



An active summer 2006



Kids Out

Spinnaker Tower



Kennet & Avon Canal Cycle Ride



Mayor's Picnic



LE-JOG



Tommy Cooper look alike Competition



Grass bowls



Walk the Test Way



Guernsey Temperance Conference 2006

Looking back over the summer months it has certainly been an extremely active time for the Rotary Club of Romsey Test as these few pictures of just some of our events will testify. We can add to this the Golf Am-Am , the BBQ for the Young Carers, plus Cycling in France and I dare say that I have missed one or two others. The summer season was rounded off by what was by all accounts an excellent District Conference in Guernsey (see p 3). As we can see from the photo our President Jim remained as Jobber as s Sudge at all times.

## **President's Message.**

As I write it is now nearly five months since I took over the Presidency from Mike Baker. Thankfully we have Mike back with us from his "escapades" in France - I know I speak for everyone in saying that we are much relieved to have him back safely in Romsey.

My early views as President are very positive - I am having fun – hopefully you are too!! I believe the Club remains strong and there is no doubt in my mind that this comes about because of all the help and input by so many members of the Club. Whilst I really should identify and thank lots of Club members for making my job so easy - I will not as inevitably I would forget to mention someone – not something I would want to do. As I look at the success that we have enjoyed as a Club and how we have got there it is clear to me the contribution made by the vast majority of our members. The manner in which individuals choose to do that is often quite different but in general I see a Club of dedicated members who make Romsey Test what it is. Thank you.

On this occasion I will not speak about all the good things we have achieved thus far – I definitely will at another. At this point I would just like to briefly mention a couple of things that I believe will help to keep our Club in good shape.

Membership - we are not looking to increase our numbers dramatically (goal net 3 new members) but neither can we see the Club remain strong if we do not get some new blood. Can you introduce a possible new member? Please do not leave it to everyone else – that means no new recruits!! Please help.

Strategic Review – to keep the Club vibrant we need to bring in some change. From my position as President it is easiest to rely on the "tried and tested" – easiest but not necessarily the best way forward for the Club and members. There is no suggestion of wholesale change but there is a need to identify/consider new ideas. For that we need the input and approval of members – so please take forthcoming opportunities to make your views known.

Finally thanks to all for making my job as President so easy and so much fun. On taking on the Presidency it is quite a thought to have the responsibility for running the Club but in reality I am enjoying basking in your reflected glory!! Regards,

President Jim Purdie.

## Fit for Purpose!

32 intrepid Rotarians & partners sallied forth by plane and boat to Guernsey for a weekend of wine, food and fun. Some of us even went to some of the conference while we were there! One brave soul, Mike Thorne represented the club at the majority of the sessions including the Vin D'Honneur reception which was 'service above self' to an exceptional degree!



The DG's theme was 'Fit for Purpose' and 'The Power of One'. Tony in selecting La Barberie Hotel easily met these requirements and exceeded all our expectations. The food was of exceptional quality and value, service friendly, rooms more than adequate, near fantastic walks & scenery – just what the doctor ordered. Greg did have one problem with a 'total water failure', not the personal one, but in his bathroom – most people gave him a wide berth that day!!

During October / November the island's restaurants operate the 'Tennerfest' scheme – all 3 or 4 course meals cost from £10 to £15. As you can see from the photo's some felt this left more money for wine and that it was their duty to take up the slack in a true Romsey Test fashion!

For those who did not go to the conference or, were there for longer, it was a great break. The weather was good, lots to see and do including visiting nearby Sark and Herm. The island's economy was significantly enhanced by the ladies frequent visits to the various pearl, jewellers and clothes shops.

John and Barbara also organised a 'stroll along the coast' with lunch on route for the Saturday. From various reports, the stroll turned out to 'slightly hilly' but views were great - and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

General opinion was that conference was one of the better ones – less 'back-slapping and vote of thanks' sessions – and the speakers were generally of better quality. Memorable speakers included the 'Bailiff of Guernsey' on history and differences from the UK of the island, Sir George Martin (of the Beatles fame) talking about his experiences and the Angela Knowles (formerly Angela Baker) the real WI Calendar Girl who lost her husband (played by Julie Walters in the film). Without doubt, although not the keynote speaker, Angela was the highlight of the conference. She was a funny, natural and down to earth speaker who retold the story in her own words - including the follow on film and promotional activities– very inspirational!

One of the conference speakers, Ben Remfrey of the Mine Awareness Trust (MAT), was hosted by own ADG Mike Gratton. We have had previous contact with Ben when their organisation took over the Mine Detector Project. The detector project appears to still be moving along but very slowly. Ben has agreed to come to the club to update at some point.



I suspect next year's conference location in Eastbourne will not have the same appeal – but 2008 currently being planned for Cardiff, organised by Magna, promises to be better prospect.

Finally, a very big thank you to Tony for excellent car & hotel arrangements – not an enviable task with 32 of us awkward .....!

Dave Healy

## Club Service

The Abbey hotel as our venue.

We have met at The Abbey for all of the club's life and it's easy to fall into a fairly comfortable and unchallenging relationship unless we have some dialogue about the service we're given. David Bonnor-Moris and Mike Thorne met with Di Hilsey recently to discuss some concerns, and several things are happening as a result.

One difference obvious to anyone who's been in the back room recently is that access to our cupboard is now much easier following a mega clear out of the room. Where a room is shared it's all too easy to allow it to become a cluttered mess. Please don't contribute to this. Make sure our regalia all goes back into our cupboard after each meeting, and don't add to any junk.

A second initiative concerns our menu choices. Di observed that the chef has a problem in providing a varied menu when he's not sure what the majority will like, so there's a natural tendency to play safe. In order to expand the options we agreed to do a survey of members' likes and dislikes, and this has been completed. To give some opportunity for variation the Club has voted to accept soup as a starter occasionally rather than always having a pudding. Expect also to see a sheet at each meal giving members the opportunity to comment on the food that was provided on the day. This should help avoid any moans about tough meat or soggy vegetables becoming lost and never getting back to the chef.

We also discussed the condition of parts of the premises, notably the Gents loo. These matters will take a while to resolve as they involve expenditure by the hotel, but they are live issues which we're following up on with The Abbey, so watch this space.

Please also note that our Video Projector is now stored in Di's office, so will always be available at The Abbey. Please make sure it always goes back there under lock and key whenever it's been used. There are two screens in the store room. The big one is ours and was recently provided by Dave Healy to replace the old damaged one. The small one belongs to The Abbey and is available for our use. There is also an old style OHP for transparencies (not 35mm slides) in the store, belonging to The Abbey.

If you have concerns about club service matters please feed them back to David Bonnor-Moris or Mike Thorne.

Chairman Mike Thorne

## Sponsored Walk

At the time of going to press, it looks probable that our Sponsored Walk held on October 8<sup>th</sup> will have raised almost £30,000 ! As most of you attended during the day to help, you will know what a great day it was, with lots of praise, and fortunately no problems for the 270 walkers who took part. Once again thank you all for helping to make the day a great success.

John Jones

## WE are the Champions !!

Another sporting achievement for Romsey Test, when the Skittles team won the final of the District Skittles Championship in October. A great evening of fellowship and fun was had when we played Basingstoke Deane at Milburys, finishing with our last player (Ian Bullivant) needing just one skittle from three balls for victory - no problem , and now WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS !! Watch out for the commitment sheets in the next few weeks for next years Skittles & Boules competitions.

John Jones



When looking through some old papers Ian Bullivant was surprised to recognise a familiar face looking perhaps just a little younger than they do now. Need any clues?

**T**HEY are classic portraits of the demure Ladies' Circle before the days when members happily abseiled down buildings and negotiated assault courses for charity.

Here, in the picture top right, are the past presidents of Southampton Ladies' Circle in 1960, gathered to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a luncheon at the Polygon Hotel.

Also included in this selection are members of the Circle in 1966, 1967 and 1969, plus a shot of Circle members at Southampton General Hospital in 1979, inspecting a machine they helped buy to diagnose cystic fibrosis.

The Ladies' Circle has a 70-year history and aims to promote friendship at local, national and international level as well as to be of service to the community.

For many years Circelers were the wives or partners of Round Tablers or ex-Tablers but in 1993 the rules were changed and the Ladies' Circle is now open to any woman in the 18-45 age range.

Members still work closely with the Round Table on many issues but they are a totally independent organisation today.

In 1993, the National Association of Ladies' Circles announced that over the years it had donated more than £1.4m to Cancer Research UK.

And, in line with its modern image, Circelers continue to raise funds for Cancer Research UK with sponsored abseils, long-distance bike rides and assault course challenges.

The National Association of Ladies' Circles is also a founder member of Ladies' Circle International, which has 21 full member countries and 12 associate member countries around the world.



**LOOKING BACK THROUGH TIME**  
- see page 10



## **Did you know about 101?**

*Leo King provided the following article regarding the recent introduction of a new 101 non-emergency reporting number:*

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was the first area in England and Wales to go live with the single non-emergency number, 101, on Monday, May 15. 101 is the new telephone number for the communities to secure advice and action on safety and anti-social behaviour issues.

The service is designed to improve the delivery of non-emergency services via a better co-ordinated response by local agencies, while freeing up the 999 service to handle emergency incidents. 101 will be provided by Hampshire Constabulary and local authorities within the county working together to deliver services and handle calls. Hampshire is the first of five areas in the first wave of the roll out of 101, which will be available across England and Wales by 2008.

Hampshire Constabulary was chosen to be the launch force due to their excellent records in call handling and call management. The 101 service has been set up to give communities direct access to the services they want. The initial scope of the service has been developed through research and consultation with local authority and police force partnerships.

- The core service will cover:
- Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property
- Noisy neighbours
- Intimidation and harassment
- Abandoned vehicles
- Rubbish and litter, including fly tipping
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places
- Drug related anti-social behaviour and
- Street lighting

Following wide consultation with stakeholders, industry experts and research within communities, calls to 101 Will be charged at a fixed rate of ten pence per call, whether from landlines or mobile phones. This will be reviewed by the Home Office with the intention that it could become free to use 101.

### **GEOFF POWELL.**

#### **Sudden death of founder member.**

Members of the Club were much saddened by the recent news that one of their founder members, Geoff Powell, had died suddenly in his home in Orba (Alicante), where he and his wife, Janet, went to live on Geoff's retirement.

Although Geoff never held office in the Club he played his part, unstintingly, in all the activities, serving on various fundraising and community committees.

Geoff was, however, President of the Romsey Chamber of Commerce in 1990/91 and one of the major features of his term of office - which he pioneered and brought to fruition - was the publication of the first official and illustrated Romsey Town Guide. With typical resourcefulness Geoff took advantage of his Rotary connections in this venture in-as-much as he co-opted the help and expertise of three members, namely, Rex Trayhorne for illustrations, Jimmy Dunning for a summary of the town's historical background and the late John Dixon, who was responsible for collating and coordinating the various aspects of the guide. The outcome was a huge success and the present Town Guide is a worthy legacy of Geoff's original achievement.

Geoff and Janet kept an 'open house' in Spain and their friends from the club and other visitors always were received with warm, genuine and genial hospitality.

All club members who knew Geoff will remember him with affection and great respect for he was a good Rotarian in every way.

Jimmy Dunning

### Xmas Cards

I have been asked to organise "Donations in Lieu of Xmas Cards" again this year for those members who wish to participate. Briefly you can donate whatever sum you wish, nominating the charity of your choice instead of sending cards to other members of Rotary. Gift Aid can be added to your donations, and over the last three years we have made donations totalling almost £2,000. A sheet will be circulating over the next few weeks, just sign up if you would like to participate.

John Jones

### **News Flash**

Any members wishing to protest at the prospective new membership of Poet Pam Ayres should contact Gordon Rogers immediately.

### **The Club**

When you join a Rotary Club or Guild,  
Just pause for a while as your form's being filled,  
And think of what being a member entails  
Don't turn out to be one more member who fails.

It's not just the cost of your annual fee,  
But attending the Club instead of TV,  
Or actively helping to arrange the Club's "Dos"  
And not opting out whenever you choose.

Don't say that all decisions are made by the few,  
Get on the committee and state your own view.  
Don't slate Club officials behind their backs,  
Be honest and face them when grinding the axe.

Drum up fellow members when interests lag,  
Don't say "Not tonight it's too much of a drag."  
Or "That there's gardening, golf and lots more to do."  
A club is made up of such members as you.

Remember the friendship found when abroad,  
With that and hard work the future's assured.  
So please do your bit be it large be it small,  
Without you my friend, there is no Club at all!



### **New Cycling Record!**

Undoubtedly inspired by Rottejog, David Sutton and Brian Stokes set a new record on Sunday 29 October for the slowest cycle ride, namely, 24 miles in just over 5 hours, an amazing average speed of only 4.8 mph. This feat was achieved in Central London, starting in the very early hours of the morning on a route which included most of the City's major landmarks.

Why? Simply because (as with many people who only occasionally visit the Capital), there's a tendency to get around by the Underground and thereby only know the City as a series of small, isolated areas. This ride joined them up. Best was riding the Embankment in the dawn's, bright pinky-yellow sunlight. We even included two sections of canal towpath (whose idea was that?) escaping traffic and crowds which increased alarmingly after 10.00 am

Brian Stokes

*Was the coffee really that bad David?*

