



ROTAGEN

The Bulletin of the Rotary Club
of Letchworth Garden City

No. 176

July 2009

PRESIDENT ALAN GOODWIN 2009 - 2010

Born in Letchworth Garden City in 1958 with the birth supervised by one Rtn Steve Boldy GP of the Garden City Club. My parents moved to Letchworth in around 1950 on recommendation . My father contracted TB after the War and spent 18 months in a sanatorium near Newmarket. Having had best part of one lung removed the Consultant said he could neither return to the family farms in Suffolk (too strenuous) nor my maternal grandfather's business in Cheshire (climate too wet). The consultant had however read something about a town in Hertfordshire which was a garden city with clean air and 'healthy living' and suggested he tried his hand there. With a bit of luck he should make it to 50. Not a bad piece of advice as he survived to 82.

Educated in Letchworth schools with Rotarian Edgar John (also of the Garden City Club) as my headmaster at Norton Road. I did not excel at Rugby but Johnny was forgiving as he recognised I was half decent as a musician. Apart from the piano and trumpet, my main instrument was the violin and I became leader of the North Herts Youth Orchestra and then a member of the County Youth Orchestra. I was all set to go on to read music either at university or study at the Royal College of Music when I suddenly realised that the majority of my friends who had already gone along this road had ended up as teachers. At the age of



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

18 this was a horrifying thought. I therefore asked my sister, who was 9 years older than me and a nurse, what I should do. Have you thought of medicine she asked? Blood and guts did not seem that much more attractive than teaching. 'What about accountancy?' I was taking A level maths and not really enjoying it so that got a thumbs down. How about the law? she said. Not knowing anything about it I could not immediately think of a reason to object so law it was.

I escaped from Letchworth for 4 years studying law at Bristol as an undergraduate and then the post grad Solicitors Final Course. I was indeed very fortunate that 'law' as a subject appeared to click with me and I did reasonably well in my studies leaving the Law Society Final course with first class honours.

Back to Letchworth and I was articled with Balderston Warren under the guidance of the then senior partner Rtn Michael Gardiner. I qualified in 1984 and was offered a place at BW as an assistant solicitor. A partnership followed in 1989 and although we merged with the Stevenage firm of Brignalls in 2000, I remain with the same firm practising in the field of commercial property law.

I met Jo on my first skiing trip in 1988 organised by one John Hillson where the other notable beginner was Rtn Doug Hillson. Jo and I married in March 1990 and our daughters Olivia and Verity were born in 1992 and 1994.

We enjoy travelling and skiing remains my passion although scuba diving could run it a close second especially as I am not outclassed by my daughters under the water.



HOTEL KEY CARDS

Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card?

Answer:

1. Customer's name
2. Customer's partial home address
3. Hotel room number
4. Check-in date and out dates
5. Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.



Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee reissues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically 'overwritten' on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process.

But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with **YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!**

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. **NEVER** leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and **NEVER** turn them into the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip!

If you have a small magnet, pass it across the magnetic strip several times. Then try it in the door, it will not work. It erases everything on the card.

Information courtesy of: Metropolitan Police Service.

HANDOVER 2009 - 2010



The handover meeting took place on Tuesday 30th June 2009. Tim Jeeves' photographs show President Bob and family (Sue and daughters Kate and Alice and partner Edward Sparks)

and the handover of the chain of office to incoming President Alan Goodwin.



PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



At the handover meeting Rtn David Green was presented with a well-deserved Paul Harris Fellowship for his contributions to Rotary and to the local community since David joined Rotary in 1969

ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR 2008 - 2009

The first recipient of the John Ritchie memorial badge, awarded at the handover meeting in the presence of John's son, George, was Rtn Tim Jeeves. Tim's dedication to Rotary and to ensuring that our meetings at the Broadway Hotel run smoothly has been a cornerstone of our Rotary meetings over the last year.

WHO'S WHO 2009 - 2010

LETCHWORTH HOWARD

President : Paul Jeffery (01582 560263)

President Elect : Robert Warren

Secretary : David Glanville

International : Mike Coleman

BALDOCK

President : John Wright (01462 673779)

President Elect : Svend Jensen

Secretary : John Hammond

Vocational : Michael Williams

Community : Michael Muir

International : Tony Ruffell

Foundation : John Street

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DG : John Samuel (Downham Market)

DG Elect : Rodney Howell (Diss & District)

DG Nominee : Tom Griffin (Woodbridge Deben)

Asst Governor South West : Derrick Gibbs (South Cambridge)

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

President : Jane Bewell

Secretary : Jane Pavey

RIBI PRESIDENT 2009 - 2010 Rtn DAVID FOWLER



David retired in 2003 from the civil and structural engineering practice of which he was senior partner. He is a fellow of the Institution of Structural Engineers and a past chairman of the local branch. He has also been a member of the UK based Association of Consulting Engineers and the French Society of Scientific Engineers.

David's first involvement with Rotary was as a member of a Group Study Exchange team in 1976, visiting District 7850, which includes parts of New Hampshire, Vermont and Quebec.

A Rotarian since 1984, David was the charter president of the Rotary Club of Edgbaston Convention in

Birmingham and has continued as a member of that club since moving to live near Worcester ten years ago. He has served Rotary International as a district governor, Literacy Resource Group general co-ordinator (2006-2008), committee and task force member, resource group area and zone co-ordinator, Institute chairman (4 times) and RI training leader (2007 & 2008). He was Rotary International in Britain & Ireland (RIBI) conference chairman for Blackpool 2008 and has served on the RIBI international committee and the leadership development & training committee. In district 1060 he was conference chairman in 2007, Council on Legislation representative (1998, 2001, 2004 & 2007) and has been PolioPlus officer, district editor and international committee chairman.

He has been married to Daphne for 45 years and she has been a member of Inner Wheel for 24 of those years recently completing three years as district secretary. David and Daphne have two children, both married, and three grandchildren.

For hobbies (in addition to Rotary) David enjoys wine tasting, cycling and walking. He has recently retired as the Parish Tree Warden and chairman of the village investment club. He is a member of the local history group and an assistant church organist. His other interests include theatre and cinema going, computers, music and travel.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

Duty Rotarian Speaker Finder Speaker

July

15 Jul	Bob Mills	Sam Thakur	T.B.A.
22 Jul	Mike O'Leary	Mike Birrell	Ray Leach
29 Jul (5th Wed)	Bryan Sonnen	John Moys	Nick Carver - CEO East & North Herts NHS Trust <i>(Partners & guests invited)</i>

August

5 Aug	Richard Peach	Richard Peach	T.B.A.
12 Aug	Peter Jackson	Dennis Wells	T.B.A.
19 Aug	John Stoddard	John Elliott	T.B.A.
26 Aug	Sam Thakur	Terry Brazier	T.B.A.

Special Meetings

Wednesday 7th October - Charter Night

Wednesday 4th November - Visit of DG John Samuel

Tuesday 2nd February 2010 - Triangular Quiz

DISTRICT 1080

Council Meetings	Tuesday 13th October 2009 Thursday 28th January 2010 Tuesday 30th March 2010 Thursday 17th June 2010
Other Meetings	Presidents Elect Training Session (PETS) Saturday 6th February 2010 District Officers Training Session (DOTS) Saturday 20th February 2010