



Recent events



President's Dinner Dance 18th March

The Annual President's Dinner Dance held at the new venue of the Potters Heron was a great success. . Food was served promptly and was of a very acceptable standard. Rick Rock and the Rowdies worked their way steadily through a list of well worn hits and succeeded in keeping the dance floor continuously packed. Those who had not already suffered permanent deafness retreated to the relative quiet of the sofa area for a chat.

Aubrey's improvised ear-defenders pictured left fortunately did not catch on.



Another load of rubbish!



On 8th March a large contingent of Club members were treated to a fascinating tour of the Marchwood Energy Recovery Plant.

The tour was made all the more interesting by our guide, Project Director John Collis who impressed us all with his knowledge of the plant and his ability to clearly answer our many questions.

The plant outputs 15 MW of electrical power to the National Grid. The incinerator is fed continuously with 1 ton claw fulls of refuse as seen in the picture. The plant is housed in a visually striking 110m dome and state of the art monitoring ensures that pollution is maintained at the lowest possible levels.

Alton Brewery Visit

Over the years we have visited several small breweries so to visit the Alton based Coors (formerly Bass) Brewery was something of a contrast. Here brewing is carried out on a truly industrial scale and mind boggling quantities of lager beers are manufactured each month. The brewery which was constructed in the early 1960's has been extensively refitted and is highly automated so now employs relatively few staff (about 100 from memory).

After a very interesting tour of the vast stainless steel brewing plant which apart from the smell and scrupulous cleanliness seemed more like a chemical plant than anything else, we were able to sample the brews and tuck in to a very welcome buffet supper



Vice President's note:

In my report at the AGM I mentioned in the section on communication the opportunity that the re-introduction of the Bulletin provided in getting messages over to Club members. It seems sensible therefore that I should practice what I preach!! On this occasion I just want to try and explain the rationale behind some of the points I was looking to make at the AGM.

I have been a member of our Club for c15 years and on Council for a fair number of these – I feel that I can therefore say I know the Club (and members) quite well. For me these years have been both enjoyable and have given a lot of fun. As has been said quite rightly on many occasions we are blessed with a wealth of talent amongst our members. As I approach my Presidency something that has become increasingly apparent to me is the growing level of professionalism required in the running of our Club – that is in no way trying to suggest that our predecessors were not capable and diligent individuals. However the Rotary movement and our Club are going through a significant period of change and the days when Clubs could be run by a “seat of the pants” approach are in my view gone. That is why I believe things like eg 3 Year Rolling Plans are important ingredients in any recipe for a successful Club. I understand that some Rotarians for a host of reasons may not be fans of 3 Year plans nor indeed many of what they see as the new fangled ideas currently in vogue. However as I said at the AGM if we fail to at least consider the possible benefits arising from these new ways then we are very likely to miss some good opportunities and also see our Club stagnate.

That leads me on nicely to the other other topic I wanted to promote – Membership.

Of course with 50+ members we are a strong Club. It does not seem that long since we were vainly trying to devise all sorts of “rules” on how we should screen for new members. That has resulted in our not having any new members for over 2 years – clearly not a good thing. I think it vitally important that we re-tune our mindsets to the need and desire for new members as this is the life blood for the future well being of our Club. Again I know that there may be differing views on this issue but it is certainly the view of Council that we need ALL members focused on finding good new prospective members.

As I have alluded to a number of times I accept that we will have differing views on what is best for our Club and when that happens we need open discussion in order that the democratic position is identified and established. That will mean that not all members get the outcome they wanted – but sadly you cannot please all the people all the time.

Finally can I promote the new role Greg Hall has taken on – Internal Comms Officer. The exact nature of this has yet to be resolved but I do feel it important in a Club of our size that we have someone dedicated to promoting the whole communication process. I am sure that time (and you) will tell if this attempt is working.

Well that's me broken my journalistic duck and hopefully filled some space for Bill!!

Jim Purdie



Mobility Cart

Peter Stucky Writes:

We were given an electric mobility cart last year by a local resident - it had belonged to her mother who had died.

Well I've contacted Romsey Disability Forum, Age Concern, Red Cross, Test Valley Council for Voluntary Services, Romsey Dial-a-ride, Town Hall and all the doctors' surgeries without success.

My dad is using it after his hip operation but I would love to find a home for it in Romsey. Do you know anyone for whom it would be useful?

The benefits of being CPR trained:

Bob Chegwidden wrote the following moving and thought provoking note which shows that even if CPR proves to be ineffective there can still be benefits to being trained:

Some while ago some of us attended a first aid course (mouth to mouth - heart massage etc). I believe organised by Alan Hester.

Last Saturday on the golf course a person I was playing golf with collapsed and I and others gave mouth to mouth and heart massage. Sadly he died but the fact I had done the course made it easier to deal with the situation and gave some comfort that we were able to offer some help. Maybe something to recommend the training to others.

Bob Chegwidden.

Members who would be interested in CPR training should please contact Alan Hester and if numbers are sufficient an evening course will be arranged.

Canal Path Cycle Training

All are welcome to join in the cycle rides which are taking place on alternate Mondays and Tuesday evenings starting from the Plaza. Contact Brian Stokes (01794 516996) for further details.

Vocation and Youth

Just a few lines, Bill said keep it brief, to let you know what this committee has been doing during the past month.

The visit to the Southwest Energy Recovery, OYNX, at Marchwood went down well by all that attended. It was made more informative due to the fact we were taken round by the director John Collis a man who must eat and sleep rubbish. There was not a question he was'nt able to answer! Our thanks must go to Mike Gratton who arranged the evening.

The Club will be pleased to hear that we have three students from Mountbatten School to attend RYLA at Avon Tyrrell, July 21-23. They are Michell Hallett, Kristan Macdonald and Kitty Dwyer. – Yes you right they are all girls. There will be one boy attending from Mountbatten, James Atterbury. We made the selection for the lunch time club to sponsor. Their youth officer was too busy to attend the interviews!!!

J.W. Vocation and Youth Chairman,

Sports news:

The Rotary Club of Nailsea & Backwell are offering Charity Golf Breaks for Rotarians and their families in aid of charities. Details as follows:

Sunday to Tuesday - 25 to 27th June supporting ' Mercy Ships'

Sunday to Tuesday - 13 to 15 June in aid of Rotary's Africa Hope

Sunday to Tuesday - 20 to 22 August in aid of Rotary's Africa Hope

Accommodation is available at The Belmont Lodge and Golf Course, Hereford and includes;

1pm Sunday: Welcome, 18 hole 4BBB Stableford competition Golf PM at Belmont, Book into Belmntont Lodge, Dinner 8 pm

Monday: Full English breakfast, Golf AM - Coffee on arrival at The Rolls of Monmouth, 18 hole individual stableford competition, Light lunch at the Rolls of Monmouth, Dinner 8 PM

Tuesday: Full English breakfast, 18 holes individual stableford at Belmonth, Followed by prize giving and departure.

Cost: £183 golfers and £129 non-golfers. All accommodation is en-suite

Anyone who is interested should ask Sandy Dunn for an application form.

Community Services

Reminiscences of Romsey 25th February 2006

Now seeming like a long time ago, the annual ROR event functioned like a well oiled machine. Thanks are given to all members who took part and worked hard to make the day a now customary success.

Community Services and Vocation Awards

On the 22nd March we were pleased to be able to make Community Service and Vocation Awards to two people who over the years have made outstanding contributions to the well being of our community.

The first award was presented to Brian Hart who up until 2005 was the head of Cedar School. Children at Cedar School suffer severe and life limiting disabilities but despite this Brian sought to ensure that smiles, laughter and learning were in no short supply. It was thought very fitting to make this gesture to Brian to express our thanks for what he has managed to achieve, and in giving us a small understanding of the problems and difficulties that there are in the world and how with care, compassion and understanding, achievement can come from adversity.

The second award was presented to Sally Kerson who is a reader at Baddesley Church. She is also Assistant District Commissioner for the Beaver Scout Section of Romsey Scouts and is a link person for us at one of the clubs in Baddesley who attend Reminiscences of Romsey.

At a Council & Business meeting, we agreed to send the sum of £50.00 to Beaver Scouts, to support a sale of goods day that they were holding on February 26th 2005 in aid of the local Hartley family and the Anthony Nolan Trust. This is but one of the many fund raising efforts that would not have been possible without the dedication that Sally shows towards helping the local community and also sets a high standard to the young Beavers in her charge, reminding them of responsibilities towards people less fortunate.

Fittingly on the 22nd March the speaker was David Hartley who gave a glimpse of what it is like to have children with a potentially devastating genetic disease and impressed us all with his personal faith and determination through his work with the XLP Trust to help conquer the disease for the sake of his own children and future generations.

Stroke Awareness 8th April

With high blood pressure presenting few obvious symptoms but having potentially life threatening consequences, the Stroke Awareness scheme offers the public a chance for a quick informal check. Members from our club joined forces with members of the lunchtime club led by Nigel Mayor to act as marshals. Dr. Amanda Harman put in a tremendous amount of hard work heading the medical team of 9 medical professionals who carried out the health tests.

Despite competing with the Grand National and the Masters Golf in the afternoon, over the day approximately 150 members of the public took advantage of the opportunity of a check during the day. This is a substantial improvement over last year. Of the 150 who attended about 10% were recommended to see their GP with a few being asked to go as a matter of urgency.

Overall this was a very successful day and the good level of support given by club members was greatly appreciated.

Alan Hester

Back L-R: Ian Chalk, Wellow Fitness Centre; Dave Sillence; Dr. Amanda Harman. Fr L-R: June Sillence; Community Nurse Leslie Goodall.

