat out of chorus and out of



time with the drum. Never mind, it all increased the water flying about in the air, and soaking the crew. The clash of oar on oar was not with the enemy but the crewman in front! The galley echoed to the sound of the task-mistress's drum and the gentle feminine word of encouragement to



get those oars in line and row harder than the enemy. The crew in expert rhythm and faces of sheer composure propelled the mighty dragon-head along the course. The water ran quickly under the hull and the craft made its way through the water time, time and time again: 58.2 seconds of frenetic activity piercing the 9.30 to 3.30 time slot. One crew - not ours -

celebrated so well as they crossed the finish line that the boat couldn't cope and sank, slipping stern-first under the enveloping waters. Our crew was graced with encouragement from visitors to quayside and docklands area, normally a school; it was good to see them. Coffee, cakes, burgers and even amber frothy-headed liquid helped



the time between the three heats pass by. The drizzling rain made sure none suffered from sun-stroke. Our intrepid crew came second in the first and third heats, and first in the second and then retired in honour to the various other activities of the day. It was another fun event, raising the profile of Rotary as well as money for our charities. Thanks to Hertford Shires Club for organising the event, to Robert for getting the crew together from our club, to Keith, Robert, Martin, Tom, Lawrence, Roger, Joan, Andrew, Mike and David, and Sam who managed to escape the photo but who was paddling none the less!

\*to avoid any big-headedness, let the Reader understand, it is simply a translation of his name. Photos and report:

David Bradburn



## The Spirit of the Dieppe-Dash

***The Dieppe Dash is an annual sailing race organised by Brighton Marina Yacht Club to Dieppe and back over the May Bank Holiday weekend.*** Jestom, a 38' Bavaria Sailing Cruiser motored out of her berth at Brighton at 5.00am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. On board were old sea-dog and Skipper Kenny Fagan, his son James, Steve Ansell, Neil



Haynes, Wilbur Cartwright, and two rookie sailors Neil's brother Chris enjoying a 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday treat and an apprehensive John Leslie who was determined to face his demons, the fear of the sea and boats and who hadn't slept the previous night with worry. Course set on the Autopilot, we unfurled the Genoa and were soon cruising at 6 knots whilst watching out for Lobster pots for the first few miles with Beachy Head fading away behind us. Course adjustments were made to cross the two shipping lanes at 90 degrees and we kept alert watching for the positions of the commercial ships. The winds were increasing and we were now seeing a constant 7 knots. Mid-Channel we had a few fellow sailing boats to keep us company, about 20 sails were visible at any time which made the middle part with no sight of land either way more enjoyable. In Franco waters with the French courtesy flag hoisted up, we were entertained by two yachts in the racing category catching up off our stern. To Starboard a racer suddenly looked as if it was in difficulty and we thought it had a broken boom but we realised he had been struggling under full sail and with the increasing winds had been reefing. They eventually caught up and over-took us near Dieppe. As the winds continued to strengthen so did the swell and Neil decided to go below to change into his wets just as a huge wave broke over the bow drenching everyone in the cockpit and even skip who was behind the Spray Hood. Another yacht, Marco Blue in the racing Category, a Dufour 525 eventually caught up to us but had to pass through the finish buoy so came into moor after us. By the time we were approaching Dieppe Marina it was blowing a force 7. We furled our Genoa a couple of times as the ride got tougher and outside Dieppe we turned windward and dropped the main with James help pulling down the sail, risking life by going up to the

mast with his Dad screaming that the boom was about to swing and knock him overboard. We let off our claxon and turned up the music volume playing "what shall we do with a drunken sailor" to the applause of the welcoming committee on the Harbour wall. Race Control announced it was manic in the harbour and we wrongly assumed this was due to the number of yachts funnelling in and converging on the finish all at once. We had topped 10.8 knots surfing down four meter waves and averaged 7.7 knots for the 9-hour crossing of 69-miles, a record Jestom will probably never beat for the Dieppe-Dash thanks to the unique wind direction and strength for the time of year, and Chris and Skips decision to reef from the start. Misdirected by the Harbourmaster we motored passed various Jetties and as we were trying to identify a suitable berth, a huge tug inconsiderately gave a blat with his prop as he moored up, the wash forcing us to port towards a pontoon which Ken was unable to avoid and we ran over the prop of an outboard scratching Jestom's hull which was a bit of a downer. Finally, fenders out, we berthed, roped up, got the boat ship-shape, changed clothes and went for a well earn't beer. Later in the evening we returned starving to Jestom, Neil and Chris had booked into a hotel, the other five were sleeping on board and Neil started cooking the curry. Whilst the food was cooking, Neil and Will were on deck having a smoke around 10.00pm in the dark when a 28' older yacht called Kirsty of Fisherow flying the Dash flag was pottering in looking with difficulty for a berth. There were three old fellas on board, white as ghosts, looking absolutely shattered. We got them into the berth next to Jestom, Will shouted to throw a rope which they did, literally, without tying their end to Kirsty. Anyway we eventually roped them up and invited the poor guys on board to join us for the curry and beer, you could see the relief on their faces after 17 hours at sea. The next day we explored the markets and bars of Dieppe and our whip allowed the extravagance of the best "fruites





de mer" anyone had tasted at Le New Haven Restaurant following which we attended the Saturday evening Presentation ceremony in the Yacht Club with canapés, free drink and a live band afterwards. During the speeches we learnt the fastest crossing was by Mad



Max in an incredible 6 hours 51 minutes 20 Seconds. We were also advised that if we'd entered the handicap race, we would have been close to winning. Another first was an award for the first motor boat to join in the Dash, a forty footer that struggled in the conditions and whose owner admitted it may have been the first but would also be the last! A new prize was presented to the crew of Kirsty "The Spirit of the Dash" award and the crew of Jestom were mentioned in despatches for their help. The return on the Sunday was a complete contrast with no wind, clear blue skies, Dolphin and Porpoise sightings and a five knot 12 hour crossing back to Brighton under motor increasing to seven knots with tide and breeze assistance towards the end.

Neil Haynes

## THE 200 CLUB

**We are looking for new members to join, and get to the target figure of 200.**

**2014 saw the start 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. 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 have friends or 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 Roger Abraham as detailed below. A number is allocated for membership which then goes forward in the Quarterly draws.**

**ROGER ABRAHAM**

**Tel: 01992 465667**

**E: rjaabraham@aol.com**

## CELEBRITY EVENING

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

### **Celebrity Evening**

**Date: 7th November**

**Venue: Broxbourne Civic Hall**

**4 course dinner**

**With Mick Miller & MC Lindsay Jones**

**Contact Peter Haynes or Roger Merton**

**01992 446016/01992 441410**



## HODDESDON WINS AT DISTRICT INDUCTION AWARDS

Each year the 50 Clubs in Rotary District 1260 (the Shires of Hertford, Bedford and Buckingham) are judged and awarded trophies they can keep for a year in a variety of "service above self" categories. At a special Dinner on 25th June when new District Governor Jenny Muir was inducted our Club was awarded no less than four awards! This is a signal honour and marks the commitment and contribution of all Club members to our particular Rotary way of life. President Ken Ayling received the Presidential Citation for overall Club performance but with



an added "With Distinction" to mark a special year in 2013-14 plus a Membership Achievement

Certificate. He also collected the paper Newsletter Award for David Johnston's bulletins that go to members, Friends and many others - Chalmers Cursley (District Communications Chairman) was very complimentary about the range and quality of our production. President Ken asked Arnold Granat, as Committee Chairman, to receive the Community Service Award from District Officer David Cassell who had shortlisted three Clubs but selected Hoddesdon for the transport project involving Jeanne Bignell being taken to and from



the Lister Hospital to visit her poorly husband. In Rotary we do what we do for the benefit of our communities in this country and abroad: in large measure it is its own reward but it is also very reassuring that we are recognised by our peers in this extraordinary way!



EVERY POUND DONATED BEFORE  
9 SEPT WILL BE DOUBLED BY THE  
UK GOVERNMENT

748M people in the world don't have access to safe water. This is roughly one in ten of the world's population.  
2.5 billion people don't have access to adequate sanitation, one in three of the world's population.  
Over 500,000 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation.  
That's over 1,400 children a day.

[www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)





# YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE.



## What a lovely day for sleeping!

Kids Out Day was 11th June 2014 when Arnold and Stuart accompanied a group of students and their carers from Hailey Hall School to visit Paradise Wildlife Park , a venue that day for various Clubs' Day Out. Not one child was eaten (well not in our group anyway!) We left Hailey Hall at around 9.30 a.m. and by about 2.00 p.m., the zoo had been covered, animals fed, lunches eaten, ice creams scoffed and group photos taken. The group certainly seemed to enjoy the time there and each of the youngsters (and the carers) took the time and trouble to shake Stuart's and Arnold's hands with a thank you. It would have been nice to publish a photo of the group but in the interests of security, it was felt that we should not. Instead, a picture of one of the Rotarian guards is shown.



This picture shows latest member Steve Read being inducted on 28<sup>th</sup> April by President Ken Ayling, his fourth such ceremony this Rotary year. Steve is a BT Engineer and a relative youngster at 59. He was introduced by another fairly new member David Johnston, so membership retention and extension is working! Steve enjoyed the usual warm Rotary welcome and threatened to become actively involved with the Club and those it serves.





## What a great day!



On 17<sup>th</sup> June at the invitation of local Rotary Clubs of Amwell, Hertford, Hertford Shires and Ware, led by Hoddesdon, ten local schools brought 109 pupils in 28 teams to Broxbourne Civic Hall. The aim was to tackle a Technical Challenge set only on the day. The Task

this year was to plan, design and build a gripping device to safely handle a radioactive meteorite (tennis ball!) from a distance. There were three categories of team, with progressively more difficult manoeuvres to accomplish to Rotary judges satisfaction. Teachers were “encouraged” to form 2 teams that also competed. Everybody had to spend the first 45 minutes on plans and design options

(teamwork) then use their skills, technical lessons from school and a large measure of imagination and ingenuity to build models that were then demonstrated under timed conditions and broadcast to the whole hall on a large screen over the stage. There were some excellent examples of invention, some near misses but many successful practical results but the

winners were:

**Foundation Category – Goffs**

**Intermediate Category – Cheshunt**

**Advanced – John Warner**



## THANKS TO OUR

**BROXBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL : CANNON TRAVEL  
UK SALADS : WATER PROCESS LTD (ITT) : THE SCHOOL**



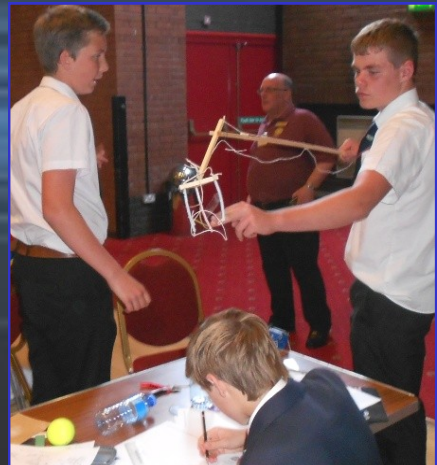


## TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT



All contestants received printed certificates (and a Mars bars donated by Morrisons). Members of winning teams each got a book token and medal : their school received a special Rotary Shield (the winning teachers got a bottle of wine!). Prizes were awarded by Mayors of

Broxbourne (Cllr Bren Perryman), Hertford (Cllr Chantal Geall) and Ware (Cllr Rosalie Standley) and EHDC Chair Cllr Roger Beeching. MP Charles Walker looked in as he always does. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Technology Tournament in Hoddesdon,



part of a national competition involving 4000 students. From the Rotary viewpoint, it ticks boxes for youth development, local community support and possibly new Rotary members for the future? The feedback from teachers, pupils, VIP guests and visiting Rotarians from Wootton Bassett and Dulwich was

particularly good this year. Organisers are indebted to sponsors, shown below, many of whom have supported the Tournament for a number of years, to Lobster Pot for a

mouth-watering lunch and to the Civic Hall for

excellent facilities. The young people who took part in 2014 had a challenging but fun day out, directly linked to their school curriculum, with the possibility of earning Crest Awards on top. Rotary organisers were paddling like mad beneath the surface in preparation over several months but enjoyed the benefits of a well-oiled machine on the day. All went home tired but very happy. J HISCOCK



## OUR SPONSORS

MORRISONS : CORDELL (SIMON COX) : VAN HAGES  
SKELTON WEALTH MANAGEMENT : NEWSPRINTERS



## SUMMARY OF THE SOMME

Books and films try to show the experience endured by both sides in the “Great War” but 44 Rotarians and friends, led by Andrew Hambling on May 1st, discovered visiting key locations had great impact. Vimy Ridge, our first historic viewpoint, honours (in 107 acres) the 60,000 Canadians who gave their lives in WW1, of whom 11,285 names are inscribed on the towering columns which also feature massive figures by the Canadian sculptor and architect Walter Seymour Allward. Our party included Gill Emery whose great uncle was a volunteer in the Canadian Expeditionary Force; he died on May 3rd 1917, the exact anniversary of our visit. At Albert we lodged in the Ibis Hotel on the ring road, surrounded by fields where rabbits were chasing around in the morning. As we digested a healthy buffet breakfast and listened to the next episode of Andrew’s commentary, we passed through villages where No-man’s-land had been, now looking tranquil and echoing with birdsong. A brief stop at the Grand Mine, also named Lochnagar Crater, gave some idea of the scale of the explosion which created it, and dozens like it, and the small plaques naming men known to have died, some inscribed with the dreaded words “shot at dawn”. “Mucky Farm” as Tommies called Mouquet, has been rebuilt without a trace of shell holes in its peaceful fields, but other locations, like Thiepval Memorial (the



largest in the world) and Ulster Tower (some described as Disney-esque) are full of names and memories. Possibly the most realistic of the remaining trenches is at “Ocean Tearoom” - the name has stuck and belongs to a delightful establishment run by Mrs Williams, where we lunched. The trench formed an entrance into the cellar and there was a warren of tunnels in Auchvillers. Newfoundland Park reminded us firmly of the part men (and women) of that island played, still an independent nation, before union with Canada. The magnificent statue of a caribou lords it over the open country from a promontory. Before dinner some looked in at the Albert museum, others the basilica, or browsed along the rather poorly equipped shops. Albert had a rather unkempt appearance, not the newly rebuilt smartness of many of the villages we had been seeing. Saturday dawned bright as we drove

through Fricourt, and on to Mametz where the brightly painted Welsh dragon stared over the woods where machine guns had blazed, causing so many casualties to the “Lloyd-George” Division. We climbed the mound where Meirion and Lindsay, two members with Welsh connections, laid a wreath and Meirion uttered some words in his native tongue in honour of the 6,000 who fell here. It was a moving moment, wind murmured in the trees as birdsong made a peaceful contrast to the scene of carnage Andrew described from a century ago. High Wood, Delville and Longueville were noted as we drove through, then we paused at Péronne for lunch and a visit to the Memorial Museum housed in the ancient castle buildings, with highly modern display signs, some novel display methods too. Our arrival at Compiègne was greeted by dire warnings from Ken, our driver, about the need to count the wheels next morning, but his fear of vandalism proved groundless. Rural Albert seemed a long way off, but we were comfortable enough in our Compiègne Ibis, and conveniently located right on the motorway. We had expected to purchase ingredients for a picnic in the town centre, but it was decided instead to look out for a service station *en route*, which turned out well. Our objective, the scene of the Armistice signature in 1918, was a very well arranged exhibit. A wagons-lits coach (the actual one had been burned) with placenames of the signatories from allied and German officers is on show and the Museum displays artefacts, posters, news clippings and photos in profusion. The entire weekend proved very informative; Andrew manfully carried out his duties with resolute authority and, surrounded by helpful hands, in particular those of Jeff Ryan, he was warmly thanked for his efforts.





## ESSAY COMPETITION

On 12 March the Rotary Club of Hoddesdon held their annual primary school essay competition in Hoddesdon Library. This year was the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the competition and an exhibition was on display showing what previous winners were now doing with their lives. The Club was delighted to see how many previous winners had gone on to achieve so much in their academic and working careers and fully justified the support that is given to the children through this competition. Nine schools entered this year with each school submitting their best three essays for entry into the competition. As usual the three judges had considerable difficulty in picking the winner but finally after much deliberation they picked Amelia Hewitt who explained in her essay why she wants to be a paediatrician. Amelia is a pupil at Sheredes Junior School and the Rotary Club is hoping to arrange for her to spend a day at Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children where she can see the work of paediatric doctors at first hand. The Mayor of Broxbourne, Bren Perryman presented the certificates and book tokens to the winners. She was also thanked by President Ken Ayling who also thanked the Club's Vocational Committee for organising the event and the Library for providing the venue. Lindsay Jones



### The Object of Rotary

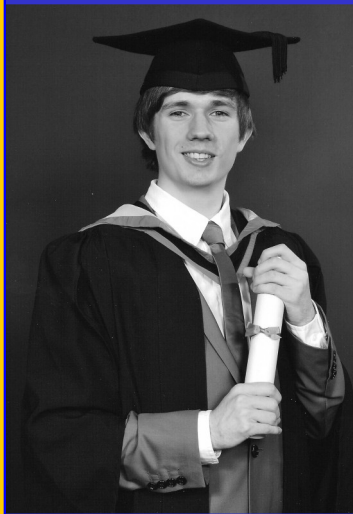
Is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular:

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.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?



**Congratulations to Amelia Hewitt of Sheredes School on winning the 20<sup>th</sup> Rotary Annual essay competition and to all the young people who took the opportunity to enter. It was a delight to be reminded of my 2001 success and reward. My interests have**

**broadened since we met in Hoddesdon library, and my drive to achieve has continued. In 2011 I graduated Bachelor of Architecture from Nottingham University. Currently I am in my 6<sup>th</sup> and final year of the qualification to become a fully qualified architect. I have not travelled into space but I am fortunate to have explored some lunar style landscapes in Utah and Arizona in the USA. These have included challenging hikes across the Grand Canyon rim to rim, a vertigo inducing climb to Angel's landing in Zion and a magical tour of the hoodoos of Bryce. I am still interested in space but I have applied this to creating solutions to the built environment on earth. Currently I am writing a thesis on the thresholds between and within buildings and communities. Part of my brief is to design a building reflecting my principles sited in Hoxton Square, Shoreditch, London. As part of my course I have studied in Holland, Italy, Turkey and France as well as a range of UK venues. It is an exciting profession. This summer I launch my career fully and who knows where it will take me. One day maybe I will collaborate on the design of structures for a Mars colony. I highly recommend architecture to the young people of Hoddesdon. I thank the Rotary club for their confidence in me. I was supported to believe that there were no limits to what I could achieve if I focussed and worked hard. John Comer BArch Hons**



## June 28th 1914



This is a true story, which changed the world. It happened in a small town called Sarajevo in a small province, Bosnia, part of the Austrian Empire, on the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup> 1914. The Archduke Franz Ferdinand was an over-weight 51 year-old, one of 70 archdukes in the Austrian Empire but he was special - he was heir to his uncle the emperor, Franz Josef, since his cousin, the Crown Prince Rudolf shot himself and his adored mistress at Mayerling in 1889. Franz Ferdinand was an arrogant, opinionated man, a martinet who loved shooting wild animals, a quarter-million birds and beasts before he himself was shot that June day. In 1900 he had married Sophie who although aristocratic was not high-born enough for the incredibly status-conscious Austrian nobility so was not accepted socially and could never become Empress. Petty humiliations and insults were heaped on them both and she could never take her place with her husband on state occasions but this visit to Sarajevo was an exception because Bosnia was a minor province. Just south of Bosnia lay Serbia, a recently independent state once part of the Ottoman Empire. Its people, like most Bosnians, were Slavs, and were eager to incorporate Bosnia into a greater Slavic state (Yugoslavia). The Russians supported the Serbs, having Slav origins, and the Slavs hated the Austrians. The Austrian

military particularly were eager for a battlefield showdown. However Franz Ferdinand was not a typical Austrian and believed that war with Russia would destroy the Tsar, or the Austrian Empire or both and urged a peace-policy. Many Serbians encouraged terrorists active in the Bosnia. They were mostly young, students, soldiers, unemployed, including a nineteen-year-old Gavrilo Princip. An insignificant, colourless young Serb, he had been rejected by the army as too small - "everywhere I went people took me for a weakling" he said at his trial. In May 1914 he visited Belgrade, capital of Serbia, and joined a small group planning to kill Franz Ferdinand whose visit to Sarajevo in Bosnia had been announced earlier in March. In Belgrade he was given four Browning automatic pistols, six bombs and cyanide suicide capsules. These were provided by a terrorist Serbian group, the Black Hand led by an army officer code-named "OTIS" (the ancient Egyptian Bull-God). After two weeks target-practice, Princip and his friends returned to Sarajevo while their activities were passed on, somewhat vaguely, to the Austrians by the Serbian Government. The Austrian authorities, including Franz Ferdinand, had plenty of reason for expecting violence - "no doubt they will throw bombs at us" he was reported to have said on the train from Vienna. Terrorism in the Balkans was so rife that it was even a music-hall joke in London, and Austrian officials were frequent targets. Yet nothing was done to monitor Princip and his friends - "mere children" said the authorities. On the evening before the official visit the royal couple were staying in a hotel outside Sarajevo and drove into the town to shop in the craft stores and carpet market. When they returned to their Hotel at Ilidza the Duchess teased a prominent Bosnian MP that they had experienced no danger. "I pray to God that when I have the honour to meet you tomorrow night you can say the same thing" he replied. In the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup> Franz Ferdinand sent a telegram to his 14 year-old son congratulating him on this school exam results - it happened to be their wedding anniversary. Then he set off, dressed as a cavalry general, a sky-blue jacket with silver stars, black trousers with a red stripe, and a helmet with green peacock feathers. Sophie sat beside him in an open-topped car. Their route had been printed in the morning papers and seven young killers covered the bridges their car would cross. The Archbishop later described it as "a regular avenue of assassins". Just before the first official stop CABRINOVIC,

a printer, threw a bomb which bounced off the car, exploded, and wounded two of the aides. Cabrinovic was seized shouting "I am a Serbian hero". Most of the other terrorists lost their nerve and wandered away, including Princip. The Archduke's convoy continued to the Town Hall where the royal couple were made to listen to a long welcoming speech. The Archduke then said he wished to visit the hospital where





his wounded aides had been taken, a change in plan which confused the chauffeur who took a wrong turning into a cul-de-sac. Realising his mistake he stopped the car but its gears locked just where Princip happened to be. He raised his pistol, fired two shots at close range, and hit the two royals. Franz Ferdinand was hit in the neck and Sophie slumped forward seemingly to shield him and she was hit in the stomach as he uttered his last words – Sophie, Sophie don't die – stay alive for the children". Princip and two friends were seized. The assassination was utterly amateurish and surprising successful as hand-guns don't often prove fatal nor assassins kill two people with two shots. Princip was tried and sentenced to twenty years being under 21. Others implicated that day were imprisoned or hanged. In the immediate aftermath nobody seemed to care very much. The funeral was brief and received little coverage in the Vienna papers. When his uncle the Emperor was told at lunch-time on the 28<sup>th</sup> he merely continued his meal. The German Kaiser was on his yacht at the Kiel Regatta; he liked Franz Ferdinand and was heard to mutter "everything must start again" which nobody really understood. The Regatta was abandoned. The British Press considered it just another Balkan terrorist act though the British ambassador, also at the Kiel Regatta, said "the political consequences are incalculable". He was right – within a week the Austrians, eager to destroy Serbia, threatened to attack which provoked Russia to promise support for Serbia, and Germany to support Austria. Ironically Princip had killed the one man committed to avert war. In just over four years millions lay dead in Europe and the Tsar, the Kaiser and the Emperor were all toppled just as Franz Ferdinand had predicted. Princip died of TB in prison in April 1918, victim of the harsh jail conditions, weighing little over 6 stone. He was buried in a secret grave for fear he may become a martyr but he was later re-interred in a tomb of "heroic heroes".

Andrew Hambling



## Bill Statham joins the Octogenarians

Sometimes at the Loyal Toast to the Queen, that follows each of our Rotary meals, can be heard the phrase 'God bless her' (or more accurately 'God blesser'). It happens when Bill Statham is in attendance. 'Oh', he said to me once, 'It's a Royal Navy tradition'. That Navy tradition was very much in evidence when Bill



celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday surrounded by family and friends, including some from our Rotary

Club, and the local Sea Cadets who 'piped him aboard' to his party, with Bill resplendent in his uniform, proud that he could still get into it! Photos from his Navy days were on display... along with others from the rest of his life and he enjoyed telling the cadets about his time

in the Navy and explaining the photos to them. The party took place in the marquee at Paradise Wildlife Park. Bill chairs the 'Friends of PWP'. The Park staff had made a huge cut-out of his sloop, HMS Pelican, and the cake was also in the shape of his boat. There was not a ship's biscuit in sight for the lovely meal and all the tables were set perfectly, you might even say 'shipshape'! A great time was had by all.

David Bradburn



## RAMBLING WITH HAMBLING



The venue for this year's 'Rambling with Hambling' expedition was, not surprisingly, the Somme area of Northern France. Such is Andrew's reputation that a record number of participants signed up for this trip the moment it was first suggested. The first expedition took place in 2008, with a visit to the battlefields of the Ypres Salient in Belgium. There were many memorable moments - the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum in the centre of Ypres, Tyne Cot Cemetery (the largest British military cemetery in the world), Sanctuary Wood Museum, Hill 60, Messines Ridge and the occasion when the coach seemingly stopped in the middle of nowhere only for Andrew to announce that this was the site of the first gas attack. The highlight of the visit to Flanders was the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, where a solemn assembly of several hundred heard Andrew recite the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen', Andrew and

Club President Barry Fitzpatrick then laid a wreath on behalf of the Club. Given that Andrew had visited the area in advance to sort out the 'best' locations and museums, the participants were keen to thank Andrew. This took the form of a dinner at Brickendon Golf Club during which Andrew was presented with a leather photographic album recording the visit - a mix of people, places and historic events. Fortunately there was plenty of space left in the album, leading to a chorus of Where Next? A tradition had been born. And so in 2010 another party of Hoddesdon Rotarians, partners and friends, found themselves on the D-Day beaches in Normandy. Highlights, almost too numerous to mention, included the remains of the Mulberry Harbour at Arromanches, Pointe du Hoc where US Marines scaled steep cliffs, the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, Pegasus Bridge, a delightful visit to Cafe Gondree and meeting the grand-daughter of the first family to be liberated on French soil and the Merville Battery. Activities were not confined to WW2 - on the outward journey the site of the Battle of Agincourt (1415) was visited and that of the Battle of Crecy (1346) on the return. Once more the cry of 'Where Next' went up - the answer this time being Arnhem and Waterloo. This visit in 2012 provided an opportunity to pay our respects to Pat Fisher's Uncle Norman, last seen when she was a bridesmaid at his wedding in 1943. Flying Officer Norman Marston DFC was the Bomb Aimer of a 78 Squadron Halifax bomber targeting the railway yards at Aachen in the run up to the D-Day landings. The aircraft was shot down on its return, crashing near the Dutch commune of Hank with the loss of all lives. The remains lay undisturbed until 2006 when a recovery operation began and the crew are now buried at Jonkerbos War Cemetery in Nijmegen. On our outward journey we enjoyed the hospitality of some of those involved in the recovery operation at a castle in Werkendam, and from here we were taken to the crash site at Hank. Arnhem was visited the following morning with particular attention paid to the John Frost Bridge - a story that featured large in the film 'A Bridge Too Far.' The village of Oosterbeek three miles to the west has a special place in British military history and was the scene of very fierce fighting. Time was spent at the Airborne Museum, formerly the Hotel Hartenstein and HQ of the 1st Airborne Division, and it was here that we heard a hair-raising eye witness account from Jan de Loos. As a young teenager living in Oosterbeek he saw paratroopers descending from the sky; days later he was sheltering in the cellar of the family home - now on the front line! En route to Waterloo, a visit was made to Jonkerbos and respects paid to the Bomber Command crew of Halifax LV905. Andrew arranged accommodation overlooking the battlefield and in typical fashion also made a point of visiting Hougomont Farm, which played a pivotal role in the outcome of the battle. Our visit this year ended at Armistice Park in the Forest of Compiègne, some 30 miles north of Paris. It was here in November 1918 that the Armistice was signed, bringing to an end four years of conflict. It was at Compiègne that David Emery remarked how appropriate it was that our expeditions should end there - and no-one could disagree with that. To some extent, the events of the two World Wars of the twentieth century have affected the lives of everyone who participated in any of Andrew's tours. Just as in his recent book (A Plain Guide to the Great War) where the complexities of 1914 -1918 are unravelled, Andrew's pre tour talks and insights into world events - frequently on site - provided participants with an appreciation and understanding that could not have been obtained by other means. For that we are all most grateful. *Jeff Ryan*



## REMEMBERING OLD FRIENDS

The club arranged for a plaque in memory of Rotarian John Stagg to be mounted on the wall of the Dinant Room where we have our Monday lunch, to serve as a permanent reminder to the service he gave the local community and the Easter Dinner in particular. The wooden seat located in the High Road that was placed in memory John Mortimer nearly 25 years ago is being restored by new member Steve Read.





## A FISHY TAIL

2013 Essay Competition winner Jack Cosgrove and his father Andrew accompanied by Rotarian John Glover, recently visited Grimsby to learn about the fishing industry. Organised by the Rotary Club of Hoddesdon, the competition is open to primary schools in the Broxbourne borough and the task is to compose a short essay on the career the writers wish to follow in the future. Jack, then attending Roselands School, wants to be an in-shore fisherman. So, together with the Rotary Club of Grimsby, a day



was arranged for him to learn more. Having enjoyed a haddock and chips dinner the previous evening, an early start was made to attend the daily fish auction. Here, Jack saw boxes of haddock, cod, plaice, etc. displayed for the prospective buyers to inspect, before they were auctioned off. Sadly, the port of Grimsby is a shadow of its former self and most of the fish had actually arrived by lorry! Nonetheless, there was sufficient activity to keep Jack captivated for well over an hour. We then moved on to the National Fishing Heritage Centre.

Here, the first port of call was the preserved in-shore trawler, Ross Tiger. We were privileged to be shown around the trawler by one of its former skippers. We learned how the fish were tracked, caught and stored, and experienced the living quarters and galley. However, this was all in a boat moored in the harbour, not in a force 10 gale! The visit ended with a guided tour around the heritage centre, experiencing the sights, smells and sounds of life as a trawlerman in the 1950s. Fishing is generally recognised to be the most dangerous peace time occupation and we certainly left Grimsby with a deep admiration for the fishermen who braved all that the seas can throw at them, to bring us fish for our Friday evening suppers. John Glover



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## HAVE YOU GOT THE GIFT OF THE GAB ?

It was "Jack" Edwards, former Librarian in Cheshunt, who was responsible for the start of The Lea Valley Talking Newspaper (LVTN) in 1979 and it has been appearing regularly every week since. During the preparation of those 1,500 issues, teams of editors, readers, technicians and other helpers have all been volunteers, willing to give up an hour or two to enable those with impaired vision to *hear* the local news. LVTN listeners are not charged for the service, they only have to make sure that, after it has been heard, each tape is put back in the wallet in which it reached them, so keeping the supply of tapes in circulation. At the outset LVTN listeners were all local residents, as one would expect, but as years passed some people moved home, so a few former residents of the Borough, who now live many miles away, enjoy keeping in touch with Broxbourne events through the audio tapes reaching them by post weekly. Numbers have fluctuated down the years, some listeners remain on the list from the early days, but we are very glad to acknowledge that through improvements in dealing with cataract (and other eye conditions) several no longer need the service. Currently we are mailing to sixty listeners every week. Lea Valley Talking Newspaper is a registered charity (No 278906) and is guided by a small committee whose chairman is Peter Hicks and Secretary Jean Hart, both keen to offer full information about LVTN to all who are interested in helping. Each of the jobs can be simply explained, most demand very few hours in the course of a year because each team is on a rota whose timetable is dictated by the weekly schedule. Every Monday (or Tuesday when a Bank Holiday happens) the Editor for that week will have ready his clippings from the paper, together with his script to introduce that issue at the microphone. The recording engineer will be pressing buttons behind the glass panel and each of the Readers (usually four of them) will take their turn until the tape is filled. On Tuesday it is the turn of the copiers, preparing the 60 tapes ready for posting, each with its address label, then the whole consignment goes into the post and the following day (all being well) listeners start using the tapes. The week comes round again on Thursday morning with publication of the new issue of the Mercury and the new week's Editor can wield scissors and paste, making ready for the following Monday. Could you spare an hour or so about once every two months? Can you use a pair of scissors? Can you stick a label on a small package? Can you read the newspaper aloud? Would you like to help some people who are no longer able to read the newspaper for themselves? If you answer positively to any of these questions, please pick up the phone and speak to Jean Hart today! Her telephone number is 01992 679668 - or you can email her on [jeanmhart37@aol.com](mailto:jeanmhart37@aol.com) - Jean looks forward to hearing from you! Or, if you prefer, ask for more details from the writer, Peter Lardi.



# Speakers



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It is common practice to expect new Rotarians to give a talk to their fellows about themselves, their early life, their training and the job that they do. This is called a "Job Talk" by some and "The Man Behind the Badge" by others. Later in Rotary life the Rotarian is often expected to fill the speaker diary by giving a talk which is **NOT** connected with his work. A hobby such as stamp collecting or model trains would be a good example. My story recounts the time when Fred arrived at the meeting of his Rotary club to be reminded that he was the speaker for the evening and this was not a "Job Talk". He had forgotten and was not prepared. He sat at the top table, beside the Chairman for the evening, and thought about a subject during the meal. When he was announced he spoke about sex. The meeting listened to every word and asked many questions. It was a success. When he arrived home, Mary his wife, asked "How was Rotary?".

"It was a good meeting" he said. "What was for dinner?" she asked.

"Beef, and it was good" he answered. "Who was the speaker?" she continued.

"I was" he replied. "What did you speak about?"

Now he can see trouble looming!

"Sailing" he lied.

The next morning Mary was shopping in the town and visited the butcher who was also a Rotarian.

"Fred gave a wonderful talk last night." he said.

"Yes" said Mary, "but I don't understand why he chose the subject. The first time he did it he was sick and the second time his hat blew off". ANON





## DEATH THREAT

**Club Service Meeting 8th April.**

**Subject: Membership.**

**(notes from the minutes)**

*"Howard Connor warned that membership must continue to be pursued assiduously since an estimated 20 members will die over the next 10 years, Arnold Granat requested if possible, a time table, and John Glover suggested that persons concerned should if possible be given notice"*

**Eric Cockman has requested that as a member who may be involved, at the sprightly age of 87, that he have a copy as soon as it becomes available as it would be helpful for him to know when his allocated space in the program will be, and humbly requests that it will be later rather than sooner !!!**

## PAUL HARRIS AWARD



John Hiscock, Secretary of the Hoddesdon Club, was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship for outstanding services to the club. John has been a Rotarian since 1999 since when he has had a very lively life in Rotary. He has a passion for getting Rotary and our Club's unique selling points in front of the widest press and media audiences. He designed and built our website and continues to campaign to drive the Club forward in communications and the use of technology. During his time in Rotary he has been involved long term in Vocational activity including Committee Chairmanship, bursaries, mock interviews and organiser of many Technology Tournaments. He was Registrar for three District 1260 Conferences, Club President for 2004/5, helps with succession planning and has documented many of our Club procedures including a President's Manual and a Secretary's Manual. John has been a superb Secretary for the last 6 years and a huge support for successive club Presidents. It was my privilege and pleasure to present him with his award of a Paul Harris Fellowship. Ken Ayling

## WHO'S WHO DURING 2014-2015 IN HODDESDON ROTARY CLUB

**President: Peter Haynes**

**President Elect: Ted Gradosielski**

**Vice president: David Johnston**

**Immediate Past President: Ken Ayling**

**Secretary: John Glover**

**Treasurer: Jeff Ryan**

### Council Members

**Eric Beard, Terry Fisher David Johnston,  
Peter Lardi, John Hiscock, Barry Fitzpatrick**

### Chairman of Service Committees

**Club Service - Ted Gradosielski**

**Community Service - Arnold Granat**

**Foundation - Meirion Morris**

**International - Martin Lynas**

**Membership - Howard Connor**

**Vocational - Chris Waddington**

**Ways & Means - Roger Merton**

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**Attendance: Mike Marsh**

**Auditor: Roger Abraham**

**Bulletin & Communications: David Johnston**

**Chase the Ace: Terry Fisher**

**Code of Practice: David Bradburn**

**Evening Drives: Roger Lee**

**Extension: Meirion Morris**

**Friends of Rotary: Ken Ayling**

**George Fuller: Arnold Granat**

**Sergeant at Arms: Barry Fitzpatrick**

**Sport: Robert Lorenzini**

**200 Club: Roger Abraham**

**Club Archivist: Tommy Knight**

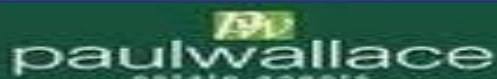
**Speakers/Programme: Lawrence Bone**

**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 Lawrence Bone on 07803 700919 or lawrencebone@gmail.com**

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