



ROTAGEN

The Bulletin of the Rotary Club
of Letchworth Garden City

No. 175

June 2009

PRESIDENTS' CHARITY

The photograph shows the presentation on Friday 22 May of a cheque for £1,450 to Enhance Herts, which is the charity group at the Lister Hospital, Stevenage. The cheque represents current President Bob Hopcraft's £1,000 for his year and £450 from Immediate Past President Brian Marshall's year.



The photograph shows, from left to right, Julie Johnson (Forster Suite Manager), President Bob Hopcraft, Immediate Past President Brian Marshall, Dr Judith Hanslip (Consultant Haematologist) and Sue Hopcraft.

The money will be divided between the Forster Suite itself, which is concerned with cancer care, and Dr Hanslip's haematology research unit.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2009

Got an interest in Pre – Colombian Civilisations? Or perhaps it is Running and Fitness, Philately, Recreational Vehicles, Petanque or Egyptology? The thing that these have in common is that there is a Rotary Fellowship group for those that are interested in that particular subject. Of course there are many, many more, bringing together Rotarians from all over the world who share a mutual passion for their occupation or hobby and it is another demonstration of the true internationality of Rotary itself and an indication of the strength of our organisation.

Although the word "fellowship" can be defined as 'the companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms' and as 'friendship or comradeship'- hopefully this is a description of all of our Clubs and members in 1080! – I don't think that this fully emphasises the importance that fellowship plays within Rotary because, as one of the cornerstones of Rotary itself it is from that base that "Service above Self" emanates and not the other way about.

Of course, having a common interest is not restricted solely to hobbies and leisure. It also embraces Action Groups where some Rotarians have a particular affinity to an area of service or where they feel there is an injustice that needs to be righted. You may or may not know that our own Mark Little in conjunction with like minded Rotarians from other parts of the world is trying to set up a Rotary Action Group on Child Slavery and I am sure he would welcome support from those in 1080 who agree that this is a case where as Rotarians we need to "stand up and be counted".

They say that time flies when you are enjoying yourself and it hardly seems any time at all since I was penning my first Newsletter and now this is my last. It is a year that I would not have missed for the world and both Dorothy and I thank you all for your hospitality and support throughout the year. It is difficult in just a few words to express what an experience it has been and how it has broadened my appreciation of Rotary itself and what we as an organisation achieve. I wish John every success as he takes on the mantle in July.

Incidentally, there is a Rotary Fellowship of Convention Goers! No doubt they will all be gathering in Birmingham in three weeks time. To all of those that are going from this District I look forward to seeing you there.

*Peter
District Governor 2008/9*

DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2009

Time to register! Registration fee goes up after 14 August. The conference day is Saturday 26 September and the registration fee is only £20, inclusive of lunch and tea/coffee breaks. There is also a dinner on the preceding Friday (£30) and the DG's dinner on the Saturday evening (£35). The message from incoming DG John Samuel says it all:

**A message from District Governor 2009/10
John Samuel**



It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the 2009 District Conference on 26th Sept. which will be held in Lynford Hall.

Lynford Hall is a beautiful venue in Thetford Forest. It is centrally located within the District and will provide a superb setting for what should be an inspirational Conference.

This Conference will be structured on the theme of "The Young, Their Future, Our Responsibility". We will look at some of the exciting programmes being carried out, within and outside the District to help our youth. Some of these are designed to help those desperately in need, while others are designed to encourage the natural talents that so many of our young people possess. As the day progresses we will move on to the way that we ourselves are changing our environment and what affect that might have on their future lives. Finally we will look at Rotary itself and how we might have to change in order to be ready to meet this challenge.

There is a lot at stake and a lot to discuss. I look forward to seeing you there. For those who want to enjoy extra fellowship on the Friday and Saturday evening there will be dinners. On Friday evening Peter Carter, a well known and very entertaining Fen character is speaking, and on Saturday Baroness Shephard of Northwold.



MOBILE PHONE DIRECTORY

If you do not want to become part of the new Mobile Phone Directory then simply text or call them to opt out of their service.

You can become ex-directory by texting the letter "E" to 118800 from your mobile phone or you can call on 0800 138 6263. Standard network charges apply. The first time 118800 contacts you you will be sent an SMS reminding you about how to become ex-directory. Please allow up to 4 weeks for your ex-directory request to take effect. For more information on the Mobile Phone Directory please visit www.118800.co.uk



GARDEN CITY WALK 2009

Another successful walk! Of the 262 people who registered for the walk, 216 actually walked on the day.

Of these, 53 were scouts. Particular thanks go to the 2nd Baldock Scouts and the 8th Letchworth Scouts who provided welcome refreshments at Nortonbury and Wymondley Wood,



and to the ladies of Inner Wheel who refreshed the walkers on their return to The Highfield School. Details of the amounts raised for charity will be in the July edition of Rotagen.

CONCERT

The Vasari Singers, a nationally renowned group who make regular appearances in churches and cathedrals throughout the country, are making a return appearance

**at St Peter and St Paul Church, Steeple Morden
on Saturday 20 June at 7.30pm.**

The programme is an entirely *a capella* mix of sacred British anthems, and sets of folk song arrangements and jazz numbers. Tickets are £10 each. Further details from Mike Birrell (01763 852174)

RYLA

The RYLA programme is a mixture of carefully designed learning experiences, a business simulation, challenging exercises using the outdoors and feedback sessions delivered by professional trainers who have experience of working with young people in a challenging environment through education.

After a gap of several years John Moys has been successful in finding a candidate to take part in this year's RYLA event. He is Thomas Ruzala, aged 22. He has an honours degree from Leeds University and is working as a trainee neighbourhood officer with North Hertfordshire Homes, who are kindly sponsoring him. We look forward to hearing from him afterwards. From past experience he should have a memorable



Codes written in wood

Liberia There are 90 million trees in Liberia's rainforests, and the government of the small country in West Africa wants to put a bar code on every single one. Does that sound impossible? The British firm Helveta already has a four-year contract to do the job. The bar-coding system will allow wood that is cut down in Liberia to be tracked back to the forest. This will help consumers know where their wood comes from, and reduce illegal logging.



"The bar code gives a record of where exactly the tree stands in the forest," project manager Derek Charter told *The Sunday Times*. "It will create a map of the forest." Charter says people who have bought a table, for example, can go to the company's website, put in an identity number and see

exactly where the wood came from that was used to make the table.



The plan has been criticized by people who think the rainforest should be left untouched. Only about one per cent of the trees will be cut down, however, and as many as 50,000 jobs will be created by the project.

Britain's summer cocktail: Pimm's

In 1823, when London restaurant owner James Pimm produced his own gin-based "health tonic", drinkers welcomed the delicious digestif as the best thing to follow a good meal. Known also by its popular name as "No. 1 Cup", the dark, spicy drink has since become — along with champagne — a must at British society events such as Glyndebourne and Henley.

Pimm's is served in a variety of ways, and its recipe is kept secret. Those who prefer to copy it can mix one part each of gin, Curaçao and vermouth. The result is not bad. Otherwise, buy a bottle of the real thing and mix according to this popular recipe to achieve the ultimate British summer drink.

Fill a tall glass with ice; then add

- 3 parts cold lemonade
- 1 part Pimm's No. 1
- 1 slice of orange
- 2 slices of strawberry
- 1 slice of cucumber
- 1 sprig of mint

For a more powerful mix, change the recipe to five parts lemonade, two parts Pimm's and one part gin.



2nd BALDOCK SCOUT GROUP

PARTY TENTS FOR HIRE

4m x 8m OR 4m x 6m

£ 75.00 DELIVERED, ERECTED, PACKED AWAY & REMOVED.

CONTACT: MICK DILLEY 01462 730300



ALL MONIES TO 2nd BALDOCK SCOUT GROUP

